

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Ann Marie Strieg | PAGE 11

One-third of Canadian churches to close in ten years | PAGE 6

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 44

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 3, 2019

Legislative Day focused on abortion law

Albany – More than 1,200 people from around the state, largely Christians representing a variety of denominations, recently gathered to discuss public policy at an annual Legislative Day.

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms (albanyupdate.com), a state organization that educates and activates evangelical Christians regarding matters of public policy, and New Yorker's Family Research Foundation (newyorkfamilies.org) co-sponsored the annual event on March 19 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

The theme of the event was "A New Season: Where Do We Go From Here?"

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

LENTEN INSTALLATION



During Lent, parishioners of St. Philip of Jesus in Willsboro, St. Elizabeth's in Elizabethtown, and St. Philip Neri in Westport have been invited to make a pilgrimage to a prayer wall created by Sara Spring and Deacon Paul White at St. Philip of Jesus Church. The wall consists of three crosses on a background of cedar shanks. Pieces of wood and pens are next to the wall, so people can write down their petitions and place them at the foot of the crosses.

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOLS



A student at St. Mary's School in Canton displays a rock he decorated as part of a school project. This week, the *North Country Catholic* is celebrating Catholic Schools as they begin preparations for the 2019-20 school year.

STORIES & PHOTOS ON PAGE 3, 4, 12

Pope: The sinner is more important than the

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Jesus does not view sinners as transgressors who must be punished according to the law, but as people in need of hope and freedom from sin, Pope Francis said.

"It is Jesus who, with the power of the Holy Spirit, frees us from the evil we have within us, from the sin which the law could impede but not remove," the pope said in his homily March 29 during the annual Lenten penance

service in St. Peter's Basilica.

After the homily and several minutes of silent reflection and prayer, the pope removed his liturgical vestments and walked toward one of the wooden confessionals; he kneeled before a priest to confess.

The sound of sacred music, interspersed with moments of scripture reading and quiet reflection, filled the basilica while Pope Francis and

dozens of priests and bishops listened to confessions.

In his homily, the pope reflected on the Gospel reading, in which the Pharisees brought a woman accused of adultery and attempted to trap Jesus by asking him whether she should be stoned according to the law of Moses.

"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at

her," Jesus replied.

Citing St. Augustine, the pope said once those who sought to stone the woman left, only Jesus and the woman remained, "mercy with misery," because in his eyes, "that woman, that person" was what was of value.

"For him, the sinner comes before the sin," the pope explained. "I, you, each one of us come first in the heart of God: before mistakes, rules, judg-

ments and our failures."

However, Christians must keep in mind that, without the love of God, evil cannot be overcome. Thus, the sacrament of reconciliation, the pope said, is the gift that helps "make room for the Lord, who forgives and heals."

Forgiveness, he continued, "is a new beginning" and not "a photocopy which is identically reproduced in every passage through the confessional."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It gave him more than just funny stories

I've said it before, and I'm sure I'll say it again: Marry those IHC grads.

My husband, a Watertown native, graduated from Immaculate Heart Central after attending Holy Family School for the elementary grades.

While Adam's favorite tales of his time at IHC involved him cooperating with friends to stink bomb the library (he never got caught for that; if you attended IHC in the early 90s, now you know), standing up to a particularly tough teacher/religious sister and cultivating friendships,

there's no doubt his Catholic school education gave him more than just funny stories.

Adam is somewhat quiet and reserved. He enjoyed the relatively small size of his Catholic schools and the familial environment the smallness of the schools created.



**Darcy L.
Fargo**

It was in those Catholic schools that he developed his love of art and history, as well as his early artistic skills. It was in those schools that he learned the fundamentals of our faith.

While he still relishes the

occasional prank or moment of mischief, Adam's Catholic education combined with awesome parenting helped him develop into an outstanding man who values faith, thinks critically, exhibits more patience than any person I know and creates beautiful works of art.

While our diocesan Catholic schools certainly face challenges, they also do amazing, meaningful work. They provide all the state-required education, of course, but they also teach empathy and service; offer opportunities for enrichment; and, maybe most importantly, create communities of faith, love

and support.

