

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

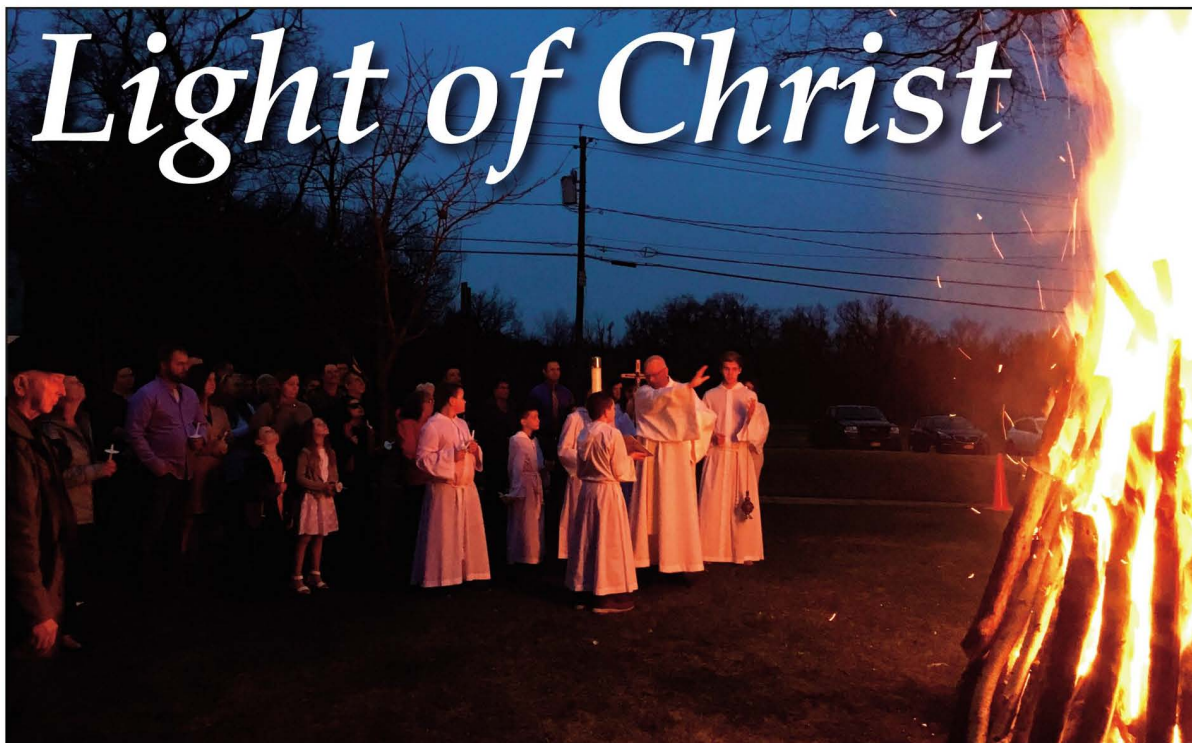
Ogdensburg native finds God in Ghana | PAGE 3

French leaders pledge to restore Notre Dame | PAGE 16

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 2

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 24, 2019



DARCY FARGO/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Father Raymond J. Moreau blesses the Easter fire before using the flames to light the Paschal Candle at St. Mary's Church in Brushton. An annual tradition, the large fire is monitored by the Brushton Volunteer Fire Department.

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. With a corps of new training facilitators and a refresher training program rolling out, the Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to build on its extensive efforts to prevent and respond to the abuse of children. Learn more about changes to the training program, as well as other diocesan efforts to protect children.

FULL STORY, PAGES 7, 8 & 9

## Risen Christ brings peace, pope says on Easter

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As the machine of warfare continues to churn out more dangerous weaponry, only the power and joy of Christ's resurrection can fill hearts with comfort and peace, Pope Francis said before giving his Easter blessing.

"May the one who gives us his peace end the roar of arms – both in areas of conflict and in our cities – and inspire the leaders of nations to work for an end to the arms race and the troubling spread of weaponry, especially in the economically more advanced countries," the pope said as he

prepared April 21 to give his Easter blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Jesus' resurrection from the dead is not only the start of a true renewal that "begins from the heart, from the conscience" but also the beginning of a new world "free from the slavery of sin and death" and now open to God's kingdom of "love, peace and fraternity," he said.

The pope's prayer for peace came a few hours after news broke of multiple bombs that exploded in several churches and hotels in

Sri Lanka, killing and wounding hundreds in the capital city of Colombo and the neighboring cities of Negombo and Batticaloa.

After giving his blessing, the pope expressed "sadness and pain" at the attack before leading the crowd in several moments of silent prayer for the victims.

"I wish to express my affectionate closeness to the Christian community, struck while it was gathered in prayer, and to all the victims of such cruel violence," the pope said. "I entrust to the Lord all those who have been tragically

lost and I pray for the wounded and all those who suffer because of this tragic event."

According to the Vatican, an estimated 70,000 pilgrims attended the Easter morning Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Francis did not deliver a homily during the Mass; instead, an announcer invited the crowd to remain in silent prayer for several minutes. As a hushed silence filled the packed square, Pope Francis remained with eyes closed, hands folded and head bowed in prayerful reflection.

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLICBox 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &amp;

Communications Director



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.  
622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:  
622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:  
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:  
news@northcountry  
catholic.org

Entered at the  
Post Office:  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 and  
additional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:  
For one year:  
In-Diocese Rate: \$27  
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.  
Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
dateline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Season redeemed in the homestretch

In hindsight, it feels like a rookie mistake.

I fell into the trap of feeling like I had to do it all this Lent and Holy Week in order to make it "really count." I had every parish mission date, study group, adoration time, service opportunity, penance service and special event on my calendar.

Nearly every day, the calendar in my iPhone looked like a Lego tower, with colored blocks signifying each event or appointment stacked one on top of the other.

By the third week or so, I was wearing out. My participation in most events and

times that were supposed to be dedicated to prayer was half-hearted. I was well intentioned, but I was either too tired to meaningfully participate or distracted by the to-do list racing through my brain.

By last week, Holy Week, I was just ready for it to all be over. It's sad to feel a sense of dread at the holiest week of the year, but that's where I found myself. I knew my schedule was going to be even more crowded than it had been in the previous weeks. I knew I still needed to prepare for Easter festivities with my family.

By Holy Thursday, I was thinking, "if I hadn't signed up

to lector, I could just stay home tonight and relax. I just don't feel like doing this."

Late that morning, my phone rang. Someone close to me, someone who works with a population that can't easily travel, asked if I had any suggestions on how a Good Friday event of some type could be planned for the people in her care with only a day of notice.

Not finding anyone else interested in taking the assignment, two friends and I agreed to conduct a simple service – reading the Passion narrative and a couple reflections – with those people who would otherwise not get to attend a service. I'll admit it, I was a bit annoyed to have one more thing added to my calendar.

At the appointed time, we conducted our simple prayer service. The people we prayed with were engaged and moved praying about our Lord's suffering and dying. We were moved. As my friends and I concluded, we were inundated with participants thanking us for bringing Good Friday to them. They were so grateful for the opportunity to worship our Lord in community.

They were grateful for that which I was taking for granted. While I was grumbling about having too much to do, they shed tears for the opportunity to do just a little.

It was humbling, and it taught me more than all the events on my calendar combined.

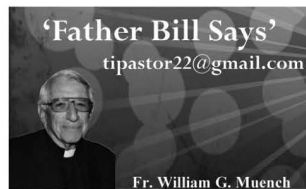


Darcy L.  
Fargo

## Living life reflecting the resurrection

I love Easter. I love the Easter Vigil – the Mass, the rituals that the Church celebrates on Holy Saturday during the night. We are all united throughout the world in a celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. So many wonderful things happen at the Easter Vigil each year. There is a certain excitement in welcoming someone into the Catholic Church. I have had the privilege of baptizing many adults at the Easter Vigil. That is very special. We have such a special program in our parishes of preparing adults for baptism – spending a year or more walking with them and leading them to discover the glory and joy of the Catholic faith.

I want to add to this that as a priest I poured the water in baptism in this magnificent ceremony during the Easter Vigil, bringing someone to a unique unity with the Lord in love and with peace, with happiness, with welcome. This is always a more exciting moment for any priest.



And, we, priests, are the ones who anoint the newly baptized Christians with confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Usually, this sacrament is reserved for the Bishop. Again, a very special moment in priestly ministry.

