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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 17, 2019



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Priests of the diocese gather behind Bishop Terry R. LaValley for consecration during the Chrism Mass, held April 11. See Bishop LaValley's homily and more photos from the Mass on Page 4.

'RISE UP' AT YOUTH RALLY



Kevin Dowd gives the keynote address at the Youth Rally held April 6 in Massena. This year's event centered around the theme "Rise Up," and included speakers, games, arts and crafts, a climbing wall, adoration and Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

FULL STORY, PAGE X

Embrace the cross, pope says on Palm Sunday

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Acclaimed by the crowds and knowing he was the Messiah they sought, Jesus still chose the path of humility and self-emptying, focused only on doing God's will, Pope Francis said on Palm Sunday.

"There is no negotiating with the cross: one either embraces it or rejects it," the pope told tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square April 14 to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of his passion.

Processing to the

obelisk in the center of the square, dozens of young people carried palm branches taller than they were; bishops, cardinals and the pope carried "palmurelli," woven palms; and all the pilgrims in the square were given olive branches donated by an Italian association of olive oil producers.

After blessing the palms and listening to the Gospel reading of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the young people, bishops, cardinals and pope processed to the steps of

St. Peter's Basilica for the main part of the Mass, which included the reading of the Passion.

At the Vatican and in many parts of the world, Palm Sunday also is marked as the local celebration of World Youth Day, and Pope Francis spoke specifically to young people in his homily.

"Countless holy men and women have followed Jesus on the path of humility and obedience," the pope said. The holy ones include many young people recognized

by the church as saints or known only to God.

"Dear young people," the pope said, "do not be ashamed to show your enthusiasm for Jesus, to shout out that he is alive and that he is your life."

At the same time, he said, "do not be afraid to follow him on the way of the cross. When you hear that he is asking you to renounce yourselves, to let yourselves be stripped of every security and to entrust yourselves completely to our Father in heaven, then rejoice and exult! You are on the path

of the kingdom of God."

Throughout his life, including when he was acclaimed with shouts of "Hosanna" and later stripped and nailed to the cross, the pope said, Jesus showed "us how to face moments of difficulty and the most insidious of temptations by preserving in our hearts a peace that is neither detachment nor superhuman impassivity, but confident abandonment to the Father and to his saving will, which bestows life and mercy."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Finding joy, humor in serious times

It was the Mass of the Lord's Supper in 1997. I was 16 years old, and I sang in the choir at St. Joseph's in Bombay, a tiny town in northern Franklin County.

Our pastor at the time, Father Martin Farrell, a Dominican, didn't wash the feet of 12 people. He washed the feet of the entire church, or at least everyone who felt comfortable participating.

Young, impulsive and always looking for a laugh, I joined forces with my twin sister, Deanna, and a friend, Michelle, to "prank the priest," who we knew to have a great sense of humor.

We busted out every bottle of nail polish we owned and painted our toenails with stripes, polka dots, designs and wild colors, and we strategically wrote words on our feet in marker.

At the appointed time, we took our seats in the pre-planned order. When Father Martin reached me, the first of our trio, I removed my socks to reveal my oddly painted toenails and the word "DO." Father looked at me quizzically. I smiled

and shrugged. He washed my feet and moved on to Deanna. She removed her socks to reveal more oddly

painted nails and the word "THEY."

Father now knew this was a conspiracy.

He washed my sister's feet and moved on to Michelle. She removed her socks to reveal a final set of oddly painted nails and "STINK?"

Father burst out laughing at our "DO THEY STINK?" shenanigans.

Thinking back on it, we probably should've been more reverent and serious for the occasion, but when I talked to Deanna and Michelle to see if they remembered this incident the same way I did, it became clear this is a happy memory for all of us.

As we move through Holy Week, it's important to focus

on the serious, harsh reality of what our Lord suffered on our behalf, but we are an Easter people, and we know the pain is followed by resurrection and joy.

While the three of us weren't then (and probably aren't now) the types of personalities people conjure in their minds when they think of "holy people," I firmly believe that God gifted me, Deanna and Michelle with the ability to find or create humor and joy in even the most serious times.

To me, sharing joy and community is always a good thing.

May we all have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter. May both be full of moments of grace and joy.

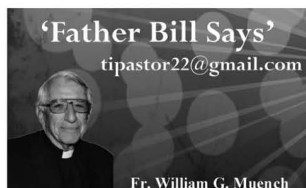


Darcy L.
Fargo

Holy Week has had a profound impact

A Holy Week – Lent ends as the Catholic Church puts together in one week, the Holy Week, a celebration of our salvation. Our Holy Week is a remembrance of all that our Savior experienced – his entrance into Jerusalem, the Last Supper with his apostles, his Passion and Death on the Cross on Good Friday and the quiet of Holy Saturday, all of which leads us to Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

As I prepare myself to celebrate Holy Week this year, I remember well the many things that happened during Holy Week when I was much younger. I remember those early years of my life when I served as a young altar server. I remember that I never missed any of the Masses and services of Holy Week. They were very special. I didn't want to miss a one. I just thought of one of the things that we liked to do as kids: follow the tradition of the Catholic Church to visit seven other churches on Holy Thursday. I remember



well that we had a gang that wandered around the north side of Syracuse visiting churches.

Then I remember the celebration of Holy Week while I was in St. Mary's Seminary. We, seminarians, celebrated Holy Week at the seminary. The Masses and services were all so carefully planned, and the music was always so good. I especially remember the year that I was a deacon and was more involved in the ceremonies of Holy Week at the seminary.

Then, there were all the many years when I was a priest, celebrating Holy Week in the various parishes where I was assigned. I remember working carefully to prepare the homilies for the Masses and services. I remember

preparing the altar servers for Holy Thursday, for Good Friday, for the Easter Vigil. The practices were always fun, because we ended each practice with a pizza party.

I must add, I also remember some mishaps as well as mistakes during the Holy Week services. Some were actually a bit humorous. There is always something silly that happens with the incense. Fortunately, no one gets hurt. However, I do remember the time at St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls when a candle fell over and ignited a small fire. Fortunately, there was a volunteer fireman in the front pew. He took care of the fire quickly. I do remember the time at St. Mary's, Massena, when we, priests and the servers, were preparing to start the Easter Vigil Service when somebody (I suspect it was me) dropped and broke the new Paschal candle. Fortunately, last year's candle was still usable.

Oh, yes, I must tell you about the year I was at the

Newman Center at Plattsburgh State. One of the fraternities accepted the responsibility to prepare and read the dialogue in the Gospel of the Passion of Jesus at the parish Good Friday Service. I was rather impressed by those guys. I still remember how great that night was.

One more remembrance: I fondly remember many Easter Vigils over the years during which several adults were baptized and welcomed into the Catholic Church. Those were very special, very happy Easter Vigils for me. I remember each of those special people that I baptized and confirmed at those Easter Vigils.

So, I write to you today to encourage you to find the time to become involved in Holy Week. Each Mass and service is a powerful celebration to draw ever closer to the Lord. This Holy Week is our opportunity to allow Jesus more completely into our lives.

FOLLOW ME

'All time belongs to Him'

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Every year at the Easter Vigil, in the glow of the newly blessed fire, the priest inscribes the four numbers of the current year on the new Paschal Candle and says: "All time belongs to Him and all the ages to him be glory and power through every age and forever. Amen."

On that first Easter Day a new life began that will never grow old: the life of the Risen Christ. Through our baptismal adoption as children of God, we enter Jesus' eternal freshness where all time belongs to Him, our Lord and Brother. By their very nature, everything and everybody in the world grows old. Time is fleeting. We are always in such a hurry, so

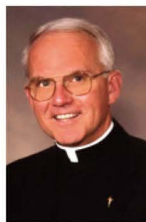
aware that the clock is always ticking. We seem to be always in a race against time. Too often, we belong to our calendars. Even so, how we spend our time on this earth reflects what we believe to be important.