As our Catholic schools ramp up their planning and recruiting for the 2019-20 school year, consider supporting them in their efforts. If you have a school-aged child, enroll him or her in a Catholic school.

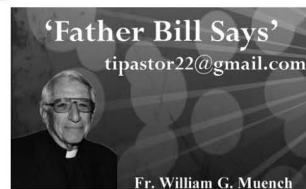
Even if you don't have a school-aged child, there are many ways you can help. Spread the word about the benefits of a Catholic education. Contact your local school to see if there's any way your skills, hobbies and talents could benefit the students/facility and do some volunteer work. Make a donation.

Our schools are worth it.

Spending time with Jesus on his cross

We are now near the middle of Lent. This can be a spiritually difficult time. I suspect that you, like me, begin Lent with enthusiasm and spirit, and extra prayer and sacrifices. But after a few weeks, as we get into the middle of the season of Lent, I know that my enthusiasm loses some of its fervor. So, I write today to share with you some of my ideas and hopes to get my Lenten Spirit going again.

I have decided that this is a good time for me to spend some time with Jesus on the Mount of Calvary. I have been there before, of course, at the foot of the cross of Jesus. But now is a good time to climb that hill and find that cross of Jesus. As the church looks ahead to Good Friday and Easter, the best preparation for those holy days is to now pray at that Lord's cross. This is a time to allow the Lord to lead us and guide us to carry our own cross. Jesus died on the cross for



me and for you, demonstrating God's great forgiving love for us all. Lent leads us to the cross of Jesus.

So, let us take a moment to think about the cross of Jesus. The cross was in those days an instrument of death. But now for us the cross is sacred. Jesus, Our Savior, died on a cross. Now we place a cross over our churches; we place the cross of Jesus over the altar for our Eucharist. For us, Catholics, the cross must be more than just a reminder of Jesus. The cross for us is a sacred icon. Each time we pause to pray we begin with the Sign of the Cross, even in a restaurant as we say grace before meals. Every blessing I do as a priest, I

complete with a Sign of the Cross. Every one of our Catholic Sacraments involves the Sign of the Cross – the water of Baptism is poured in a Sign of the Cross, the priest forgives our sins with a Sign of the Cross. You may have noticed that some ball players, as they come up to bat, steady themselves with the Sign of the Cross.

I believe that Jesus, on the cross, in that moment, recognized just what salvation would cost him. On the cross, in that very moment, Jesus recognized each one of us, his people of all time. At that moment of his crucifixion, we were all there; he could recognize us all. Standing at the foot of the cross, even now, I see Jesus for the first time, and each time is the like the first time. Jesus on the cross is my symbol of love.

At the foot of the cross of Jesus, my prayer is a prayer of gratitude. Because Jesus died on the cross for me,

my life is filled with gratitude. The Lord's action in my life profoundly changes each and every moment. Jesus' death on the cross changes all the way I live. All my relationships are touched by the love of my Savior. Jesus shows me how I must treat all others, as I learn to live by joining Jesus on that cross.

I believe it is important for us all to learn to carry the cross of Christ. The best way for me to face the crises that touch my life is by carrying the cross of Jesus. I need the strength and power of Jesus to meet the hardships of life. I will always find that strength by carrying the cross of Christ.

I believe that when I need the help of the Lord to accomplish something each day, when I must make an important decision, when I must say the right thing (as in a homily or as the Confessor in Confession), I do this best when I am carrying the cross of Jesus.

IHC junior/senior high welcomes class of '25

Lynise Lassiter

Principal, Immaculate Heart Central

WATERTOWN – Every year at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, the sixth graders spend the day at the high school and then attend the annual registration night in the evening. That event was held March 13.

On the morning of March 13, Mr. Delaney, IHC's guidance counselor and athletic director, and this year's 2019 New York State Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, explained to the students how course selection and the sports program works. One student marveled at IHC's three language offerings with the possibility of even more to choose from through IHC's new partnership with The Virtual High School. What they don't know yet, too, is that American Sign Language will be an option.