There are many wonderful resurrection stories of Jesus in the Gospels. The story read on Easter Sunday you certainly remember – the one about Mary Magdalene discovering that the stone on Jesus' tomb was rolled back. She was so disturbed that she rushed to tell Peter. The same Peter who denied knowing Jesus on the day of Jesus' Confirmation. Peter and another apostle run to the tomb and discover that the tomb was empty. Now, on Easter Sunday, you and I, attend

Mass. We run next to Peter and that other apostle to again find the tomb of Jesus empty.

It is indeed an interesting image. We come to the empty tomb to find the resurrected Jesus. The empty tomb means the Lord is alive, Jesus lives, Jesus is resurrected. So, truly, we come to church because that is where we will find Jesus – the tomb is empty. The risen Lord is here, is with us to lead, to guide, to show us the way, and to give us life, peace and happiness. We come to Jesus to understand and recognize our own resurrection which has already begun here and now – our new life.

So, how do we live this new resurrected life now? This is a way of life, a way of living each day now with happiness and peace. This is a life that is lived with gratitude and peace.

A life touched by the resurrection of Jesus is a life filled with gratitude. It is a way of life that recognizes the mag-

nificent gifts that each of us has received from the Lord. And we live with gratitude so that we can use well these gifts that are ours, these magnificent gifts from our God – our talents given to make life successful.

Also, a resurrected life should be a life filled with peace, a way of life lived in the peace of our God. We bring Jesus to each person we meet when we approach them with love and peace, whether they are a friend or a stranger, whether they are friend or enemy. The love and peace of our Savior calls us to remove from our lives anything of violence. Easter is a perfect time to transform our world into a place of peace and joy. Each time we do something, no matter how simple, no matter how complex, each time we remove from our lives and our hearts anything of violence, we have transformed this world; we have made it a better world – a world fill with the resurrected life of our Lord and Savior.



# Ogdensburg native finds God in Ghana

Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart

On a mission of mercy on the other side of the world, Sister Mary Elizabeth Looby's day began and ended with the sound of the Muslim call to prayer.

"It sounded at 5 a.m. and in the evening at 7 p.m.," the Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart and Ogdensburg native recalls.

In March, Sister Mary Elizabeth traveled to the largely Muslim town of Sang, in Ghana, accompanying a volunteer team of dentists and audiologists. The team journeyed there to bring needed health care to the children of Nazareth Home for God's Children.

The Home cares for orphans who have been abandoned by their families because of cultural superstition about their disabilities.

"I wanted an experience of going to an underserved area and serve in whatever way was needed," she says. "Sister Stan Therese Mario Mumeni, foundress of the Marian Sisters of Eucharistic Love, and founder of the Nazareth Home, asked if I would give classes on religious life to her novices. So I had daily classes with those sisters."

The African sisters were in their early 20s and had only a high school education.

"They were eager to learn but didn't have a lot of materials or resources to use," Sister Mary Elizabeth said.

The rest of the time, Sister Mary Elizabeth was actively present to the children who enjoyed touching her hair, so very different from their own. The children loved being held and holding hands.

The children ranged in



Sister Mary Elizabeth Looby, a Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart and Ogdensburg native, recently traveled to Sang, Ghana to serve children at Nazareth Home for God's Children and local religious sisters.

age from infants to early 20s. Some have normal intelligence and go to school during the week and return to the home for the weekends.

"I expected the children to be more compromised than I found them," Sister Mary Elizabeth said. "Most were healthy, happy and full of energy. There were some with conditions like schizophrenia, hydrocephalus, some had seizures, some were missing limbs or hands or feet; some had been poisoned and had resulting health conditions. Some were perfectly normal."

The children, she recalls with a smile, loved to dance.

"As soon as music began to play, they all started moving to the beat," she said. "They all got along well and helped each

other to get to meals, go to school in the complex or to prayer. They had names like Precious, Solomon and Caesar. There were 2 year-old twins named Philip and James."

Her engagement with the young sisters and her delight in the children were happy distractions from the intense heat and the shortage of bathing water in the dry, desert-like environment.

"The temperature was 105-106 most days," Sister Mary Elizabeth remembers. "The heat was very draining, physically. A great gift was a siesta in the afternoon, which gave us a break from the heat."

A new well had been dug to provide water to the complex but was not yet working.

"We drank bottled water, and we were provided with a large trash can full of water for bathing and washing clothes," Sister Mary Elizabeth said. "I learned how precious water is! I now value water more and use it more

carefully."

Despite the privations she observed and experienced, Sister Mary Elizabeth says her journey brought her many gifts.

"Even in their poverty, the Ghanaian people are peaceful, joyful, creative and industrious," she said. "Respect for others is evident, particularly respect of older people."

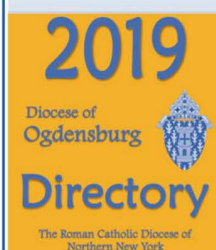
Most striking, she says, is the presence of God in the spirit and the culture in Ghana.

"Even in the humblest of little shops there were religious sayings or words reflective of God," Sister Mary Elizabeth said. "Taxis and jitneys had religious sayings on the back windows of the vehicles. Their lives are not easy but they are very religious."

Sister Mary Elizabeth's final musing on her journey?

"Although we may have different color skin, my God is the same as theirs. I expected to find God in Ghana. I was not disappointed."

## Order your 2019 Diocesan Directory!



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

Order online at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

Make checks payable to:  
North Country Catholic  
PO Box 106

Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in)

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ directories

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

For a New or Used Car

**Mort Backus & Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
**315-393-5899**



**CHEVROLET**

**\$15.00  
each**



## BIRTHDAY VISIT



On March 27, six Catholic Daughters from Court Little Rose #1300 (Ellenburg) visited Esther LaBombard at Meadow Brook Health Care, where she is a resident. Esther celebrated her 100th Birthday on March 29. She has been a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for the past 62 years. Esther is also an honorary member of the Altar & Rosary Society. Pictured with Esther are, from left, Judy Bombard, Joyce Roberts, Helen Wilcox, Anne Landry, Gale Tourville and Leona Manor.

## MARKING DAY 40



COLLEEN MINER/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

A group gathers outside of Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh for prayer and a closing ceremony to end the 40 Days for Life, a period of prayer, fasting and ministry aimed at drawing attention to the evil of abortion.

## Names of priests, bishops used in scam attempts

The North Country Catholic

The email said only: "Hello, Let me know if you are not too busy at the moment. I need you to do me a favor real quick. Kindly reply to my email as soon as possible. I will wait to hear from you soon."

While the "From" line on this email suggested it was sent by a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the email was really from a "spoofed" email account — an email created to appear as though its from a legitimate sender, usually with the intent to scam recipients.

Catholic News Services reported emails spoofing priests and bishops have been seen in other dioceses across the U.S., as well.

In some instances, individuals who replied to the emails were asked to purchase gift cards and transmit the cards or card numbers to the email address or a phone number.

The Georgia Attorney General reported another version, in which con artists send out emails purporting to be from a church pastor asking for emergency donations to help someone in need. The email, which uses the pastor's name but a phony email address, instructs the recipient to provide the money by purchasing an iTunes gift card and mailing it to a different address.

Such scams can also be conducted via text message or telephone with similarly "spoofed" phone numbers.

The Federal Trade Commission offers the following tips to avoid being scammed:

**Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust, like a government official, a family member, a charity, or a company you do business with. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request — whether it comes as a text, a phone call, or an email.

**Be cautious about opening attachments or clicking on links in emails.** Even your friend or family members' accounts could be hacked. Files and links can contain malware that can weaken your computer's security.

**Do your own typing.** If a company or organization you know sends you a link or phone number, don't click. Use your favorite search engine to look up the website or phone number yourself. Even though a link or phone number in an email may look like the real deal, scammers can hide the true destination.

**Make the call if you're not sure.** Do not respond to any emails that request personal or financial information. Phishers use pressure tactics and prey on fear. If you think a company, friend or family member really does need personal information from you, pick up the phone and call them yourself using the number on their website or in your address book, not the one in the email.

**Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information, so the name and number you see aren't always real. If someone calls asking for money or personal information, hang up. If you

think the caller might be telling the truth, call back to a number you know is genuine.

**Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. Wiring money through services like Western Union or MoneyGram is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for reloadable cards (like MoneyPak or Reloadit) and gift cards (like iTunes or Google Play). Government offices and honest companies won't require you to use these payment methods.