I hope that your Lenten journey has been an experience where you've given more of your time to God. As an Easter People, our hope lies in our belief that as we embrace the cross in our own lives, we too will rise with Christ on the last day. It's no coincidence that the numerals of the current year are inscribed around the cross on the Paschal Candle. This placement is indicative of the fact that there is no

distancing of our Christian lives from the cross.

I pray that as we begin this Easter Season of hope and joy, you find the time to grow ever closer to the Risen Lord Jesus through prayer and the celebration of the Church's Seven Sacraments: *Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Marriage, Holy Orders, and the Anointing of the Sick.* Encourage your family members to become more

active in the faith life of your parish, where they are invited to encounter the Risen Lord in the sharing of the Word and the Breaking of the Bread. This will prove to be time well spent, both in this life and in the next.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Christ-led, Christ-fed, and Hope-filled, we know that our lives are saturated with blessings from our God. Let us take the time to thank God from Whom all these blessings flow on this day, the first of days! Let raise our voices in a joyful song of praise that we belong to Him...yesterday, today, and forever.

Easter Blessings to you and your loved ones!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

LIVING STATIONS



The Living Stations of the Cross were presented at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga by the school's junior high students. This prayerful demonstration of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection was held on April 10.

The North Country Catholic wants to hear from you!

Do you have a story idea or photograph of an event in your community?
Please submit press releases, ideas and photos to
news@northcountrycatholic.org

FORMATION FOR MINISTRY

Are you yearning for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ?

Are you being called to do more in your Parish?

God might be calling you to become a Commissioned Lay Minister

The two year program provides academic, pastoral and spiritual formation for Catholic adults in developing their gifts for ministry.

**CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 2019 AT
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Information Sessions will be announced soon



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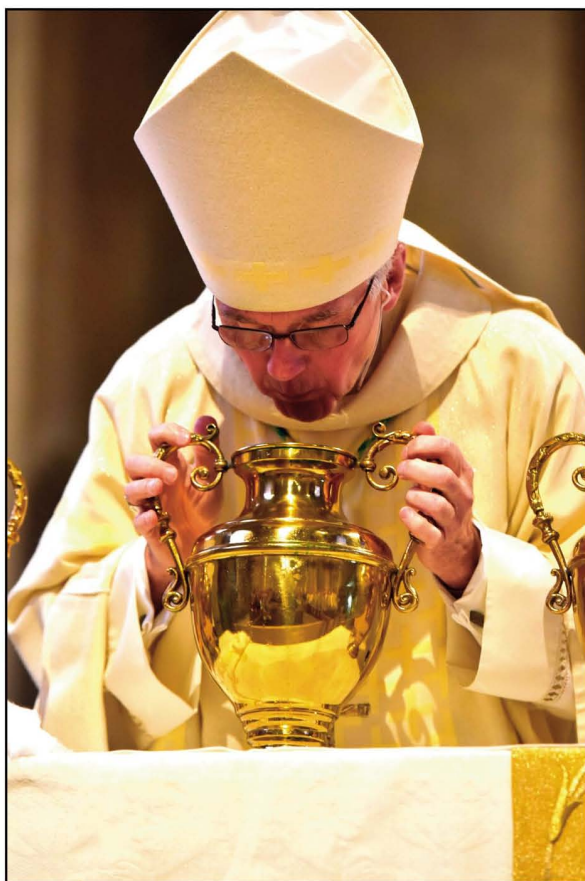
Chrism Mass celebrated at St. Mary's Cathedral

The following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's homily from the Chrism Mass, held April 11 in St. Mary's Cathedral.

As we reflect on today's readings, prayers and the priestly promises we'll soon renew, we'll notice a common thread that weaves its way throughout – a message of hope, of joy, even zeal: “bring glad tidings,” “heal the brokenhearted,” “give them oil of gladness,” “give them a glorious mantle instead of a listless spirit.”

My brothers, our priestly ministry is prompted by love of Jesus and moved by zeal for souls. Today let us call up the muscular and life-giving virtue of zeal. In this effort, we engage all our heart and mind and strength and soul. Zeal shows us the difference between a world grown solely secular and tired, and the ever-youthfulness of Christian love. I so look forward each year to our Chrism Mass, not only to take in the richness of the liturgy and the opportunity to join my brother priests in celebrating our priesthood, but it's great to be with so many of our young people, celebrating our Catholic faith that, to many, seems exhausted – just plain tuckered out. A lively faith is ever-new, ever youth-full.

The Chrism Mass brings me and all of us such encouragement. It fuels our pastoral ministry. In his recent exhortation, Pope Francis repeated a thought that I first heard from the lips of Fr. Ed Wright several years ago as a newly ordained priest: The youth are not just the Church of the future, the young are its present. Young people



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Bishop Terry R. LaValley blows into the Chrism, signifying the presence of the Holy Spirit, as he consecrated it at the Chrism Mass.

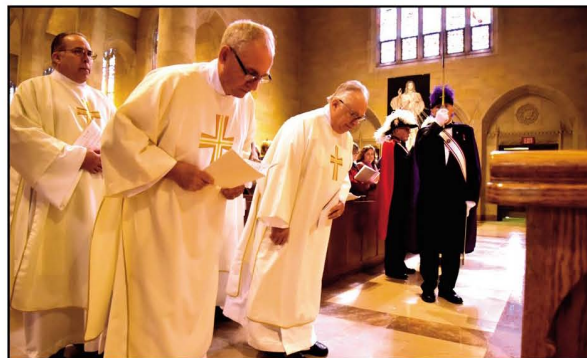
keep the Church young. “They can keep her moving forward today.” (Christus vivit, 37,64) So, welcome students!! Today it's so easy to forget to rejoice. In the midst of confusion, shame and even anger, we risk forgetting what God has done for us. I ask myself: Am I as excited about what the Lord has in store for me as on the day of my ordination or am I tempted to join the chorus of cynics in a world that's losing its Godly bearings? My brothers, our youth need our vigor. They yearn to be touched and led by our passionate and tender priestly hearts.

For sure, today there are

some hardened souls who snicker at the thought of youth and renewal. But, might there not be among our ranks those who look upon a young worshiper and burn with homesickness for a joy lost? Brothers, for the love of those souls, and for the love of God, on the day of our ordination, we entered the race. Some of us, wobbly-kneed limp through our laps, nevertheless, all the while singing joyfully. You inspire all of us and I am so grateful. In the Prayer over the Offerings, I will pray: Through the power of this sacrifice mercifully wipe away what is old in us and increase in us grace of salvation and



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Students from Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown attended the Chrism Mass on April 11.



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
Deacons of the Diocese process into the Chrism Mass, held at St. Mary's Cathedral on April 11.

newness of life.

Dante wrote: “zeal makes grace green again.” Today, sometimes I might find myself short of breath because of all my sighing. The remedy is not to lie slack, but to run. The Church of the North Country will not lie dormant under my watch, much less be in retreat. There is no other way to enlarge, to stretch the heart than the way of zealous love, passionate mission.

Pope Francis wrote in The Joy of the Gospel: “Some people nowadays console themselves by saying that things are not as easy as they used to be, yet we know that the Roman Empire was not

conducive to the Gospel message, the struggle for justice, or the defense of human dignity.” The Holy Father continued: “Let us not say, then, that things are harder today; they are simply different. Let us learn from the saints who have gone before us, who confronted the difficulties of their own day.” (262)

This is not to minimize the critical nature of the issues we must honestly and courageously face today. But, as I mentioned at last year's Chrism Mass, “Let us claim our anointing because there is power and strength in our anointing.” Ours today is a mission steeped in pas-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Chrism Mass

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

sion. For some of us, given the burdens of promoting a capital campaign, coordinating parish pastoral planning with decreasing numbers, both human and financial, and coping with the sickening Church scandal, we might be in danger of slipping into a spiritual sluggishness, a listlessness of spirit, that is, not deriving joy from what should bring us joy: our multi-faceted ministry.