Christin Filippelli, the Enrollment Management Director, assigned student ambassadors to guide each student group throughout the day. At no time did the older students leave their sides. After becoming acquainted with the morning routine, the newbies were led by Mrs. Filippelli through a guided tour of the building. During a stop at the main office, Lynise Lassiter, the K-12 principal, greeted the students again with a smile. Mrs. Lassiter reassured the onlookers with a surprising statement. She echoed Mrs. Filippelli by stating, "My office is not always a scary place."

Before visiting the office, Mrs. Filippelli stopped in front of the chapel and told the students how fortunate we were to have one in the

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL PARENT TESTIMONY

"IHC provided a safe, challenging academic curriculum while simultaneously offering a variety of opportunities to participate in school clubs, sports and after school activities to enrich a student's total high school experience. Our daughter endured a permanent change of station at the start of her senior year in high school, but in the end walked away with confidence, and a sense of direction in life.

Most schools both private and public can make the same claim, but IHC also introduced our Savior and Lord's teachings into the curriculum, which truly complemented the student's vision and outlook to work as a team to solve real world problems of the present day and future.

Only at IHC did we witness our daughter benefit from the educational platform which projected her a clear direction as she left high school and begins her journey into the world.

We are forever grateful for the gift our daughter received attending IHC!"

-Jay and Christine Hocker

building. "You can come here any time of the day to talk to God. We also have adoration here."

The class of 2025 even caught a glimpse of what changing classes every forty minutes and battling with the lockers in three minutes are really like for the average student. Becoming fully immersed in French with Mrs. Minter-Powell, a longtime IHC veteran teacher and the community service coordinator, discovering the many ways to say the word "smart" in Mr. Rowland's English Language Arts class, and preparing to become a well-informed voter at the age of eighteen while Mrs. Pedraza teaches a civics lesson are just some of the ways the students became acquainted with what is to come next school year.

And most people are not even aware of one of IHC's best kept secrets: the cafe. Students, faculty, and staff dare to enter the kitchen with a hearty appetite. The menu includes fresh salads, yogurt parfaits, turkey wraps, and the entree of the day. Mrs. Magovney, the cafeteria manager, believes that "Children should eat fresh

food every day." The line is often almost out the door with little left over after the period ends.

At dismissal time, students left very satisfied with their junior high experience. As one of many parents noted on the buffet line at registration night, "My daughter was so happy at the end of the school day. She could not stop talking about starting the seventh grade."

Dave Nicol, the Booster Club president, and other club members, sponsored a delicious pasta and meatball dinner with salad, bread, cookies, and a variety of beverages. Towards the end of the dinner, Mrs. Filippelli

reminded the families about the reason we were all there.

Each family received a mason jar to fill with prayers and reasons to be thankful. She also encouraged everyone to add petitions for others as they remember them in the jar. Other suggestions included placing the jar at the center of the dinner table as a reminder that God should be first in our lives.

Mrs. Filippelli told all families to save the date for the New Student Orientation. She asked the students to recall the day they will meet again to receive their locker numbers and combinations. They shouted, "August

20!" Immediately, the cafeteria was filled with phone lights as the students and their families enthusiastically programmed the very important date in their devices.

After the students, their parents/guardians, and in some cases, their siblings, left their tables, they toured the school building, tried on the new uniform, and learned more about our community service and music programs.

Before leaving for the evening, a mother of three students from a long-time IHC family stated with great pride that "This is why I send my children to a Catholic school."



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St. Mary's in Canton looks to bolster growth

CANTON—This coming year marks St. Mary's 90th year serving the families of Canton, NY. This past fall, the school community came together to discuss the different ideas and proposals presented to help save our school from closing. This vulnerable and emotional time opened our eyes to the true support and deep love that each of our St. Mary's families has for our school as we all began finding a solution to saving this vital institution in our region.

After coming to a conclusion in January to keep the school open through a refresh and recharge to multiple different departments within the school, we are excited to be accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year for grades Nursery through six.