**Report phishing emails and texts.**

- Forward phishing emails to spam@uce.gov — and to the organization impersonated in the email. Your report is most effective when you include the full email header, but most email programs hide this information. To ensure the header is included, search the name of your email service with "full email header" into your favorite search engine.

- File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at [FTC.gov/complaint](http://FTC.gov/complaint).

- Visit [Identitytheft.gov](http://Identitytheft.gov). Victims of phishing could become victims of identity theft; there are steps you can take to minimize your risk.

- You can also report phishing email to [report-phishing@apwg.org](mailto:report-phishing@apwg.org). The Anti-Phishing Working Group — which includes ISPs, security vendors, financial institutions and law enforcement agencies — uses these reports to fight phishing.



# Developing vibrant parish communities

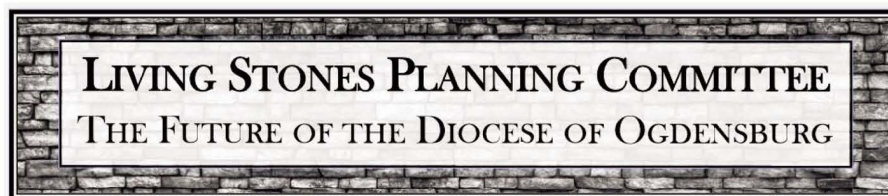
**William J. Amoriell**

Member of Living Stones Planning Committee

The last article in this series summarized the results from the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) survey that asked parishes to identify their strengths and areas that need further development. In this article we begin to discuss how parishes can become more vibrant and better meet the needs of all parishioners.

In order for real change to occur, people need to feel a sense of urgency. "Transformation of an enterprise begins with a sense of crisis or urgency. No institution will go through fundamental change unless it believes it is in deep trouble and needs to do something different to survive." (Lowney, p. 23) We don't like to alarm people, so perhaps we have downplayed or minimized our situation more than we should have. I think the data corroborates urgency, but, whenever possible, we try to discount any negative indicators suggesting there is something wrong with our traditions and/or ways of doing things. We need to have the humility to realize that we are heading in the wrong direction and we are not clear on how to change course. We are fortunate in the diocese to have abundant talent. If we have the will and perseverance, we can make a difference and implement changes that will ensure the future health of all church groupings in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

It isn't easy to change what we've been doing for generations or to think differently. However, this is what Jesus was con-



fronted with when he faced the conditions of his time and we are no different. "The first thing that must change is our culture, the ways we think, operate, and make decisions. Such change never comes easily, above all to a church with a sacred tradition and a venerable history. For that reason, we must create a "burning platform" for change, a widespread conviction that the status quo is no longer sustainable. The burning platform for change is not yet ablaze in our church." (Lowney, p. 2)

This is frightening on one hand, but challenging and invigorating on the other. We can no longer accept the often heard response—"It is what it is." Rather, "it is what we allow it to be." We can make change and we can make a difference. We just need to recognize that conditions are serious enough to warrant a commitment to change. Again, we must have the will and perseverance of faith and action to tackle the tasks that lie ahead.

People sometimes ask what a vibrant parish looks like. Let me share a short observation with you. A few weeks ago, my wife, Molly, and I were in Amelia Island, Florida, and attended a Mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida. I have to say that, if a parish is vibrant, you actually feel its vibrancy. You didn't have to be inside St. Michael's Catholic

Church more than a few moments to realize that vibrancy was present. The warm welcoming was unmistakable. The church was full, and everyone participated. The environment was such that everyone wanted to participate, whether it was singing or recitation.

People are often too quick to come up with excuses for why we can't become more vibrant. We need to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as we move forward. We can do better. "Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that the modern church must grow "by attraction," yet here in the United States, we've demonstrated no meaningful ability to attract. The Pew Research Center found that we manage to attract only one adult convert for every six adult Catholics who walk away from the church. Meditate on that statistic for a moment--six leave for every one that joins." On the other hand, "evangelical churches are thriving as net winners, attracting more members than they lose." (Lowney, p. 21)

We need to be humble enough to acknowledge that we may not be adequately meeting the pastoral needs of our parishioners and, as a result, they may go elsewhere. The ideas on developing parish vibrancy are not new and have been included in a book I would recommend for everyone to read, Great Catholic Parishes by

William E. Simon, Jr.

The book was recommended in an article included in America Magazine. The following endorsement certainly peaked my interest.

If you're looking for the components of vibrant parish life, and what you can do to make them happen in your parish, go no further. Bill Simon and his Parish Catalyst team have researched deeply and prescribed wisely. This is the book we parishioners (and our pastors) have been waiting for so that we can make our parishes welcoming, vibrant, meaningful, and faith-filled. Paul Wilkes—Author of Excellent Catholic Parishes

In gathering ideas and information for this book,

diocesan offices, ministry leaders, and pastoral professionals across the country were asked to identify healthy, vibrant parishes and the pastors who lead them. A sample of more than one hundred exceptional pastors and parishes in the United States were identified and then contacted and interviewed to determine what the parishes were doing that made them healthy and vibrant. In addition to the original parishes identified, those vibrant parishes also cited other parishes that were also considered vibrant parishes. This ended up making up the base of parishes and pastors consulted, and the information gathered was then included in the book, Great Catholic Parishes.

The parishes included reflect a wide range from city to rural and wealthy to struggling. In my judgement, the book was well worth reading and brought to the forefront a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU

"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

### MONASTERY CARD SHOP

Cards for All Occasions

Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery

OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM  
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM  
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN

315-788-1669

[www.sisterspreciousblood.org](http://www.sisterspreciousblood.org)



## Environmental Stewardship

**"Father forgive them..."**  
**Luke 23:24**

A little boy who was preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation was asked to list some sin that one might commit. One answer was "I didn't recycle." This is probably NOT an answer most of us would have given. However, this little boy seems to have gotten the message that being a good steward was part of being a good Christian. He saw the connection between the responsibility that God gave to humans to take care of His Creation in Genesis and his own daily life.

We read in *Laudato Si* (#80) this same connection expressed in a quote from Patriarch Bartholomew: "For human beings . . . to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation: for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, . . . for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life—these are sins. For to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God."

Somewhere in our deepest consciousness we may feel a deep sense of sadness when we look around at the condition of the Garden that God has entrusted us with. The words of Jesus on the Cross come to mind "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." In most incidences, it isn't like we set out to do damage to our "common home." We may just not know or think about the consequences of our actions on the environment and the lives of our sisters and brothers, especially the young.

As we celebrate Mercy Sunday this coming week, we are asked to call to mind the incredible mercy of Jesus for each of us, and to extend His mercy to all those in our lives. In the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Pope Francis in 2016 included "care for our common home," as a work of mercy. Let us pray for a deeper appreciation of God's mercy toward us and for the grace and courage to extend that same mercy to all.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

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

**April 26** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**April 27** – 4 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Regis Mission in Hogansburg

**April 28** – 3 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga

**April 29** – 30 – Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustees Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri- anne 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

## 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](http://www.virtus.org).

Upcoming sessions:

**April 25** – 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

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

## 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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)

- Join the conversation!

## Vibrant parish communities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

number of concrete ideas we've been discussing, as important elements in developing vibrant parishes.

Obviously, what is realistic and possible for one parish community might not be for another. This will, to some degree, depend on the financial and human resources that are available. Nevertheless, every parish must strive to become more effective and develop a team of parishioners charged with this task. We also need to be realistic that significant change will take years to accomplish, but nothing will happen without parish teamwork or absent ongoing strategic planning.

There is another factor, community support, that needs to be acknowledged in developing vibrant parishes. Parishes can sponsor activities to make for a more vibrant parish, but unless parishioners within those parishes come out and support those initiatives, nothing will happen. Too many Catholics have become apathetic and do not commit to their religion and

## Rest in Peace

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

**April 24** – V. Rev. Alfred L. Pelletier, O.M.I., 1978; Rev. Thomas Egan, S.J., 1994

**April 26** – Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998

**April 27** – Rev. John J. Fedigan, O.S.A., 1908; Rev. Michael F. Ambrose, 1934

**April 28** – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

**April 29** – Rev. Peter Mullen, M.M., 1999

**April 30** – Rev. Michael W. Holland, 1906; Rev. Louis Grenier, M.S.C., 1958

spiritual growth as they should. It is critical that parishioners come out and support their parish activities whenever they can. It is so easy to come up with an excuse that "I can't attend because it isn't on a good day or at a good time."

We all need to take our faith seriously and participate in ways that will develop us both personally and spiritually.