When I find myself drifting into such spiritual doldrums, I am reminded of a beautiful thought from Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Rejoice and Be Glad*: "Holiness... is an encounter between [my] weakness and the power of God's grace." (34) My prayer erects the bridge between my failings and God's all-powerful grace. With God, all things are possible! So, we say "No" to a sterile pessimism.

The joy of the Gospel is such that it cannot be taken away from us by anyone or anything. The evils of the world – and those of the Church – cannot, must not be excuses for diminishing our commitment and our fervor. Let us look upon them as challenges which can help us grow. With the eyes of faith, we can see the light which the Holy Spirit always radiates in the midst of darkness, never forgetting that 'where sin increased, grace has abounded all the more.'" (84)

When my prayer life weakens, I forget the power of God's Spirit, of grace in my life. Some might say, "But, Bishop, do you know how busy we priests are? How many demands are placed on us? When the house is on fire, how can we remain

calm in prayer?" I might respond, as I heard at a recent retreat, "You're right, brother, but imagine this: firefighters get a call; there's a fire. They race to the scene, sirens blaring, but when they arrive, they realize that they have not even a drop of water in their tanks. When we neglect prayer, we have nothing with which to meet the needs of our people."

If the Chrism Mass is about anything, it's about grace. We need to restore the power to God so as to minister passionately in the life of His Church. We must place our trust back in God, not ourselves. The Church is not a rowboat driven forward by the strength and skill of the arms of those who are in her.

No, the Church is like a sailboat driven by the wind which blows it along from above. No one knows, where it comes from or where it goes – but the wind is caught by the sail of prayer.

I don't know about you, but for me it can get pretty exhausting, frustrating and even discouraging trying to row the boat. Whether you're a pastor, trying to accomplish all that the bishop has asked of you; a parent trying to raise your children when everything seems to be working against you; or a student struggling with grades, friendships or parents, remember we are not in the boat alone. The anoint-

ings which we focus on today, are good reminders of the presence and power of our God and of our communion with God and one another. "In the desert of faith situations, we are called to be living sources of water from which others can drink." We have been anointed. Not all depends on me.

"When we feel overwhelmed, we can, we must always cling to the anchor of prayer, which puts us back in God's hands and the source of our peace." Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts..." (Phil 4:6-7) (EG, 114)

"Hard times may come, when the cross casts its shadow, yet nothing can destroy the supernatural joy that adapts and changes, but always endures, even as a flicker of light born of our personal certainty that, when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved. That joy brings deep security, serene hope and a spiritual fulfillment that the world cannot understand or appreciate." (125)

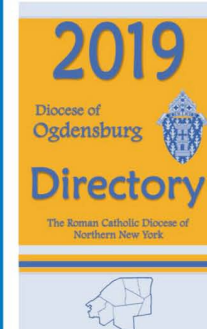
Thank you for your faithfulness and witness to the joy of the Gospel. Christ-led, Christ, we are hope-filled. May God be praised... forever may God be praised!



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Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan director of worship, guided altar servers during the Chrism Mass.

Diocesan Directory



The Official 2019 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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Environmental Stewardship

Easter: Resurrection and Transformation

On Easter Sunday, we will celebrate again the incredible miracle of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Just as the Jews celebrated the Passover, when God led the Jewish people from slavery of Egypt to the Promised Land, so we see Jesus as the Lamb of God who leads us from slavery of self to new life in Him.

All around us in the North Country we observe the "resurrection" of the earth coming to new life. From tons of ice and snow, and from freezing, fierce winds, we witness the greening of the land with an abundance of life.

It is as though God has planted within all creation this amazing transformative process that brings new life from that which appears dead. However, this new life comes forth only through a process of letting go of what was in order that something better can be born.

We hear the Lord, in the Book of Isaiah 43:18, say "Remember not the events of the past. See, I am doing something new!"

This incredulous process of transformation is in the smallest of God's creatures. As we know, the monarch butterfly emerges from a tiny speck, grows into a beautiful caterpillar, encircled with white, black and gold rings around its body.

After 14 days of consuming a milkweed leaf a day, it curls up so it can spin a chrysalis of silk. During this pupa stage of 10 days it is like soup. It defies our imagination that this worm like caterpillar can become a creature with gorgeous wings of golden orange, black and white!

During this Easter season and indeed every day, we are called to allow this mysterious transforming divine presence to change us into the image and likeness of Christ. We need to take time to be attentive to mystery of God's presence around us and within us to discover what we are called to become.

May Christ Easter in you this Season!

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 18 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 19 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m. – Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at Notre Dame Church followed by confessions

April 20 – 9 a.m. – Morning Prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral

8 p.m. – Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 21 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 23 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home

April 24 – 11 a.m. – Priest Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

April 17 – Rev. Peter J. Devlin, 1915; Rev. Vernon L. Doe, 1975; Rev. C. Albert Richardson, 1988; Msgr. Joseph G. Bailey, 2000

April 19 – Rev. William S. Kelly, 1908; Rev. Edward C. Laramee, 1932; Rev. William P. Fraser, 1961

April 20 – Rev. James Igo, 2007

April 21 – Msgr. Michael E. Fogarty, 1936

April 22 – Rev. Daniel M. Sullivan, 1933

April 23 – Rev. L. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to

- news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!



DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Father Francis C. Pompei, a Franciscan Friar from Holy Name Province, led the citywide Mission for Watertown.

Watertown on a Mission

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Contributing writer

WATERTOWN – City of Watertown Catholics filled the parish churches in mid-March for the annual citywide Lenten Mission. The

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:

May 21 – 6:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

presenter was Father Francis C. Pompei, a Franciscan Friar from Holy Name Province.

Father Pompei, who lives in Syracuse, delivered his message of personal freedom with the help of the Holy Spirit and was enthusiastically welcomed by audiences of 350 to 400 each evening.

The mission opened March 18 at Holy Family Church.

Father Pompei challenged those in attendance to identify their fears and stresses. The presentation was entitled *How Not To Live*.

The second night at St. Patrick's Church, Father Pompei told his audience how to deal with their stresses and how to be *Set Free*.

KNIGHTS TO LEAD BASEBALL TRIP

The Canton Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays on July 12 and 13.

For \$320 per/person double occupancy, you will get Luxury Coach transportation, Ticket to the two ball games, one nights hotel stay at the La Quinta Inn and breakfast on Saturday. As an added bonus the July 12 game is a Mariano Rivera Bobble Head giveaway and the July 13 game is Yankees Camo Hat day.

For more information or to reserve your spot email cantonkofc@gmail.com or call 315-714-2016.

Learning from submitted parish pastoral plans

Editor's note: This is the second installment in a six-part series looking at the Living Stones Planning process.

By William J. Amoriell
Member of Living Stones
Planning Committee

In the last issue of the North Country Catholic we provided an historical perspective that led to the establishment of the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC).

As mentioned, parishes were provided a survey form developed by the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) and asked to complete it, identifying strengths and areas that need further development.

The survey listed a number of areas that contribute to the vibrancy of a parish and help determine how well we are meeting the pastoral needs of all parishioners within our boundaries.

The sections of the survey that relate most directly to vibrancy and the health of a parish cover two categories: Faith Formation Support Personnel and Faith/Community Formation Programming. Table 1 (on the right side of the page) includes specific faith-formation support personnel that were included in the LSPC survey. Following each faith-formation support personnel listed is the percentage of parish groupings that indicated a need for additional support personnel in that area.