The deep and rich values of our school, providing a faith-based, student centered education, that ensures the development of the whole child in a family-oriented environment through a community service-based education are vital to the development of our students. Our relationship with God is the foundation of how and why we operate and the way we live our lives. Faith formation is a priority, especially for those at a young age, and this includes direct instruction in Catholic beliefs, traditions and attitudes, and daily prayer.

"I grew up attending another St. Mary's school. It gave the walls to my life," said Father Bryan Stitt, Pastor of St. Mary's Canton. "Any school teaches math, science, reading, and writing, but St. Mary's gives walls to your life: Walls that support, walls



A student at St. Mary's School in Canton shows his school awaits the start of Mass. The school looks to expand programs as it enters the 2019-20 school year.

that protect, walls that keep the focus in mind. The walls of our Catholic school are intended to be like the walls of a mighty river. When they are in place, the river flows with great power and efficacy. But if they fall, there is nothing but marshland. These walls help us live freely."

In addition to the intrinsically beautiful and essential virtues that can be found within a small, private, Catholic education, we have enhanced multiple departments of our school including marketing, fundraising, the nursery program, after school classes, and volunteer opportunities.

We will continue to offer Latchkey programs before and after school for stu-

dents in Nursery to grade six for those at St. Mary's and Canton Central. Our Nursery for youth aged 3, and pre-K for youth ages 4 both offer half and full day programs, and we are proud to say that we will be offering an additional Nursery/Pre-K classroom in the coming 2019-20 school year due to high demand.

The school will also be offering high impact mini-classes after school for students. St. Mary's is excited that our team is currently working with the local universities and institutions to develop programs in foreign languages, STEM, robotics, and the arts, as well as continuing our longstanding relationship with Crane for our music pro-

gram. We see these mini-classes as an additional creative outlet for students to learn more in areas they are interested in outside the classroom.

"We are thrilled to work with local teachers and universities to expand our after-school programming at St. Mary's School in the coming years," said Kate Murphy, a parent of two at St. Mary's. "Countless studies have revealed positive gains for students who participate in high-quality after-school programming, and St. Mary's School is aiming to develop a robust after-school curriculum, particularly in STEM and foreign languages."

"The mini programs are a phenomenal way to expose our children to the amazing benefits of living in the North Country," said Devon Sutton, a parent of two students at St. Mary's. "We have so many organizations that specialize in music, nature, STEM, art, sports and so on here. Being able to offer that to our students in a manner that is accessible for all of the St. Mary's families is a priority as we look to serve our community with excellence in the coming years."

Another excellent development is our new Parent Teacher Organization which allows another avenue for parental involvement in their students' education. This partnership between parents and teachers will allow for even more transparency between the school and our families.

"The PTO has already become a vital tool, freeing up our educators to do just that, educate," Devon Sutton continued. "We have parents and community members

with a broad array of talents who are dedicated to offering their expertise to ensure the prosperity and preservation of this institution. We see the joy in life here at St. Mary's School for the families blessed to be a part of it and we want that to be available for generations to come."

As we continue our nationwide search for a new principal to lead this new chapter of St. Mary's School, we are encouraged by the response we have had so far and will keep our community updated once a decision has been made.

As the hopes and dreams that parents and faculty have for St. Mary's are materialized and put into action, one of the main goals within our school now is fundraising. We are proud to report that we have already hit over half of our yearly goal of \$80,000 and are looking forward to the St. Mary's Annual Gala on April 27. We invite everyone from our community to join us that night as we celebrate and support St. Mary's Canton.

We are encouraged by what our community has already done for St. Mary's Canton and what we will continue to achieve as we all work together to see our student enrollment increase. There is a pure joy and happiness found within our school that is truly a gift from God. Our staff is thankful for the opportunity to see our mission and vision come to life in our students and look forward to the years to come and the new students who will enter into these four walls.

If interested in enrolling your child at St. Mary's Canton, please visit stmaryscantonny.com.