I attended a parish dinner recently that was designed to develop a sense of parish community. This is certainly an example of an event that a vibrant parish would offer, but it falls short, if parishioners don't come to support and participate in the community event. In this case, the attendance was respectable, but every seat in the parish center should have been filled. We are fortunate to have so many committed parishioners throughout the diocese who give of their time and talent to offer a variety of events to parishioners. This is to be acknowledged and commended.

I believe our parishes have a great foundation upon which to build more vibrant parishes.

The task now is to broaden and deepen how we serve all parishioners. We can do this by referring back to the summary of key data submitted by parishes to the LSPC that

was included in the second article in this series. Parishes have already identified those areas where they need more lay leaders and programming support, if they are going to become more vibrant and better meet the needs of all parishioners.

We shall finish this article by acknowledging that developing vibrant parishes is a shared responsibility. The parishes need to develop and offer programs that address parish needs, but parishioners need to come and participate in those activities to demonstrate their commitment to the community and their commitment to personal and spiritual growth on all levels.

It may be appropriate to end with the quote from Ernest Hemmingway's "To Whom the Bell Tolls" that's been included in the last two articles:

*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.*

In the next few issues of the *North Country Catholic*, we shall discuss ideas on how to become more vibrant and in a position to more effectively meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.

## Join the Lobby Day for Life

**ALBANY** – Lobby for Life Day will be held May 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. The event, coordinated by New York State Right to Life, will be followed by lobbying appointments with area legislators.

Meet in "The Well" Legislative Office Building.

Keynote speaker will be Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life.

This is an opportunity to address lawmakers and make a difference. All are welcome to come out and oppose attempts to further spread the culture of death.

Pre-registration is not required but is requested. To register, call 518-434-1293 or email [admin@nysrighttolife.org](mailto:admin@nysrighttolife.org).



# Diocese builds on efforts to protect children

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor


**OGDENSBURG**— With a corps of new training facilitators and a refresher training program rolling out, the Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to build on its extensive efforts to prevent and respond to the abuse of children.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg, like many dioceses, religious orders, educational institutions and organizations around the country, requires all clergy, employees and volunteers who have contact with minors to participate in the VIRTUS program, Protecting God's Children for Adults.

The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Certified facilitators incorporate policies and procedures into the training, defining child sexual abuse, addressing the reporting of child sexual abuse, the screening and selection of employees and volunteers, and victim advocacy.

"We had an existing pool of about 50 trained facilitators, but some of them who had been active in the program for years were starting to back off a bit or had limited travel availability," said John Morrison, director of the diocesan Safe Environment Office and Charter compliance

PROMISE TO  
**PROTECT**



PLEDGE TO  
**HEAL**

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Learn more about the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg's  
efforts to prevent abuse

**Pages 8 & 9**

coordinator. "And we had some geographic areas where we had no facilitators."

So, in December, the Safe Environment Office scheduled a facilitator training.

"I was hoping to get maybe five to six more people," Morrison said. "We got 18. Adding 18 people really helps make it so we can offer more sessions in more areas."

While the course can be offered as an online training, Morrison said the diocese has opted to offer each initial training as an in-person course.

"This training is powerful stuff on the first exposure," he said. "Facilitators are trained to respond to questions and emotions as people work through it."

With the new facilitators joining the already existing pool, Morrison said the diocese has a stable program with the ability to offer courses all over the diocese.

"Can't say enough about the

corps of facilitators we have," he said. "They've taken on a huge challenge to lead this program, and they embrace it. For the last couple years, they've trained more than 600 people each year. That means we're still reaching people with this training and still getting new volunteers."

In addition to training new facilitators, the diocese is in the early stages of rolling out a refresher course for clergy, staff and volunteers who have previously taken the Protecting God's Children training.

"We have a population of people – clergy, paid employees, youth ministers, catechetical leaders, school principals and teachers – who are required to do continual, monthly trainings," Morrison said. "But for those who only take it on a one-time basis, we want to roll out a refresher."

The refresher would be assigned to the required participants through the VIRTUS online

program.

"We've been piloting the roll out of a refresher module, Keeping the Promise Alive," Morrison said. "The training is done online."

Once rolled out, the refresher program also includes options for additional continuing education.

"There are a variety of different modules available," Morrison said. "Most can be completed in less than 45 minutes. Each covers different topics. There's one on boundary issues, for example."

The trainings can be rolled out on a continuing cycle – every two years for example – or when there's a need to refresh protocols or training on a particular topic.

Morrison said, required or not, he encourages any interested party to take the initial VIRTUS training and as much continuing education as possible.

"The more people out there who are aware of risks, the better," he said. "This is about protecting our children. We want everyone involved in that."

For more information, and for a list of upcoming training sessions, go to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment page at [rcdony.org/safeenv](http://rcdony.org/safeenv).

The Safe Environment and Charter Compliance Office can also be reached at (315)393-2920, ext. 1440.

## Catholic Charities offers grant to fight poverty

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, a local grant program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Unlike the other services of the agency which provides direct assistance to individuals, the Campaign for Human Development Grant program provides small grants to human service agencies, churches, food pantries

and other organizations who address the issues of poverty.

"Poverty is less visible today, and hunger even more so," said Deacon Patrick Donahue, executive director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. "You have to look harder, which means that even smaller grants like these can assist the variety of food pantries and meal programs to address some of the serious

poverty issues we face on a daily basis here in the North Country."

Grant applications should stress how the funds will be used to reduce the underlying causes of poverty.

In addition, proposals should include projects that are a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.

The sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization. Ap-

proved projects will be those that demonstrate the potential for continued funding after the CCHD funds have been expended. Although grant applicants do not have to be catholic, strategies must be consistent with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Approved grant amounts range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and applications can be requested from Catholic

Charities by mail, phone or e-mail. If you have any questions or to receive an application, please write to:

Catholic Charities  
6866 State Hgwy. 37  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2255

You can also e-mail your request and mailing address to:

[aploof@cathcharities.org](mailto:aploof@cathcharities.org)  
Grant applications are due back to Catholic Charities by May 17.



# PROMISE TO PROTECT

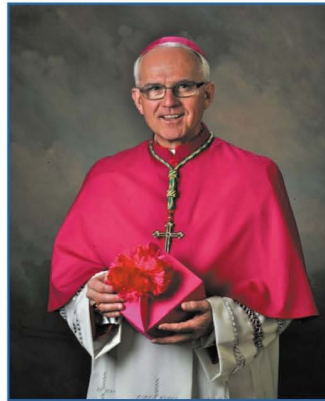


# PLEDGE TO HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ:

The month of April has been designated as *Child Abuse Prevention Month*. This provides us with an opportunity to call attention to our ongoing responsibility to provide safe, healthy environments for our children and young people. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is committed to fulfilling the three-fold pledge of the Church: to help victims heal; to educate about and prevent abuse; and to hold accountable those who have harmed our children.

We offer immediate and ongoing pastoral care to those who have suffered such abuse. I encourage these individuals to contact our Victims' Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Terriane Yanulavich at 518-651-2267 to report such abuse and for assistance with the healing process. Further information about how to report sexual misconduct can be found on our webpage [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org). We express our deep sorrow for our past failures in addressing the sinful acts that have been perpetrated against our young loved ones.



*Because We Care* deeply for the vulnerable among us, we continue to review our policies and explore ways to ensure that our children are protected from all who would harm them. At the national level, an intensive review of the *Charter for Protection of Children and Young People* is currently underway. Under the direction and good guidance of Mr. John Morrison, Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator, the Diocese of Ogdensburg works diligently to ensure that the national and diocesan policies established to provide safe environments for our children are implemented fully here in the North Country. With the strong support and cooperation of our pastors and pastoral leaders, we have taken seriously this responsibility. Over the last several years, independent audits have been conducted here to determine compliance with these standards. Each year we have been found to be in compliance.

I am grateful to all those individuals who assist with the implementation of our safe environment programs in our Diocese. Many have spent countless hours in our parishes and schools to train adults in providing safe environments for our children and youth.