The next category on the LSPC survey asked about faith/community formation programming. Table 2 includes items related to programming, along with the percentage of parish groupings in the diocese

that indicated they needed additional programming in that particular area.

The tables reveal a daunting task. The summary data, which the parish groupings identified themselves, clearly suggests the areas that parish groupings need to focus on in order to become more vibrant and to better meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.

It is critical that each parish begins to develop a long-range plan, if not begun already, for their parish grouping that is tied directly to the needs they have already identified.

It is also clear that parishes will not be able to address all areas of need all at once. That is why the areas identified need to be prioritized, and work needs to begin on addressing the top priorities over the next year or two.

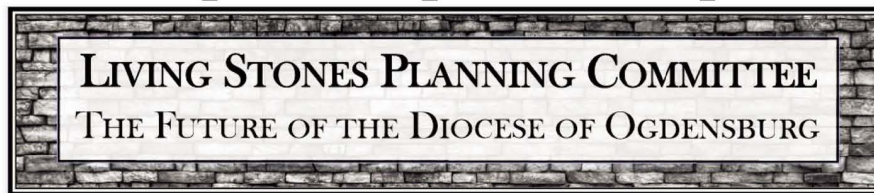
Once the first set of priorities has been addressed, the next set from the list needs to be addressed for the next year or two, and so on.

We are not talking about a quick fix, as there isn't one. This is something that will demand our attention, commitment, patience, and creativity over the next several years, but the benefits that can be reaped from this process can be enormous.

It might be valuable to recall the Ernest Hemingway quote mentioned in the last article, taken from "For Whom The Bells Toll":

*Today is only one day
in all the days that will
ever be.*

*But what will happen in
all the other days
that ever come
can depend on what you*



do today.

There is another quote that is worth including here that is very relevant to our situation. It is a quote taken from "The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table," written by Oliver Wendell Homes in 1858:

*I find the great thing in
this world
is not so much where we
stand,
as in what direction we
are moving:
To reach the port of
heaven,
we must sail sometimes
with the wind
and sometimes against it,
- but we must sail,
and not drift, nor lie at
anchor.*

This can be taken as sound advice for what we will be engaged in over the next few years. We don't have all the answers, but that is no excuse for allowing ourselves to drift or simply lie at anchor-which we may have been doing more than we would like to acknowledge.

Also, it could be exceedingly helpful, if two or more sets of parish groupings would decide to work together as a team in addressing some of the areas identified. This could also enable some parishes to save valuable resources, both human and financial.

As parishes work together in developing healthier and more vibrant parishes, some have reached out to the Living Stones Planning Commit-

TABLE 1

<u>Faith Formation Support Personnel</u>	<u>Percentage of Parishes Needing Additional Personnel</u>
Adult Formation	37.9%
Youth Minister	75.9%
Music Minister	51.7%
Vocation Team	69%
Catechists	65.5%
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)	48.3%
Outreach to Poor	44.8%
Outreach to Unchurched	86.2%

TABLE 2

<u>Faith/Community Formation Programming</u>	<u>Percentage of Parishes Needing Additional Programming</u>
Adult Formation Programming	41.4%
Youth Ministry Programming	75.9%
Music Ministry	55.2%
Vocations-Related Programming	79.3%
Family Life Programming	41.4%
Bereavement Ministry	20.7%
Hospital Ministry	48.3%
Home Visitation	62.1%
Outreach to Poor	55.2%
Food Pantry	24.1%
Outreach to Unchurched	82.8%
Prison Ministry	34.5%

tee for ideas on developing parish vibrancy. Given the breadth and complexity of this topic, we shall discuss parish vibrancy over the next few issues of the *North Country Catholic*. The areas that we shall look at include:

- Parish Leadership Style
- Parish Communication
- Lay Leadership
- Evangelization – Comprehensive and Strategic Faith Formation
- Engaging Children and Youth in Meaningful Ways
- Music

- Technology
 - Hospitality and Socials
- Again, we hope that you will find these articles informative and perhaps provocative – providing possible ideas and direction for discussions and plans designed to enhance parish vibrancy and better meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners within our boundaries.



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Collection April 19, 2019

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The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to these programs below.

- Faith, Memory & Culture
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PLEASE BE GENEROUS!

Youth rally participants urged to 'Rise Up'

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MASSENA – Youth from around the diocese were urged to “Rise Up,” as they gathered April 6 for the annual diocesan youth rally.

Kevin Dowd, this year's keynote speaker, led with a story of a master musician who was diagnosed with a terminal illness while composing what he intended as his masterpiece. The musician asked his students, students he loved like family, to finish the work he started.

“The students didn't know how to react,” Dowd said. “Their teacher was a world class musician. They weren't the same caliber; they didn't have the same talents he had. On the other hand, it was his last request, so they agreed.”

When the master died, the students grieved deeply.

“But they remembered their promise. They remembered what they had agreed to do,” Dowd said. “They pulled together all his notes, everything he had been working on. They continued to work together, gather together and ask ‘what would he want here? What would he want this to be?’”

The piece was then performed in front of a massive audience.

“When the music started and the performance began, it was beautiful; it was profound,” Dowd said. “It was a masterpiece. Around two-thirds of the way through, the conductor put down his baton, and the music stopped. It was dead quiet in the music hall. In that quiet, the conductor walked onto the stage and into spotlight. In the spotlight, you could see tears



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Older teens at the youth rally pose for a picture with Marihon Alzuhairi (front row, second from left), a two-time refugee, who spoke at the event. (Right) Kevin Dowd, keynote speaker for the youth rally, encouraged the youth present to ‘Rise Up’ and say ‘yes’ when Jesus asks them, ‘will you finish my work?’

See more photos of the youth rally on page 16.

running down his cheek. He said to the crowd, ‘at this point in the music, the master died.’ A smile lit up his face. He went on to say, ‘the students have finished the work, and we want you to hear what we have written in his honor, in his memory, in his tribute.’”

When the last note was played, the crowd rose to its feet in a standing ovation that lasted several minutes.

“That was Toscanini's performance of Puccini ‘Turandot,’” Dowd said. “It's considered one of the greatest moments in



music history.”

Dowd equated the story to Jesus and his followers, including to the present day.

“Jesus says to us, ‘if I die before the work is finished, will you finish my work?’ And for 2000 years, people have been saying ‘Yes. I will. I will accept that challenge,’” he said.

Dowd challenged the youth to take up the challenge, and the be beacons of Christ to the world. He encouraged the youth to stand up in the face of evil, bullying, hurt, sad-

ness, hunger, illness and anywhere people are in need.

“Who in your life is being bullied? Who are the people who aren't treated like they're really human? If you know someone, Jesus is asking you, will you finish my work?” Dowd said.

The rally also included a presentation by Marihon Alzuhairi, a two-time refugee, who shared the story of his escape first from Iraq and later from Syria. The event also featured a segment of social and fun events, including

a climbing wall, arts and crafts, glow play and a photo booth. The youth also had opportunities to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament in adoration.

Various diocesan departments and organizations also set up displays at the rally, handing out gifts and offering games and activities for the youth.

The event concluded with Mass, with Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrating.

Bishop LaValley echoed the “Rise Up” theme of the event and urged the youth to be sources of joy and action in challenging times.

“There is always something we can do in the lives of other persons to help transform their daily little deaths into new life,” Bishop LaValley said. “There is always something we can do because there are no limits to our power to love.”

Lacie Robideau, 14, of Malone, said she enjoyed the event.

“It's been pretty fun,” she said. “I enjoyed the talk by the keynote speaker.”