Policy event draws crowd

By Colleen Miner
Diocesan director, Respect Life Office

Albany – More than 1,200 people from around the state recently gathered to discuss public policy at an annual Legislative Day.

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms (albanyupdate.com), a state organization that educates and activates evangelical Christians regarding matters of public policy, and New Yorker's Family Research Foundation (newyorkfamilies.org) co-sponsored the annual event on March 19 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. The theme was "A New Season: Where Do We Go From Here?"

"New York has entered a new season of governmental authority," said event organizer Jason J. McGuire, executive director of NYCF. "Political power resides with those who do not share our values, and it's reflected in the tragic turn our state is taking. By approving legislation like late-term abortion expansion, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his allies have launched an all-out assault on the beliefs held by evangelical Christians and other socially-conservative New Yorkers. With objectionable proposals like paid surrogacy, legalizing prostitution and recreational marijuana under consideration, it is clear that too many Albany politicians intend to continue aggressively imposing their morally bankrupt agenda on the Empire State. In this new season, it is crucial that Christian voters provide a robust and effective voice of opposition."

The day featured a variety of speakers and topics

including Walt Heyer of SexChangeRegret.com and Garth Van Meter of Smart Approaches to Marijuana. Stephanie Woodward of the Center for Disability Rights spoke about physician assisted suicide, and Gianna Jessen spoke about her experiences as a late-term saline abortion survivor and prolife advocate.

Attendees also heard from elected officials Sen. Pat Gallivan, Sen. Daphne Jordan, Sen. Rob Ortt, Sen. Chris Jacobs, and Assemblyman Andy Goodell. They shared the need to get back to family principles and to take our state back with logic and reason, and that RHA was the darkest day in this legislative body. During a panel discussion, Kathleen Gallagher of the New York State Catholic Conference and Kate Maloney of Students for Life spoke about the future of NY's Pro-life Movement.

Woodward and Jessen, the two "disabled" presenters, shared their thoughts about being labeled "disabled." Stephanie Woodward, a 30-year-old lawyer, who works with NY Alliance Against Assisted Suicide and uses a wheelchair, and Gianna Jessen, a 40-year-old who has cerebral palsy due to the saline solution that was meant to kill her, both embrace their "disability" with humor and joyfulness.

Woodward shared that when people approach her stating that they will pray for a cure, she answers, "I'm fine (in my wheelchair), please pray that my student loans are paid off!"

She urged people to make activities accessible and to respect the dignity of each individual, "do not group us all together."

When she enters a church, she likes to participate where she wants. She dislikes when there is one wheelchair section.

"Our diversity is who we are," she said.

Jessen said that she is a constant reminder of what people want to forget, especially those who work in the abortion industry, and she is often met with hostility.

"I survived abortion, I can survive Twitter," she said.

Jessen stated that she is never invited to women's marches and asked, "if abortion is a women's right, where are mine?"

Jessen's said her life has been a progression of miracles: she was not killed by the saline abortion, the doctor was late to Planned Parenthood that day, the nurse called an ambulance to have her transported to the hospital when she was accidentally born alive, then she was adopted by loving parents.

"I am here for His services and I'm having fun," she said.

She paused to offer advice to post-abortive women: If you hear that voice saying "Your sins are too big, you are condemned", then you are listening to the wrong voice!"

At the end of the day, rolls of "Repeal Late-Term Abortion Act" petition signatures were delivered to Governor Cuomo's office. Over 20,000 of those signatures were from the Catholic Action Network. More deliveries will be made throughout the legislative season.

Register today for the Catholic Action Network at nycatholic.org to receive 'Action Alerts' and have your voice heard in Albany.



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IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS LENT 2019: "Anna and Simeon"

Date	Place		Time
April 5	St. Mary's	Potsdam	7:30 p.m.
April 7	St. Cyril's	Alex Bay	7:30 p.m.
April 14	St. Anthony/Joseph	Herkimer	7:30 p.m.
April 15	Holy Trinity	Hudson	7:30 p.m.
April 16	St. Aloysius	Leonardtown, MD	7:30 p.m.
April 17	Fr. Andrew White School	Leonardtown, MD	10:00 a.m.
April 19	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 p.m.