The faithful have a right to be assured that the Church has an effective zero tolerance policy that deals promptly and justly with allegations of sexual abuse of minors by the clergy, including the bishop, or any Church representative. As Pope Francis and his predecessors have noted, there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who would abuse minors. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, showed constant care for the vulnerable, your local Church is seeking to do likewise.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

*Terry R. LaValley*

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg



## A PRAYER FOR HEALING

**Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

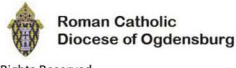




## WHAT IS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG DOING TO PROTECT CHILDREN?

### Our Commitment to Children's Safety:

- Child & Youth Protection Policy and Procedures
- Mandatory Background Checks
- Initial/Refresher Training for Employees & Volunteers, Parents & Children
- Reporting Procedures with Accountability and Transparency
- Group Activities Supervised and One-on-One Instruction Monitored



©2019 Child Lures® Prevention - All Rights Reserved

## DIOCESAN STATISTICS 2018-2019

- 2,738 Students received Safe Environment training in Christian Formation programs
- 1,592 Students received Safe Environment training in Catholic Schools
- 716 Background checks performed on clergy, employees and volunteers
- 55 Safe Environment (Virtus) training sessions held
- 691 Clergy, employees and volunteers received Safe Environment (Virtus) training
- 18 Individuals received training to become new Virtus Facilitators

### Provision of Diocesan Assistance in reporting abuse Victims' assistance coordinator:

Terrienne Yanulavich, Ph.D., M.A., M.H.T.  
518-651-2267 (Days)  
518-569-0612 (evenings)

## CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS

### Did you know...

- Every 10 seconds in the US, child abuse is reported
- The median age for reported abuse is 9 years old
- 49% of abuse victims are between the ages of 6 and 12
- 74% of abuse victims are female while 26% are male
- 4 or more children die each day from child abuse
- 99% of children who are sexually abused know their abuser
- 1 in 5 children will be solicited sexually on the internet
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18
- An estimated 39 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse exist in US today

Contact the Diocesan Safe Environment Office at 315-393-2920 to find out how you can help and be a part of the solution that stops child abuse!

# Watch for These Warning Signs of Abuse in Minors

No longer wants to see a **particular person** they had been close to

Declining **academic** performance

Tries to hide use of **technology**

No longer interested in **activities** they used to enjoy

Changes in **personality**

Demonstrates **aggressive behavior** or constantly angry

Tries to get minors **alone**



Commits physical and emotional **boundary violations**

**Withdraws** from family or friends

Keeps **secrets** with minors

Gives lavish **gifts** to minors

Allows or encourages minors to **break laws** or rules

Is overly interested in **spending time** with minors

Has **inappropriate** or suggestive conversations with minors

Does not believe the **rules** apply to them (or, does not follow rules or protocols)

Takes **photos** without approval, or asks minors to send them photos

# ... and These Warning Signs of Perpetrators

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS BEEN HARMED OR IS AT RISK:

**EMERGENCY DIAL 911**

**Mandated Reporters**  
1-800-635-1522

**Non-Mandated Reporters**  
(can remain anonymous)  
1-800-342-3720

How do I sign up to receive **AMBER ALERTS**?

[www.missingkids.com/AmberSignUp](http://www.missingkids.com/AmberSignUp)

For information about how AMBER alerts are distributed to cell phones, visit:

[www.missingkids.com/AMBER/wea](http://www.missingkids.com/AMBER/wea)

## Human Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud, or coercion...for the purpose of exploitation.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/human-trafficking.cfm>

NATIONAL TRAFFICING RESOURCE  
HOTLINE: 1-888-373-7888  
REPORT ABUSE OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

Local: 518-402-6513

NYS Only (Adult Protection Services):  
844-697-3505



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## IVF: It's not just about the frozen embryos

I remember a conversation I had with a married Catholic couple a few years ago. They were feeling lost and desperate over their inability to conceive a child. They were casting about for options. They understood there were moral concerns with doing in vitro fertilization (IVF), though they weren't sure about the specifics, so they asked: "Would it be OK for us to do IVF as long as we don't make any extra embryos and we're careful to implant all the ones we make?" The thinking behind their question was understandable and they clearly recognized it would be wrong to produce and then store their embryonic sons and daughters in the deep freeze. It's important to note, however, that the possibility of "spare" embryos ending up in "frozen orphanages" would not be the only reason, or even the main reason, that IVF is morally unacceptable. The immorality of IVF is primarily due to the fact that the process turns human procreation into a method of production in which children are made, not begotten.

Embryos certainly face grave risks whenever they are cryopreserved, and a significant percentage of them do not survive the steps of freezing and thawing. The cryostorage of embryos is a form of "collateral damage" that routinely occurs when IVF is done. Ethically speaking, doing IVF and making extra embryos would be more offensive than doing IVF without making extra embryos, in the same way that stealing jewels out of the bank vault and shooting the guards on the way out would be more objec-

tionable than stealing the jewels nonviolently. Yet the action of absconding with the jewels remains seriously wrong in either case, apart from any considerations about whether the guards are harmed. Similarly, IVF does not become morally acceptable merely by eliminating the collateral damage associated with the process, whether it's the freezing of embryos, the "selective reductions" of twins and triplets, or any of the other objectionable practices that tend to be part of the process.

The heart of the IVF process itself, the practice of joining sperm and egg together in the fertility clinic, remains an intrinsic evil, flowing from the decision to allow our offspring to be "manufactured." The domain of procreation is a delicate arena, one in which our human vulnerability is uniquely laid bare. We have a particular responsibility to safeguard our own sexuality and the origins of our children from damaging forces in this arena, which implies a duty to respect the marital act as the unique locus and setting for the engendering of new human life.

IVF is not really a "treatment" for infertility, given that the couple remains as infertile after doing IVF as they were before they

started the process, with the underlying cause of their sterility remaining unaddressed and unresolved. The procedure offers little more than a workaround to completely bypass the marital act — an expensive, complex, unwieldy substitute, not a genuine therapy.

Through IVF, husband and wife use their own (or even another person's) sex cells to become "donors", while constructing their own offspring through a kind of programmed project, with the marital act no longer a part of the equation. In the final analysis, however, only when the bodies of our children arise as the immediate fruit of our own bodily and spousal self-surrender can we say they have been freely and unconditionally received as gifts, rather than coerced into being as the result of human willfulness, financial planning, and scripted biological technologies. Only then can we say that we have not dominated the process of procreation nor preponderated over the origins of our offspring.

By yielding to the project of fabricating our children in the cold, clinical, and commercial venture that is in vitro fertilization, we act against the human dignity of our offspring by

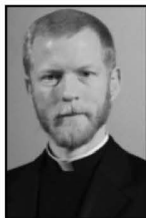
sanctioning inequality and setting up a subclass of those who originate in petri dishes and test tubes rather than in the intimacy of the mutual spousal donation that receives life within the protective maternal hearth.

These various explanations of the wrongness of IVF can seem distant and hard for infertile couples to accept. They yearn intensely for a child. The infertility industry appeals to their desire to be in control in an arena where control has been elusive, and part of the allure is also the carefully choreographed assembling of babies who have been planned, screened, and quality controlled.

It is a tragic step when spouses opt for the pro-

duction of their own offspring in glassware, because they move forward and violate the deepest meaning of their marital union, rather than holding firmly to the truth that their one-flesh communion is the unique and privileged interpersonal sanctuary in which a new and unrepeatable person appears by a Power and a Will that is not their own.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)*



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

## REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mass  
Rosary  
Fasting  
Day Offering  
Eucharistic Adoration  
Offering of Sufferings  
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him

(With ecclesiastical approval)

**MAY 2019**

Our Lady

DIocese OF OGDENSBURG, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY	2 REV. JEROME PASTORES	3 REV. TERENCE R. PATTERSON	4 OUR BISHOP TERRY R. LAVALLEY	5 REV. STEVE M. MURRAY	6 REV. MACIEJ NAPIERALSKI	7 REV. KEVIN J. O'BRIEN
8 REV. PATRICK J. O'REILLY	9 REV. JEROME PASTORES	10 REV. TERENCE R. PATTERSON	11 OUR PASTOR	12 REV. EDUARDO C. PESIGAN III	13 MSGR. LEeward J. POISSANT	14 REV. HERMAN PONGANTUNG MSC
15 REV. SONY G. PULICKAL VF	16 REV. PATRICK A. RATIGAN	17 REV. WILLIAM G. REAMER	18 POPE FRANCIS	19 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	20 REV. MARK R. REILLY	21 REV. PETER R. RIANI
22 REV. DONALD A. ROBINSON	23 REV. STEPHEN ROCKER	24 REV. MIKOLAJ L. SCIBIOR	25 RETIRED PRIESTS	26 REV. JOSEPH N. SESTITO	27 REV. JAMES W. SEYMOUR VF	28 REV. SCOTT R. SEYMOUR
29 REV. ALAN D. SHNOB	30 REV. F. JAMES SHURTLEFF	31 MSGR. HARRY K. SNOW	DECEASED PRIESTS	REV. BRYAN D. STITT	REV. RICHARD S. STURTZ	

For more copies contact:  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
PO Box 369  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

For more information visit us online at: [www.mpprapostolate.com](http://www.mpprapostolate.com)  
A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: [www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net)

Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday

The world was never the same after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As a consequence, the readings for the Sundays following Easter all the way to Pentecost deal with earth-shattering events. St. Luke wrote, not only his Gospel, but a second volume called the Acts of the Apostles that cover nearly 70

years of history. The first reading today is taken from that book. It describes a scene in the Temple of spectacular healings. No, it's not Jesus who is the central figure, but the power of the Spirit now present in Jesus' apostles. They are continuing God's mercy and compassion towards the sick and the crippled and the lame. Since Jesus

had died on the cross not just for some, but for all people, His followers show no discrimination in healing both rich and poor, Jews and strangers to Jerusalem.