“Everyone is very nice,” added Sierrah Avery-Durant, 14, of Malone. “I'm looking forward to the snowball war and the glow stick art.”

Anthony Semeraro, 12, of Keeseville, used lunch as an opportunity to meet new people, sitting with Tyler Scott, 15, who attends Edwards-Knox school.

“I'm really glad I got to come,” Semeraro said. “I wanted to hear the speakers, see the games and spend some time in Adoration.”

“It's a good opportunity to meet new people,” said Scott. “It's been fun.”

Buffalo urges respect for victims, asserts transparency

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS)—In a pair of statements issued April 11, the Diocese of Buffalo both asserted greater transparency in its handling of clergy sex abuse claims and urged respect for the privacy of abuse victims.

The former statement, from Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, was issued to "correct some of those errors" about the diocese's response to the crisis that had cropped up from the "intense media coverage."

But he also used the statement to address "the times when I personally have fallen short. I deeply regret and apologize for having signed those letters in support of Father Art Smith," a diocesan priest whom Bishop Malone had endorsed for a job as a cruise ship chaplain despite complaints by three young men to the diocese in 2011 and 2013 about inappropriate touching and unwanted attention and Facebook messages from the priest.

"I also regret not being more transparent about claims involving abuse against adults," Bishop Malone added. "As you know from the manner in which we have been addressing more recent claims involving conduct between adults, we are handling those matters differently now. Lessons have been learned."

Bishop Malone said of the 191 abuse complaints received in "the last audit year" — each U.S. diocese undergoes an annual audit to monitor its compliance with the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" — "not a single one of those new allegations involved an

incident that occurred after 2000," and that "there have been no substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse against any diocesan priest ordained in the past 30 years."

The charter has worked, he added, "demonstrated by the fact that there have been very few actual cases of child sexual abuse in our diocese since 2002."

Moreover, the independent review board process outlined in the charter works, Bishop Malone said. "When adequate information has been obtained, the board will make a recommendation to me about whether or not the claim has been substantiated. No priest with a substantiated claim of child sexual abuse can remain in ministry," he added.

"My decisions about whether a priest is removed from or returned to ministry are often criticized in the media. Of course, the process needs to be confidential to protect the privacy of all the parties involved, and, as a result, the public may not hear all that went into each decision."

Bishop Malone said the diocese is making "great strides to increase transparency." He called an allegation in a Jan. 28 Buffalo News editorial that the diocese has engaged in a "cover-up of the names of the accused" as "simply not true," and an April 3 charge in the newspaper that he "has refused to provide more information to the public about the depth and scope of clergy sexual abuse of minors in the diocese" as "demonstrably false."

In a second statement,

the Buffalo Diocese asked area media to respect the privacy rights of abuse victims.

It cited one instance in which the attorney for one abuse victim complained about an unnamed reporter who had "suddenly appeared on (a victim's) doorstep with a large photograph of (the victim's) abuser. ... The (reporter), without consideration or regard for the consequences of his actions on (the victim), capriciously waved the photograph about and told (the victim) that he was following up with priest abuse victims in the Buffalo Diocese. (The reporter) then walked away leaving my client distraught, without support, feeling violated and without the slightest concern for the traumatic consequence his actions had caused."

"Because of the release of private information to the media has resulted in added injury to some of the very people who are reporting abuse, the diocese is asking all members of the media to please respect the privacy and confidentiality of persons who have come forward to report abuse," the diocesan statement said.

Charlie Specht, a reporter for WKBW in Buffalo, told *Catholic News Service* he is the reporter being referred to in the diocesan statement. He said the diocesan account is "so mischaracterized" and describes "totally egregious behavior" in which he would not engage. Specht added he recorded the complete interview with the victim in question, and "what they're saying happened, did not happen."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

N.H. death penalty repeal bid called 'an enormous victory for life'

CONCORD, N.H. (CNS) — The New Hampshire Senate's vote to repeal the death penalty is "an enormous victory for life," according to the executive director of the Catholic Mobilizing Network. The New Hampshire Senate voted 17-6 April 11 to repeal the state's death penalty law. This follows a 279-88 vote for repeal by the state House in March. "The overwhelming margins by which the repeal bill passed through the Legislature sends a strong message about the state's priority to put an end to the death penalty," said an April 12 statement by Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy. "It speaks to a long-term decline in support for capital punishment found not only in New Hampshire, but across the United States as a whole." New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu has threatened to veto the bill, but the original vote in each chamber passed by margins wide enough to override a veto. A two-thirds vote is required to override. New Hampshire has not put a prisoner to death since 1939. However, there is one man on the state's death row, but the state's corrections department said there are no immediate plans to acquire the drugs necessary to execute him.

Washington Post seeks dismissal of Covington student lawsuit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Lawyers for *The Washington Post* filed a motion in federal court April 9 seeking the dismissal of the \$250 million defamation lawsuit filed against the newspaper by Nick Sandmann, a student at Kentucky's Covington Catholic High School. The student was thrown into the center of a national spotlight in January when videos of him and his classmates interacting with Native Americans and others near Washington's Lincoln Memorial went viral. In the Feb. 19 lawsuit, the 16-year-old student alleged that the Post's coverage of the incident was biased, claiming there were "no less than six false and defamatory articles" in the newspaper about the encounter. In its defense, in the motion filed in U.S. District Court in Covington, *The Washington Post's* legal team said its stories of that day's interaction were accurate and noted that even if they weren't "flattering of the Covington Catholic students" who were involved, they "do not give rise to a defamation claim by Sandmann." The Post's legal team also said the "story was an emerging one" and that readers would not have "understood the initial article as having told the whole story."

Bulgarian Orthodox: No common prayer during papal visit

SOFIA, Bulgaria (CNS) — Bulgaria's predominant Orthodox Church has ordered its clergy not to take part in prayers or services with the pope when he visits the country in early May. "The invitation to Pope Francis comes from the state authorities, so it is appropriate that the main events are coordinated with state institutions," the church's 15-member governing Holy Synod said in a statement. "Any form of service with a common liturgical or prayerful character, including the use of liturgical garments, will be unacceptable to us. Our holy canons do not permit this." The synod said it had agreed the ban unanimously after examining a draft agenda for the pontiff's May 5-7 visit and would confirm it in a letter to the Vatican's nuncio, Archbishop Anselmo Pecorelli. It said Bulgarian Orthodox Patriarch Neophyte would greet the pope with other church leaders at Sofia's Synodal Palace and Orthodox cathedral, but said the participation of Orthodox clergy, including the church's patriarchal choir, in other events was "impossible," while an Orthodox interpreter would only be available during the palace and cathedral events. Pope Francis will meet Prime Minister Boyko Borissov and President Rumen Radev during the three-day pilgrimage.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Resurrection brings shock and hope

The first Easter came as a total shock to those who had loved and followed Jesus through his public ministry. They knew Him to be a totally good and holy man, with wonderful teachings about the goodness of their Father who had created them in love, a merciful and forgiving God, who wanted only their faith and obedience.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

They had seen Jesus as a mirror of the Father in His compassion for the sick and the deformed, and for those troubled in spirit and body. And now He was dead!

How could their own religious leaders have conspired with the Romans to torture and kill Him!? How could they!

If His followers had slept at all since His ar-

rest, it must have been a troubled sleep, filled with nightmares and darkness. And now, early this Sunday morning, an hysterical Mary Magdalene pounded on their door, trying to convince them that she had seen Jesus alive! Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves. Could it be true?

From that first Easter to this year's celebration, the shock of these events even today shakes us into the truth of God's incredible love for us in sending us His Son so that all might be cleansed from the divine displeasure. And so we struggle to absorb it once more.