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

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National Trust: One-third of Canadian churches to close

TORONTO (CNS) – A third of Canada's Christian architecture, some 9,000 churches, will close in the next 10 years, according to the National Trust for Canada.

"It's definitely going to be a bad thing," architect Roberto Chiotti told The Catholic Register. "You know, it's our theology in stone."

There are approximately 27,000 places of worship across Canada, which means about one-third of them will be sold, demolished or abandoned over the next decade. But it is not all bad news. In the Archdiocese of Toronto, for example, no closures are anticipated. The archdiocese has built nearly a church per year since the turn of the 21st century.

"The Archdiocese of Toronto is blessed to have a large immigrant population engaged in their faith locally, part of the reason we celebrate Mass in more than 35 languages each

week," said Neil MacCarthy, archdiocesan spokesman.

That's a stark contrast to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec, where large numbers of churches have been shuttered or are slated to close.

Dozens of Catholic and Protestant churches in small towns across Western Canada and in southwestern Ontario also have been closing for years.

Under canon law, final decisions about closing Catholic churches, amalgamating parishes and finding other uses for buildings belongs solely to the bishop.

For mainline Protestant denominations – largely white, elderly and nonimmigrant – finding new uses for old churches is now a cross-country consulting job for Kendra Fry.

"It is bad news from a faith community perspective, in that it indicates a lack of commitment to faith communities as the

locale where people identify community," she told The Catholic Register.

Fry works for Regeneration Works, a joint project with the National Trust for Canada. If a building has served the community for a century or more, Fry believes it should continue to bring people together – whether for concerts, yoga, child care or charitable work.

Catholics have not been beating a path to Fry's door because canon law and Catholic culture make it difficult to imagine a Catholic parish as part of a shared-use building.

Protecting God's Children

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

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

Upcoming sessions:

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

- Join the conversation!

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Rest in Peace

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

April 3 – Msgr. Philius Garand, 1942

April 4 – Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 – Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 – Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 – Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 8 – Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 3 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

April 4 – 11 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Committee meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

April 6 – 10 a.m. – Diocesan Youth Rally at Trinity Catholic School in Massena concluding with Mass at Sacred Heart Church

April 7 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

3 p.m. – Priesthood Discernment group gathering at Notre Dame Church in Malone

April 9 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953;

terriannyanulavich@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

Environmental Stewardship

A different kind of fast

Fasting is most often associated with food. We know that Jesus fasted in the desert. However, recently during this Lenten season, we hear Pope Francis call us to an "ecological conversion." He quotes St. John Paul II as having encouraged and support an ecological conversion in his papacy. When we view fasting from this vantage point, we realize that there may be other ways to fast.

One of the ways is to fast from wasting food. Three realities cause us to stop and consider that this may be an important way to observe the call to Lenten fast. *First, it is estimated that 30-40 percent of the food grown doesn't make it from farm and factory to fork. Secondly, for nearly 800 million people, hunger is a condition of life. And thirdly, food wastes would be the third largest emitters of greenhouse gases globally.

Wastage occurs early in the supply chain, rotting on farms or spoiling during storage or distribution. Retailers reject food based on bumps, bruises, coloring – aesthetic objections of all sorts. There are many other places where food waste happens. Regardless of the reason, the outcome is much the same. Producing uneaten food squanders a host of resources – seeds, water, energy, land, fertilizers, hour of labor, financial capital – and generates greenhouse gases at every stage, including organic methane when organic matter lands in the global rubbish bin. (*Taken from Drawdown, Ed. by Paul Hawken)

While the challenge of major intervention is on the retail and consumer levels, we may ask, "Is there anything that we can do on a personal level?" Here are a few suggestions: (1) Purchase and cook only what you can eat (or share with a neighbor), (2) Check on the dated items to see if it reads: SELL BY or BEST USED BY, (3) move dated items and left overs to the front of the refrigerator.