Today's second reading is from the great "dream book" of John, the Book of Revelation. We learn that it is God Himself through the Angel who told John to write down these great scenes of future judgment and the glory that will come to Jesus and to those who are faithful to the Lamb. John writes from his exile along with many other Christians exiled by the Emperor Domitian, to the Isle of Patmos. Today we think of countless Christians, driven from Moslem countries at a loss of pos-



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

April 28

Divine Mercy Sunday

READINGS

Acts 5: 12-16

Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

John 20: 19-31

sessions, employment, and homeland. Present day persecution for the faith amounts to genocide. Governments that could help are sadly so indifferent.

Why is this Sunday called Divine Mercy Sunday? Because Pope John Paul II saw in the visions of a Polish Sister, Saint Faustina Kowalska, a message Jesus Christ wished the world to focus on more – his Divine Mercy. His Mercy is powerfully shown in today's Gospel as the newly-risen Savior appears to those who had betrayed Him, those who in weakness had run far

away from the soldiers and from their Master in His three-hour agony and death. As Jesus came through those locked doors where they had huddled in fear of arrest, He did not upbraid or condemn them, but said with loving compassion, "Peace be to You." He forgave them for their weakness, their cowardice, and their sinfulness. He continued to heal them of their doubts and fears. Secondly, he did not fire them from their ministry, but commissioned them to preach his Name to the ends of the earth. He restored His trust in them and loved them even more. He would eventually send His Spirit to strengthen them with Power.

As Jesus showed His Divine mercy to his apostles on this Sunday, the Church urges us today to show our gratitude and

belief in His never-failing forgiveness for our sins and betrayals of His love. He urges us to pray often for a world that has abandoned His commandments, ignored His words, and shunned His healing. Worst of all, they have failed to believe in his incredible mercy. We need to make reparation for the indifference of our world by our daily prayer and public witnessing.

Pope Francis wrote a book recently on mercy. Its title is borrowed from Pope Benedict: "The Name of God is Mercy." Jesus yearns to shower the grace of His mercy on every creature on earth. His eyes still search us out from the Cross, begging us to not to ignore His sacrifice. God's mercy alone can overcome the wars and divisions in this beautiful world that He created in love.

## Bishop 'dismayed' over call for his resignation

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS)** – A Buffalo diocesan spokeswoman said April 12 that Bishop Richard J. Malone is "disappointed and dismayed" over the president of St. Bonaventure University's call for his resignation as head of the diocese.

Dennis DePerro, in several interviews, said he admired the bishop's "unflinching desire to repair the damage" the abuse crisis has caused. "But sometimes, the most courageous thing a man can do is to step aside and recognize that his voice is no longer being heard and that he stands in the way of creating true resolution."

"We suspect that Dr. De-

Perro has not fully studied the carefully developed and well-publicized protocols of the Diocese of Buffalo," said diocesan spokeswoman Kathy Spangler.

"The bishop has received helpful input from others, including the president of Canisius College and other members of the Movement to Restore Trust, on how diocesan procedures might be improved. The bishop would have welcomed and still would accept such input from Dr. DePerro, but to criticize the bishop for following established protocols is unjust."

In a pair of statements issued April 11, the Dio-

cese 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 Malone, 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."

He said the diocese is making "great strides to increase transparency" regarding how it handles abuse claims.

Two days after the state-

ments' release, the diocese made another announcement with regard to the abuse crisis regarding its ongoing partnership with the Movement to Restore Trust, which is an independent organization of Catholic laity formed to lead a movement to restore trust and confidence in the church in the wake of the clergy sex abuse scandal.

The diocese and the lay organization have created what they are calling a Joint Implementation Team.

The diocese said that Bishop Malone had suggested the creation of the team "to foster collaboration in the coming months

between the diocese and MRT to prioritize and implement the group's recommendations for reform."

The group held its first meeting April 11, facilitated by a staff member of the Leadership Roundtable, and quickly reached agreement on several initiatives, including plans for Bishop Malone to hold diocesan-wide listening sessions.





## 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

## 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.

## RIGHT TO LIFE MEETING

Plattsburgh - All are invited to the monthly Right to Life meeting.

**Date:** May 5

**Time:** 1 p.m.

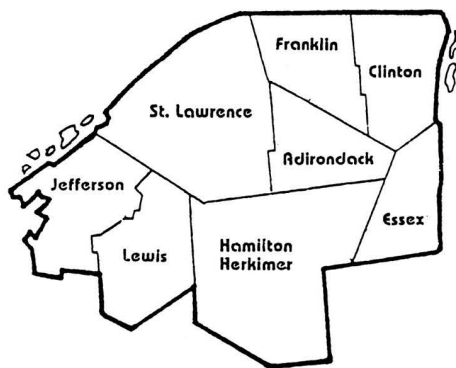
**Place:** Newman Center

**Features:** Meeting overview: A short business meeting, updates on New York State Right to Life Lobby Day followed by a 33 minute movie, "180" produced by Living Waters. "180" has been called a half hour of "video adrenaline," an "emotional rollercoaster," and "mind-blowing." Snacks will be provided. Educational Resources Provided. Contact: chair@champlainvalleyrighttolife.org

## 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



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.

**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 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/Maal60EIB0>.

**Contact:** Brenda Smith

soundtech58@yahoo.com or Karen LeClair - k.leclair2@aol.com by April 26

## 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](http://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 &amp; 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 hand-crafted 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 cover-dish reception in the church hall will follow. All are welcome.

**Contact:** 315-348-6260 for more information.

## DANCE

Glenfield - St. John's Catholic Church in Lyons Falls and St. Martin's Catholic Church in Port Leyden are sponsoring a dance.

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 7 p.m. to 10

**Place:** 3-G Fire Hall

**Cost:** \$5

**Features:** Music will be provided by the Patti Stanford Band. There will be a Chinese Auction, 50/50 and a raffle. Mark your calendar now for a night of fun.

## 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

## 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)

**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 [srbethsj@gmail.com](mailto:srbethsj@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, [narrow56@gmail.com](mailto:narrow56@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](mailto:slippincott@rcdony.org) or call 315-782-3620. RSVP due date by May 13

## TRIP TO SEE YANKEES

The Canton Knights of Columbus is once again sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the NY Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays.

**Date:** July 12 & 13

**Cost:** \$320 per person, double occupancy you will get Luxury Coach transportation, Ticket to the two ball games, one night hotel stay at the La Quinta Inn and breakfast on Saturday.

**Features:** As an added bonus the July 12 game is a Mariano Rivera Bob-

ble Head giveaway and the July 13 game is Yankees Camo Hat day.

**Contact:** For more information or to reserve your spot email [cantonkofc@gmail.com](mailto:cantonkofc@gmail.com) or call 315-714-2016.

## 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/](http://rcdony.org/episcopal-delegate-for-religious/) and select "Women's Retreat Registration." For more information, call Cathy Russell at [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://rcdony.org/prolife). For more information call or text Colleen Miner 518-524-0774 or email [cmminer@rcdony.org](mailto:cmminer@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 Coming of the Holy Spirit."