Malicious evil had done its worst to the sacred body of God's Son. Then, before dawn on Sunday,

April 21

Easter Sunday

READINGS

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Colossians 3:1-4

or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9 or Luke 24:1-12.

Christ had broken through the rock, shattered the power of sin, and, according to tradition, appeared first to His Mother, then to Mary Magdalene and the other women and the apostles.

In the Mass for Easter day, the first reading is taken from the very words of an early sermon of St. Peter. What a change from that Peter who denied he ever knew the man!

He comes fresh from the fiery tongues of Pentecost, still in shock at the dream he had on the way to Cornelius' house. So much had changed forever! No food would ever again be

considered unclean. Peter is now free to preach to Gentiles the Good News of God's forgiveness. Peter and the others are commanded to baptize any who will believe in the Christ. Thus, the word spreads through the whole countryside and beyond. Resurrection is the hope of every living person. No wonder they preached with such courage and enthusiasm!

They preached about a God who cared first for people who were poor and powerless, a God whose love governed all His relationships. Through the Holy Spirit, we could now live by the power of Resurrection, and share it with others.

The Scripture readings during these 50 days between Easter and Pentecost are among the most exciting in the Church year.

We surrender to "Al-

leluias" and joyful shouts of "Christ has Risen". and then settle in for a new time of reflection on our own program for resurrection in these very troubled times. After all, it is our mission to bring new life and hope to a needy world.

As followers of the Risen Christ, the time has come for more of us to turn our Savior's resurrection into a personal renewal that will influence the social and political sphere of our beloved nation.

That first Easter changed the ancient world, and Easter 2010 could do much through us to change our own troubled world. We need to continue what Lent has done for our understanding and involvement in the teachings and plans for action of our Church. As He has always been, Christ is our only hope! Alleluia!

Let's see a vote on 'born alive' legislation

Editor's note: The following editorial, originally titled "Left to die," was provided to Catholic News Services by The Tablet, the newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Nothing has ignited the pro-life cause in New York state more than the recent passage of the Reproductive Health Act, championed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Obviously mistitled, the legislation allows for the abortion of babies, even as they are being born. Making matters worse, the act allows no intervention on behalf of the child even if he or she is born alive.

"Our nation is better

than infanticide," Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, said April 2. The archbishop, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, added: "Babies born alive during the process of abortion deserve the same care and medical assistance as any other newborn."

His statement came as two Republican members of the House were unveiling plans to force a floor vote on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The proposal is the work of Rep. Ann Wagner of Missouri with the support of House Republican Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana.

Scalise knows something about not being left alone to die. He was gravely shot in 2017 while practicing for a congressional baseball game in Alexandria, Virginia. Had there not been immediate medical attention, the congressman would not be here to support this petition.

Simply speaking, the proposed legislation would mandate that a baby born alive after an attempted abortion be given the same medical attention as any other infant.

Pro-abortion advocates see this as an attempt to limit personal freedom and choice, regardless of

the rights of the new life being born. We see it as protecting the life of a human being, like any other.

This is how ridiculous the debate over life has become in our society today. A human being is actually born and yet that child is being left to die without any medical treatment!

We urge our local representatives to support this initiative to get the petition to the floor. Right now, Speaker Nancy Pelosi refuses to allow the bill - H.R. 962 - to reach the floor for debate. She realizes that there is great support for it among members of all parties

therefore, she does not want to risk the support of the pro-abortion crowd.

Our representatives have indeed been radicalized on the topic of abortion. The very least we should expect from them is recognition that when a person is born, there is a life that deserves to be preserved.

Another very least, we should expect is to know just where our own congressman stands on this issue. So, let's have a vote!



ADIRONDACK

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Saranac Lake – The Secular Carmelite community in Saranac Lake invites you to a holy hour Divine Mercy Devotion.

Date: April 28

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Features: Including Eucharistic Adoration, chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reconciliation

Contact: For more information contact John Miner
Jdminer@roadrunner.com

CLINTON

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

Dates: Mondays and Tuesdays

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Place: Saint Frere Andre Chapel

Features: Adoration will conclude with Benediction at 7 PM on Tuesday of Holy Week.

Contact: Parish Rectory: 518-563-1692

THRIFT STORE SALE

Peru – St. Vincent's Thrift Store to have its Annual Spring sale.

Schedule: April 25, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30; April 25 – 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Customers can fill a large bag with gently used clothing and footwear for \$8

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Morrisonville – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 28

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Schedule: Holy Hour Begins at 1:30 p.m. with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation until 2:45 p.m.; Sung Chaplet at 3 p.m. and The Divine Mercy Hour with veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

EVANGELIZATION AND APOLOGETICS

Dannemora – The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers Association (ERCLMA) has organized the following event for continued formation: Evangelization and Apologetics with Marika Donders.

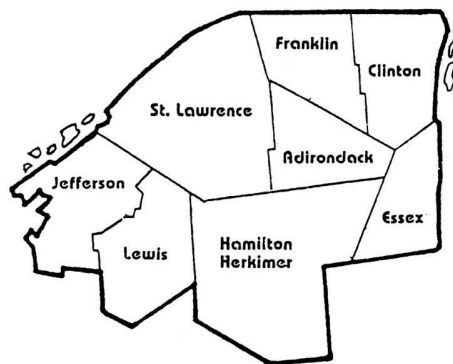
Date: May 11

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Hall

Cost: \$10

Features: Father Mickey Demo will lead the celebration of a morning Mass



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

followed by a presentation by Diocese of Ogdensburg Director of Evangelization, Marika Donders. A light lunch will be served. All Commissioned Lay Ministers and the current class of candidates set to be Commissioned in June, are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event will also be live-streamed, so if you cannot attend please join us on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/MaalC60E1B0>.

Contact: Brenda Smith
soundtech58@yahoo.com or Karen LeClair - k.leclair2@aol.com by April 26

ESSEX

ST. JOSEPH'S LENTEN STUDIES

Olmstedville – St. Joseph's Church to hold a Lenten study.

Schedule: Wednesdays after the 5 p.m. Mass

Place: St. Joseph's Parish House

Features: "No Greater Love"; The Passion of Jesus Christ DVD video series to be shown. Soup and bread will be served.

FRANKLIN

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish to have the Feast of Divine Mercy to be held.

Date: April 28

Place: Notre Dame Church

Schedule: 11 a.m., Mass; 12 p.m. to 3, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 1 p.m. to 2:50, Confessions will be heard; 3 p.m., The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be sung, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Features: All are welcome to join in

any or all of the above times of prayer and praise.

Contact: Father Joseph Giroux at 315-483-1300

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Chateaugay – Spaghetti Dinner to be held.

Date: April 28

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free

JEFFERSON

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Schedule: Beginning Good Friday April 19 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 28 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org All parishes welcome.

HAM DINNER

Evans Mills – St. Mary, St. Theresa and St. Joseph's Events Committee to have a Ham Dinner.

Date: April 27

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: \$10

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Church Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 25

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8, Children, \$4.50; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

Features: Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner.

Date: May 4

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678.

WINE APPRECIATION

Evans Mills – Wine education experience to be held.

Date: May 11

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$10

Features: You will be experiencing Premium Finger Lakes wines handcrafted by O-Neh-Da and Eagle Crest Vineyards.

Contact: For tickets please call Kareta at 315-629-4678.

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – The Feast of The Divine Mercy will be celebrated.

Date: April 28

Schedule: Reconciliation will begin at 2 p.m. and a Divine Mercy Themed Movie will be shown in the church hall also beginning at 2 p.m. At 3 p.m., the program will include: The Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Holy Cards and Petitions, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, Homily and Benediction.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church 3:00 PM, at St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville.

Features: Father Jay W. Seymour will be the celebrant. A covered dish reception in the church hall will follow. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of May to be held.