Fasting from wasting can not only bring about a "springtime of one's soul" but a springtime for our neighbors and all of God's Creation.

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CLINTON

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BREAKFAST

Altona – Holy Angels Church to host an all-you-can-eat breakfast.

Date: April 7

Time: 8 a.m. to noon

Place: Holy Angels Church Hall, 524 Devils Den Road

Cost: \$9.50 for adults; \$5 for children 6-12; free for kids under 5.

Features: Pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, ham, home fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and biscuits, fruit, homemade Danishes, juice, milk and coffee. Take-outs are available.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – The Knights of Columbus will have a pancake breakfast.

Date: April 7

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free

LENTE ADORATION

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

Dates: Mondays and Tuesdays

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

Place: Saint Frere Andre Chapel

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

Contact: Parish Rectory: 518-563-1692

RECOGNIZING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Plattsburgh – Presentation on recognizing human trafficking to be held by St. John's Newman Club and St. Joseph Social Justice Committee.

Date: April 11

Time: 7 p.m.

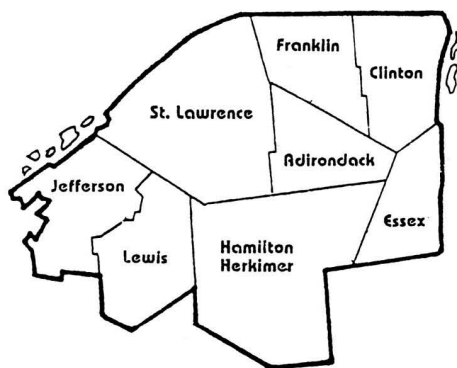
Place: St. John XXIII Newman Center

Presenter: Andre Marie, from Disarm the Dark, a Faith-based Anti-trafficking Program located in Montreal

Features: What is this modern day slavery? How does a child or young adult get recruited into trafficking? What are some red flags we need to be aware of in order to recognize and prevent a potential trafficking incident? What can we do as a faith community to help prevent this from happening in our own community? Event is free and public is invited.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – you're invited to join



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, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

Date: Now to Palm Sunday, April 14

Features: Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the vigil site Planned Parenthood, 66 Brinkerhoff Street and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

Contact: If you'd like more information and especially if you'd like to volunteer to pray at the vigil site, please contact: Nancy Belzile, 518-593-6024, nancys_56@hotmail.com www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

40 DAYS FOR LIFE CLOSING CERMONY

Plattsburgh – 40 Days for Life to have a closing candlelight vigil.

Date: April 13

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: 66 Brinkerhoff St.

Features: to rejoice in the victories that God has accomplished.

Contact: 40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh 518-593-6024

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – The Knights of Columbus will have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 13

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$3; 5 and under, Free; Take-outs available.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Plattsburgh – Champlain Valley Right

to Life to have its Annual Stations of the Cross to be held in front of Planned Parenthood.

Date: April 19

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: 66 Brinkerhoff Street.

Features: Prayer pamphlets and the numbered crosses will be supplied. No other signs please. We come together in reparation for the sin of abortion. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Contact: Chair at 518-593-6024 for more info

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Morrisonville – Divine Mercy Sunday to be celebrated.

Date: April 28

Place: St. Alexander's Church

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

EVANGELIZATION AND APOLOGETICS

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

Date: May 11

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

Place: St. Joseph's Hall

Cost: \$10

Features: Father Mickey Demo will lead the celebration of a morning Mass 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/Maalc60EIB0>.

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

ESSEX

ST. JOSEPH'S LENTEN STUDIES

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

Schedule: Wednesdays after the 5 p.m. Mass

Place: St. Joseph's Parish House

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

FRANKLIN

ABSOLUTE JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND

Malone – Holy Family School to host Absolute Journey Tribute Band for Spring Fundraiser.

Date: April 6

Schedule: at the Malone Middle School, 7 p.m. 80s Costume Contest with \$250 in prizes; at 7:30 p.m. Josee Allard and Friends will play; at 8:30 p.m. Absolute Journey will play until 9:30 p.m. and then an 80s after hours party is being planned at The Pines.