**Contact:** To register for this event, simply go to:

<https://www.rcdony.org/formation/co-mmisioned-lay-ministers/retreat-registration-wadhams-s-hall.html>

### STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

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

**Date:** July 19 – 21

**Features:** The best Catholic speakers, 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 con-

tact Dayna Leader Family Life Associate at [dleader@rcdony.org](mailto:dleader@rcdony.org) 315-323-0827 and visit Family Life Office at [www.rcdony.org](http://www.rcdony.org) <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life-marriage/marriage/steubenville-youth-conference/registration.html>

### MATER DEI COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a Catholic High School Senior who currently resides in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is planning to attend a Catholic College or University in the Fall? The Mater Dei College Foundation is pleased to offer a Scholarship opportunity to qualifying students going on to study liberal arts and sciences at a degree granting Catholic College or University.

**Contact:** To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at [vmathews@rcdony.org](mailto:vmathews@rcdony.org). Application deadline is June 1, 2019.

### ALTAR SERVER GATHERING

Ogdensburg – Altar Serving Gathering to be held.

**Date:** Aug. 16

**Schedule:** 10 a.m. Registration and Cathedral Tours; 11 a.m. Presentations;

### NEIGHBORING DIOCESE

12 p.m. Mass with Bishop LaValley at Cathedral; 1 p.m. Picnic and tour of Bishop's House.

**Contact:** Register by contacting Shayne Lippincott at [slippincott@rcdony.org](mailto:slippincott@rcdony.org) or by calling 315-782-3620 by Aug. 9

### 2019-2021 FORMATION FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM

The 2019-2021 Formation for Ministry Program begins September 2019.

**Features:** If you feel a desire to give more to your parish, we urge you to speak with your pastor about becoming a commissioned lay minister.

**Contact:** For more information about the program, please contact Cathy Russell at [crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org). **NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT** Ottawa - The Annual New Evangelization Summit will take place in Ottawa.

**Date:** May 4

**Cost:** Free

**Features:** The speakers for this year will be Father James Mallon, Cardinal Gerald C. Lacroix, Michael Dopp, Father John Bielawski, Michelle Thompson and Michelle Moran.

**Registration:** To register, go to [newevangelization.ca](http://newevangelization.ca) and choose Ottawa as the location.

**Contact:** Once you've registered, please contact Marika Donders, Director of the New Evangelization at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920. She will be tracking participation and trying to assist diocesan participants in arranging car pools for the event.

Follow Pope Francis on  
Twitter!

[www.twitter.com/Pontifex](http://www.twitter.com/Pontifex)

 #Pontifex

## Welcome Spring!

Visit our website at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:  
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

**\*\*Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal\*\***

Inside Diocese \$27  Outside Diocese \$30  
I want to be a Patron:  \$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:  
 New Subscription  Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



## AT THE MOVIES

## BREAKTHROUGH

NEW YORK (CNS) – “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Few people can ever have taken those words of Jesus, recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, quite as literally as Joyce Smith, the real-life figure at the heart of the faith-affirming drama “Breakthrough” (Fox 2000).

One winter day in 2015, Joyce (Chrissy Metz) received word that her 14-year-old adoptive son, John (Marcel Ruiz), was in the emergency room after falling through the icy surface of a lake in their hometown of St. Charles, Missouri.

Arriving at the hospital, she found the medical staff attending to John on the point of giving up hope after the better part of an hour spent trying to revive him.

He had been under the water for more than 15 minutes. Left alone to say goodbye, Joyce refused to accept that John was doomed to die, and her desperate prayers had a startling impact on his



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Marcel Ruiz and Chrissy Metz star in a scene from the movie “Breakthrough.”

seemingly hopeless prognosis.

“Breakthrough” not only recounts apparently miraculous events but places them in the context of the various relationships in Joyce’s life. As she keeps vigil at John’s bedside, for instance,

Joyce gradually reconciles with her pastor, Jason Noble (Topher Grace), with whom she had previously been feuding.

Her husband, Brian (Josh Lucas), at first shows emotional weakness by refusing to enter his son’s hospital room.

Later, though, he offers Joyce needed guidance when her strong-willed determination to see John overcome the odds translates into bullying those responsible for his care. Throughout their ordeal, Brian struggles to share Joyce’s unshakable belief

in a positive outcome.

John himself has some room for growth since early scenes have shown him to be emotionally withdrawn and in an adolescent funk. His troubles can ultimately be traced, Grant Nieporte’s script suggests, to the wounding realization, accurate or otherwise, that his birth mother didn’t want him.

Director Roxann Dawson’s adaptation of Smith’s 2017 memoir “The Impossible” (written with Ginger Kolbaba) benefits from Metz’s driven performance and will have sympathetic viewers cheering her character on all the way. Her story makes for tense but gratifying entertainment for all but the youngest moviegoers.

The film contains a perilous situation and mature themes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## Also showing: Disneynature’s Penguins

NEW YORK (CNS) – At once the profile of a plucky 5-year-old Adelle penguin the filmmakers dub “Steve” and an introduction to his species as a whole, “Penguins” (Disneynature) is a winning documentary.

Skillfully directed by



Alastair Fothergill and Jeff Wilson and often humorously narrated by actor Ed Helms, it’s a delight that’s suitable for viewers of every generation.

Awkward yet indefatigable, personality-rich Steve navigates his way through the spring migration to the challenging surroundings of Antarctica and sets out to find a mate.

At first, his prospects seem doubtful since he’s anything but an alpha male. But eventually he crosses paths with his

true love and the two engage in a mating ritual to the strains of REO Speedwagon’s 1980s power ballad, “Can’t Fight This Feeling.”

Thereafter, from building a nest of rocks in which his duo of offspring can be protected until they hatch to preparing them to live on their own when the time comes, Steve meets every challenge of fatherhood and family life with aplomb – or at least with determined perseverance.

There’s a little bit of

gross-out humor along the way, since penguins feed their young by regurgitating food into their mouths, a fact Helms expatiates on with all the gleeful gusto of a 10-year-old. And then there are the messy-looking, stinky-smelling elephant seals who have also taken up residence in the neighborhood.

The narrow focus on Steve and his home life is varied by often spectacular shots of the hundreds of thousands of others of his kind by whom he’s

surrounded and the natural environment.

Educational as well as entertaining, “Penguins,” the eighth theatrical release over 10 years from Disneynature, maintains the generally high standards of its predecessors. Wise moviegoers will flock to see it.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I – general patronage.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G – general audiences. All ages admitted.



## The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

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

# Helping God's children with MCA

The Pontifical Mission Societies is designed as the principal instrument for educating the faithful to an awareness of the Church's mission and for encouraging their support, prayer and sacrifice for the evangelizing mission of the Church among two-thirds of the human family. These organizations are: Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Missionary Childhood Association, St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

Of the four organizations, MCA is designed with children in mind. MCA is unique to other organizations that assist children in the Developing World. Its primary aim is to encourage children to share their faith with children in the Developing World through prayers, personal sacrifices and financial offerings. MCA cares for children regardless of their religious affiliation.

Contributions to MCA are allocated to mission dioceses throughout the world according to need. This system of allocating funds helps ensure that aid is distributed fairly and that those who are most desperately in need receive enough support. MCA funds are distributed to help children in 110 countries throughout the world. The proceeds of this collection are used to fund different projects and emergency grants on a global basis where even missionaries from the Diocese of Ogdensburg are still working closely.

Missionaries serve the Church all over the world. MCA members will learn more about the work of missionaries sharing the love of God. They also will learn how they too, as baptized members of the Church, can serve as missionaries! No matter where we live, we can find many ways to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

MCA members are given the opportunity year-round to offer sacrifices for the developing lands. Schools and parishes may offer their children collection boxes to be used during special times of the year. Institutions and individuals can hold creative fundraisers to collect money. Students might decide to give up a certain luxury so that the money can be shared. MCA members are encouraged to be creative with the way they support children in mission dioceses.

Be assured of the gratitude that our missionaries have for our Diocese. They are doing the work of the Lord, protecting God's Children, healing the sick and making the world a better place. I am so grateful for their efforts and deeds. I am also grateful to the people of the Diocese for the generous support. MCA is truly an organization where the protection of children is the priority.

## OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** – Margaret Jane (Foley) Poirier, 86; Mass of Christian Burial April 16, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Leslie I. Gyurko, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 20, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery, Natural Bridge.

**Deferiet** – Myles "Norm" Lovejoy, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2019 at St. Rita's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Marianne E. (Gregor) Smythe, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 22, 2019 at St. Mary's of the Fort Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Sally J. (Courts) Besaw, 63; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Paul K. Gates, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2019 at St. James Church.