Date: May 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

ST. MARY'S GALA

Canton – St. Mary's to hold their Annual Gala with the theme of the Silver Screen, Lights, Camera, Action.

Date: April 27

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's School

Cost: \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door
Features: There will be fine food, entertainment, silent and live auctions.

Contact: If any parish or altar and rosary societies have any cookbooks or books on parish histories and they would like to donate them or anyone or business who like to donate merchandise to the auction, please contact Terry Fueka at 315-386-2543

KNIGHTS GALA

Massena – Trinity Catholic will be holding its 5th Gala with the theme of Hollywood "Knights."

Date: April 27

Place: Trinity Catholic School

Cost: \$65 per person or \$500 for a table of 8

Feature: A 5-course meal with a choice of prime rib or chicken marsala provided by Allen Chilton. This year's honorees will be Joan and Paul Rufa, Tom and Ginny Sullivan, and Frenchie and Thelma Coupal. Trinity Catholic thanks diamond sponsors Donaldson Funeral Home and Philips Memorial Home for their generous support of their school.

Contact: Tickets are on sale now. Stop by or call the school office at 315-769-5911

SPRING RETREAT

Morristown – Spring retreat to be held with the theme of learning compassion from the heart of Christ.

Date: May 18

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Cedarhaven

Cost: \$25 (lunch and snacks included)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Features: Reflecting on the Parable of the Prodigal Son this day will consider what compassion is, and how the teachings of Jesus on forgiveness may help one become a more compassionate person.

Contact: Sister Berthany Fitzgerald, SSJ at 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com by May 15

BLESSED IS SHE

Norwood – Blessed is She workshop to be held.

Date: May 19

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall

Features: Join us for a "Joy in Jesus" talk, then make your own scripture/prayer board. Snacks will be provided. Please bring a drink.

Contact: There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to Sara to reserve materials: call/text 315-212-7565, narow56@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY RECOGNITION DINNER

Colton – Faith Formation Ministry Recognition Dinner to be held for Catechists.

Date: May 22

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Cost: \$12 per person

Contact: Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620. RSVP due date by May 13

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Norfolk – Save the date for a day long women's retreat.

Date: May 4

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Father Amyot Parish Center

Cost: \$20, includes lunch

Features: Presenter will be Edwina Gateley on the topic of "Soul Sisters: Women called to connect, bond and heal in a broken world".

Contact: To register, go to rcdony.org/episcopal-delegate-for-religious/ and select "Women's Retreat Registration." For more information, call Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920 ext. 1450

TEEN LIFE DAY

Saranac Lake – Teen Life Day to be

held.

Date: May 18

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Bernard's Church

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch); Free for the 2019 Youth Bus for Lifers

Features: Open to middle, high school and college students. Kate Maloney, Students for Life Northeast Regional Coordinator, along with guest speakers: Kathy Gallagher (NYS Catholic Conference), Dr. Jan Patterson (Gianna Center) and Nancy Belzile (Silent No More & 40 Days for Life) will present an educational day including games and prizes! Learn how to defend your prolife views, how birth control works, how to make NY an abortion-free state, how to start a prolife club at your school and about public witness with 40 Day for Life and Silent No More. Eucharistic Adoration available all day.

Contact: Online registration www.rcdony.org/prolife Questions? The Respect Life Office 518-524-0774 (call or text) or Youth Ministry 315-393-2920 Ext. 1415

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - The Spring Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be held.

Date: May 31-June 2

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: If you or someone you know is hurting after an abortion, consider attending this weekend retreat. You're not alone. Help is available.

Contact: Confidential registration form available at the Respect Life webpage rcdony.org/prolife. For more information call or text Colleen Miner 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org.

FFM COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTER'S RETREAT

Ogdensburg – The FFM Commissioned Lay Minister's Retreat to be held.

Date: June 7-9

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$10

Features: Theme will be "The Communion of the Holy Spirit".

Contact: To register for this event, simply go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commisioned-lay-ministers/retreat-registration-wadham-s-hall.html>

STEBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Attention all high school youth, the Steubenville Youth Conference to be held this summer.

Date: July 19-21

Features: The best Catholic speak-

ers, powerful praise and worship, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Celebrate of the Holy Mass, small groups, Adoration and more! All with 2,500 other faithful teens!

Contact: For more information contact Dayna Leader Family Life Associate

at dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 and visit Family Life Office at www.rcdony.org <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life-marriage/marriage/steubenville-youth-conference/registration.html>

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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—Bishop Terry R. LaValley

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AT THE MOVIES

SHAZAM!

NEW YORK (CNS)— Family life is exalted over egotistical self-reliance in "Shazam!" (Warner Bros.), director David F. Sandberg's DC Comics-based origin story.

Though there's a warm tone to the proceedings overall, screenwriter Henry Gayden's script dabbles in a bit of dodgy humor about teen mischief that makes the film questionable fare even for older adolescents.

An ancient wizard (Djimon Hounsou) has been battling demons who take the form of the seven deadly sins for centuries. But, with his powers waning, he searches for a successor whose principal qualification must be absolute purity of heart. Cynics in the audience will not be surprised that he comes up short.

After Dr. Sivana (Mark Strong), who was rejected as a candidate in childhood, returns to the magus' otherworldly realm and allows the fiends to inhabit his body — and thus wreak havoc on Earth — things reach a crisis. Desperate, the sorcerer more or less randomly invites 14-year-old foster child Billy Batson (Asher Angel) to take



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Jack Dylan Grazer and Zachary Levi star in a scene from the movie "Shazam!"

on his abilities.

The result is that, by dint of the titular exclamation, Billy can transform himself at will into a superhero with the body of an adult (Zachary Levi). Somewhat confusingly, besides being a magic formula, Shazam is also both the wizard's name and that of Billy's new alter ego.

Back on Earth, Dr. Sivana is determined to force

Billy to surrender his powers to him. So he targets Billy's adoptive family, including his physically challenged foster brother — and would-be best friend — Freddie (Jack Dylan Grazer).

"Shazam!" eventually becomes almost exclusively an action picture with Dr. Sivana and Shazam, both of whom can fly, drubbing the tar out of each other in long battles in midair. Ear-

lier on, though there's an enjoyable overlay of comedy as Billy and Freddie marvel at Shazam's ability to shoot electricity from his hands and perform similar nifty stunts.

It takes time for the initially selfish Billy to learn to use his gifts responsibly. It also takes some effort for him to overcome the emotional scarring that has left him with an instinct to push people away.

As Billy learns his life lessons, viewers of faith will appreciate brief scenes of prayer and an implicitly pro-life message

about the dignity of the disabled. Freddie, they'll discover, serves both as the movie's moral compass and, in a certain sense, as its real hero.

Interludes that find Billy using his grown-up guise to purchase beer for himself and Freddie and to visit a strip club register in a different key, however. Both lads do spit their first sip of beer out in disgust and wind up drinking soda instead. And the burlesque house is only shown from the outside. Parents, nonetheless, may wish these moments had been left on the cutting room floor.

Even so, "Shazam!" (Warner Bros.) mostly has its heart in the right place and has more to offer than many movies that take their inspiration from the comics. Above average entertainment for a broad swath of grown-ups.

The film contains much stylized violence with a few gruesome sights, underage drinking, brief sexual humor, some of it involving a strip club, at least one use of profanity and a milder oath and about a dozen crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

The Lenten path leads to Easter



Every spring, the Mission Office turns to its faithful supporters for help. You never disappoint. This year was no exception. I am most grateful for your Lenten sacrifice, which is such a blessing to the Church as it serves the poor of the Missions. Our Lenten appeal is currently underway. This Mission office is grateful for those who have sacrificed for us.