**Lake Placid** – Robert D. Farrell, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 16, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

**Lake Placid** – Raymond William Pratt, 82; Memorial Mass June 15, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

**Lake Placid** – James Arthur "Bud" Stanton, 57; Funeral Services May 10, 2019 at the M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

**Louisville** – Kay Margaret LaShomb Green, 85; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2019 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Gloria J. Gebo, 76; Funeral Services April 23, 2019 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Peru** – Henrietta H. (Rockwell) Blaise, 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Peru** – James J. McCarty Sr., 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2019 at St.

Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Evelyn Tougas, 59; Mass of Christian Burial April 16, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Port Leyden** – Jeanne M. Mooney, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 17, 2019 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Charles W. Becker, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 15, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Frances E. (Rice) Damon, 89; Funeral Services April 14, 2019 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Edwards Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Eleanor Dacey Percy, 86; Funeral Services April 17, 2019 at the Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Jay F. Stone, 81; Memorial Services April 17, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church.

# Man arrested after trying to walk into cathedral with flammables

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – A man who tried to walk through St. Patrick's Cathedral in midtown Manhattan close to 8 p.m. local time April 17 had gas cans, lighter fluid and igniters and claimed he was just cutting through the cathedral to get to Madison Avenue where he had left his car, which he said had run out of gas.

The 37-year-old man from New Jersey, who was not identified, was apprehended by police "without incident."

This took place just two days after the horrific fire that devastated Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller of the New York Police Department in a statement to reporters said that the security staff at St. Patrick's asked the man where he was going and told him he couldn't "proceed into the cathedral carrying (those) things."

As the man turned around, "some gasoline apparently spill(ed) out onto the floor," Miller said, which then prompted cathedral security to report the situation to officials from the counterterrorism

bureau who were standing outside the cathedral, Miller told reporters around midnight.

He said officers followed the man, caught up to him, and after questioning him about his reason for being at the cathedral, they arrested him. The suspect was known to police, Miller said. There was no damage to the cathedral.

"His basic story was he was cutting through the cathedral to get to Madison Avenue. That his car had run out of gas," Miller said. Police said the man had a minivan he parked on the Fifth Avenue outside the cathedral. "We took a look at the vehicle. It was not out of gas and at that point he was taken into custody."

Miller told reporters the man's story was "inconsistent," and it was "hard to say exactly what his intentions were" in bringing flammables to the church.

"But the ... circumstances of an individual walking into an iconic location like St. Patrick's Cathedral carrying over four gallons of gasoline, two bottles of lighter fluid and lighters is something that we would have great concern over," he said.



# French leaders pledge to restore Notre Dame

PARIS (CNS)—Church leaders joined government officials in saying they expect that Notre Dame Cathedral's grandeur will be restored as firefighters extinguished the last flames of a fast-moving blaze that seriously damaged much of the iconic structure.

"We are living through an extreme moment. This is Holy Week and it isn't an accident," Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit said outside of the 850-year-old historic structure late April 15 as firefighters continued to attack the flames.

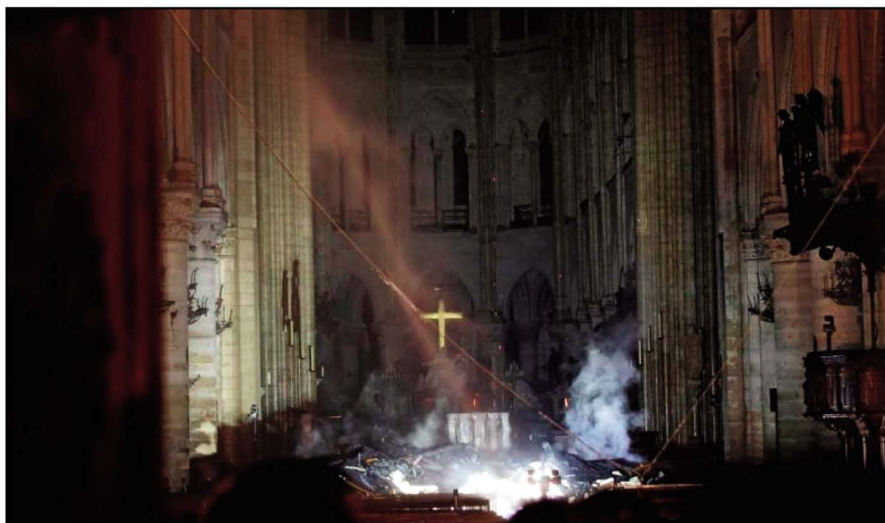
"Having marked the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are now experiencing our own passion, but we know that after it will come the resurrection. We believe in this and we will proclaim it by rebuilding this cathedral," Archbishop Aupetit said.

The archbishop also appealed for church bells throughout Paris to be rung in a sign of prayer and solidarity.

French President Emmanuel Macron praised the "extreme courage and great professionalism" of first responders who helped save the facade and towers of the Gothic landmark. He announced that a national reconstruction fund would be established.

Speaking in front of the charred cathedral late April 15, Macron said he understood the feelings of French Catholics in face of the disaster and pledged the whole population would "stand with them" in restoring it.

"Notre Dame de Paris is our history, our literature, our imagination, the place where we have experienced our great moments, the epicenter of our life," said Macron, who was ac-



CNS PHOTO/PHILIPPE WOJAZER, REUTERS

**Smoke rises around the altar inside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris as a fire continues to smolder early April 16, 2019. Officials said the cause was not clear, but that the fire could be linked to renovation work.**

companied by the archbishop, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo.

"We built this cathedral over centuries, raising it up and improving it, and I now state solemnly that we will, all of us together, reconstruct it. This is undoubtedly part of the French destiny," Macron said.

Up to 500 firefighters battled for 15 hours to save the cathedral after flames erupted in the structure's attic about 6:30 p.m. local time. The blaze quickly consumed two-thirds of the 13th-century oak roof and brought down the cathedral's 300-foot spire. Authorities said much of the cathedral's wooden interior was destroyed and its masonry was seriously scorched.

The La Croix daily newspaper reported much of the building continued to smolder April 16, as thousands of onlookers continued to pray and sing hymns in nearby streets.

Rescue teams formed a

human chain to remove many of the cathedral's priceless artworks and sacred objects, including the crown of thorns relic from Jesus' crucifixion and a gold tunic of St. Louis, the report said.

Noted art historian Jean-Michel Leniaud told the newspaper April 16 it was too soon to assess the extent of the fire damage but said it would certainly represent "a major blow and terrifying mutilation of the country's history."

The cathedral symbolized "relations between religion and political power," he said, adding that he believed the French state should "take charge of its reconstruction."

Meanwhile, offers of support in rebuilding the cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, came from church leaders and governments around the world, including Donald Tusk, European Council president, who said April 16 that he hoped the European Union's 28 member states would all help share the costs.

French newspapers said

the Pinault family, whose consortium owns the Gucci and Saint-Laurent fashion brands, had pledged 100 million euros (US\$113 million) overnight, while the LVMH group, which includes Moët Hennessy-Louis Vuitton, had promised 200 million euros (US\$226 million).

In a television interview in the wee hours of April 16, Archbishop Aupetit said the cathedral symbolized "the soul and history of France," as "a site traversing the centuries which was always a place of faith."

He explained how the disaster had stirred "deep emotions" throughout France, adding that he had received messages of sympathy from faith leaders worldwide, including many Muslims.

The newly elected president of the French bishops' conference, Bishop Eric Moulin-Beaufort of Reims, told the *Famille Chrétienne* weekly 16 the cathedral also represented "national unity during all tests," and would be "an

## Aid in the restoration

Those wishing to contribute to the restoration effort can donate through the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The Shrine created a fund and assures that all proceeds will be used solely for the assistance of Notre Dame Cathedral and those affected by this tragedy.

Funds should be sent to:

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
Attn: Monsignor Walter Rossi,  
Rector  
400 Michigan Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20017

Checks should be made payable to "Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception." In the memo, indicate "Cathedral of Notre Dame Fund."

immense loss" to the whole world.

"Something from the best of humanity went up in flames yesterday evening, and I sense a large part of humanity is in communion with our grief," Bishop Moulin-Beaufort said.

"But cathedral edifices have been burned before and every time they've been rebuilt even more beautifully. So I see in this tragedy the occasion for a national restart and a sign of resurrection for the whole nation," he said.

Paris prosecutors said they had opened investigations into the cause of massive fire and were questioning workers carrying out an eight-year restoration project, launched in January.

Notre Dame's chief organist told the BBC the fire had been reported shortly after an April 15 early evening Mass. He said he and other members of the cathedral staff were "devastated."