Throughout the world, day after day, we find suffering of all kinds – devastation wrought by natural disasters, war and poverty. The media reminds us daily of profound hunger, illness, disease and violence. There is also the suffering that comes from not knowing of the great love of our Lord. This is where the Missionaries come in to play; to seek out those in need of the Lord.

Yet, in the Missions, local priests, religious sisters, brothers and lay catechists reach out to the suffering in Jesus' name, offering them His love and His message of hope. They remind them that God does not abandon us, helping them to experience in their "Good Friday" world, the hope and joy of Easter Sunday. All this effort and accomplishment is made possible by people like you, who support the Mission Office with prayers and sacrifice when we come calling for help.

As St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, said, "I will spend my Heaven doing good on Earth". She still inspires those who work in the developing lands in the missions. Her love of simplicity and that love is shown through deeds provides the Missions with a purpose. Your love of the Missions is like St. Therese of Lisieux: simplicity, action, prayer and love.

I wish you all a blessed Holy week. May the Lord bless you! You will remain in our prayers.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

www.rcdony.org

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Marie Gertrude Haughney

A Mass of Christian burial for Sister Marie Gertrude Haughney, OCD, of the Monastery of the Incarnation in Beacon, was celebrated at St. John's Church in Beacon on April 12.

Sister Marie Gertrude peacefully passed away on April 6, 2019, at Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck.

Sister Marie Gertrude of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Dorothea Haughney) was born in New York City on July 16, 1933, the daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Mullinger) Haughney.

After graduating from Blessed Sacrament High School in New York, Dorothea entered the Carmelite Monastery in the Bronx where six months later she received the name Sister Marie Gertrude of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In November 1952, Sister Marie Gertrude traveled to the North Country with five other sisters to establish a Carmelite Monastery in Saranac Lake. It was there that Sister made her profession of vows on Feb. 17, 1953.

For many years, Sister served as the much-loved prioress of the Saranac Lake community and in more recent years as assistant treasurer and sacristan for the Carmelite community at Beacon.

Genuinely interested in people, her loving, warm and welcoming personality gifted her with a wide circle of devoted friends both in the North Country and in the Hudson Valley.

She was a master in the art of correspondence, remembering birthdays and anniversaries and sending out a steady stream of letters, notes, and cards, praying fervently for each one's needs and intentions.

She is survived by her loving sister Catherine Berger; nieces and nephews Kevin (Fatima) Berger, Karen Ferris, Brian (Roxanne) Berger, Thomas (Joann) Berger, Maureen (Jim) Diem, Trisha Zigrosser, Joseph Haughney, Dan (Cheri) Haughney; and grandnieces and grand-nephews Alia, Brenden, Kayla, and James Berger, Megan, Connor, and Kaitlyn Diem, Ryan and Nick Zigrosser, Jordan, Spencer, and Becket Haughney.

Sister Marie Gertrude was predeceased by her brothers, James and George.

To send a personal condolence please visit www.riverviewbyhalvey.com.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Patrick J. Halvey of Riverview Funeral Home by Halvey, LLC.

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks – Phyllis "Bambie" Gaffney, 50; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2019 at Holy Name Church.

Chazy – Mary Jane Fox, 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 8, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church.

Clayton – Robert J. Moschelle, 84; Mass of Christian Burial at later date at St. Mary's Church.

Hogansburg – Marjorie "Kwaronni-ahawi" Thompson, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2019 at St. Regis Church.

Glenfield – Barbara (Henry) Buckingham, 81; Mass of Christian Burial July 1, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

Glenfield – Mildred "Mickey" (Goss) Nagy, 94; Mass of Christian Burial April 13, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Lillian (Sharkey) MacNeill Stephens, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2019 at M.B. Clark Funeral Home.

Lake Placid – Charles A. Thomas, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 12, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

Lyon Mountain – Myrtle Siskavich; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2019 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Norfolk – Cora J. "Josie" (LaDue) Paige, 90; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2019 at the Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Timothy R. Beldock, 35; Funeral Services April 10, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Francis Guay, 67; Mass of Christian Burial April 8, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St.

Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Raymond P. LaClair, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Saranac Lake – Cynthia Jane "Janie Ryan" Carey, 60; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2019 at St. Bernard's Church.

Schroon Lake – Barbara A. Radke, 72; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2019 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Ticonderoga – Sharon Frances (Balding) Towne, 80; Mass of Christian Burial April 8, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Watertown – Marie Ann (Canale) Morgia, 93; Mass of Christian Burial April 8, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

AT THE YOUTH RALLY



SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) Youth Rally participants enjoy a glow room. (Below) A therapy dog attended the youth rally with members of the Faith and Ecology group.



Candidates, catechumens prepare for sacraments

By Shawn Ryan
Contributing writer

MORRISONVILLE – For most Catholics, the choice to join the Church was one made by their parents, and all they know of their baptism is what they see in pictures or hear about in stories. Even memories of the earliest sacraments are often merely faint vestiges, diminished by the passage of time.

But there are a number of people each year who enter the faith as adults or young adults, through the RCIA process. For these people, the choice to become Catholic is solely their own, made often after a lifetime of searching and finally finding the faith that they wish to call their home.

For a sizable cadre of people at St. Alexander's Parish in Morrisonville, this Easter will mark their entrance into the Catholic faith, after months of RCIA study, prayer and reflection. The group consists of 15 candidates and five catechumens. A catechumen is someone who has never been baptized in a Christian faith, and a candidate is someone who has been baptized but has not celebrated the rest of the sacraments.

They will complete whichever Sacraments they haven't achieved, from Baptism through Confirmation the evening

"I'm where I need to be. I never knew I could feel so strongly about knowing I'm in the right place."

- Vanessa Branch, catechumen

after Easter Mass, emerging from the process finally as full-fledged Catholics.

One of the catechumens is Lauren Waldron, who will be completing the RCIA process with her daughter Isabella Soucia, a candidate. Waldron was baptized but wasn't a practicing Catholic, but she married her Catholic husband in a Catholic ceremony. That was the start of opening her up to the idea of finishing her sacraments, and having her daughter do so as well.

"I met my husband, and we were married Catholic, so I feel like I had the tail end of the sacraments, but didn't have the middle," said Waldron. "When we started doing our marriage classes, Isabella was allowed to go to the children's classes, and she had a lot of questions I couldn't answer."

When she decided to pursue the Catholic faith, Waldron gave Isabella the choice of becoming a Catholic as well, and she jumped at the chance.

"She really made the decision that she wanted to be Catholic, and she's helped move my drive forward," said Waldron.

For catechumen Vanessa

Branch, who is coming from the Episcopalian faith following a husband and son who are Catholics, the transition feels totally natural. She met St. Alexander's pastor, Father Scott Seymour, through a sister-in-law after moving to the North Country from Louisiana.

"It's just felt like I should be here...like I was drawn here," she said. "I'm where I need to be. I never knew I could feel so strongly about knowing I'm in the right place."

She said that she had always wanted to join the Catholic faith, but after another furtive start, she knew it would happen when the time was right. That time is now.

For Branch and the other catechumen and candidates, the time will be the evening following the Easter Vigil at St. Alexander's. Along with just the power of joining the Catholic Church, the community that they have found at St. Alexander's is a large part of the transition that they are making.

"I think that this is the best place to be. The family here at St. Alexander's just opens its arms to you," said Branch.

Once the current RCIA class receives their sacraments following the upcoming Easter Day vigil, Sister Deepali Bankar, a Sister of Christian Charity and the parish's formation director, will once again begin canvassing for next year's RCIA class, to hopefully welcome more new Catholics to the ranks of the faithful.

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April 17	Fr. Andrew White School	Leonardtown, MD	10:00 a.m.
April 19	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 p.m.

www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players