Cost: \$25

Contact: Holy Family School for more information at dtvdik@hfs-malone.org or call 518-483-4443

FISHERS CLUB

Malone – Priesthood discernment with Bishop LaValley.

Date: April 7

Time: 3 to 5 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Rectory

Features: It doesn't get much better than this- being able to discern and discuss the Priesthood with a Successor to the Apostles! Men who are High School Junior age and older are invited to join Bishop Terry R. LaValley. The gathering includes discernment discussion, Evening Prayer, and dinner.

Contact: Please register for the free event with Father Doug Lucia (dlucia@rcdony.org) or Father Howard Venette (pastorsmol@stmariysti.org).

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

LEGACY GALA

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School to have their 2019 Legacy Gala.

Date: April 6

Time: Cocktails at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m.

Place: Italian American Civic Association

Cost: \$50

Features: The event is Semi-Formal Contact: Tickets are available at IHC Jr./Sr. High School or call 315-788-4670 or email ihcgala@ihcschool.org

LENTE COMMUTER RETREAT

Watertown – Lenten commuter retreat to be held.

Date: April 5-7

Time: Fri., 6 p.m. to 9; Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun., 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (includes Mass)

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Heartside Hospitality Center

Cost: \$50 includes Retreat Materials and Food

Speakers: Sister Norma Bryant, Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, Molly Amoriell and Cindy Matthews

Features: Retreat will explore through presentations, personal and group prayer, and sharing some aspects of loss, grief and suffering caused by loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, loss of job, or other life challenges. Reflections will include how our faith not only gives us strength and hope to be transformed into new life, but gives us the grace to help others on the Journey.

Contact: email srbethssj@gmail.com or call 315-212-6592 by Sunday, March 31

LENTE PARISH MISSION

Carthage – The RCC of Carthage and Copenhagen will be hosting a Lenten Parish Mission.

Schedule: April 6-7, at all of the Mass; April 8-10 at St. James Minor Church at 7 p.m.

Features: The mission will be led by Rev. Raymond J. Moreau, current pastor

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

of St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor and St. Mary's Church, Brushton. Topics that will be covered are: Weekend Masses "Our Journey to God" – Monday night "The Yellow Brick Road" – Tuesday night "The Potholes in the Road" – Wednesday night "The Eternal City." Plan to take time out of your busy schedule to attend the Mission as we journey together in our relationship with God!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

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

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

HAM DINNER

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

Date: April 27

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$10

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

spaghetti dinner.

Date: April 25

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

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

Features: Take-out available at 4

LEWIS

p.m., please bring your own containers

LENTEN ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Lenten Eucharistic adoration to be held.

Date: March 21, 28 April 4, 7, 11

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Lenten hours of adoration prior to and after Thursday Noon Mass. Adoration includes Morning Prayer, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

APRIL DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: April 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes Evening Prayer, adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcomed.

Contact: 315-348-6260.

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 Eucharist,

the Divine Mercy Chaplet, homily and Benediction.

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

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

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

Brasher – The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.

Date: March 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Shamrock Club

Cost: \$3; under 12 free

Features: Many dealers with all kinds sporting items. Concession stand open all day, breakfast served from 8 a.m. to 11.

Contact: Phil Davis at 315-389-4627 or Mike Hoag at 315-389-4318.

BLESSED IS SHE LENT GATHERING

Norwood – Blessed is She Lent Gathering to be held.

Date: April 7

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church

Features: Join us for a talk to dive deeper into the Lenten season. Snacks will be provided, please bring a snack.

Contact: RSVP to Sara LaPoint: text/call 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

FAITH AND REASON TALK

Canton – Faith and Reason talk to be given by Stacy Trasancos

Date: April 10

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Lawrence University at Herring Cole

Theme: "Science was Born of Christianity"

Features: Stacy Trasancos, Doctor of Chemistry, convert to Catholicism and Catholic theologian, will give the Niles Lecture on Religion and Science. The talk is free and open to the public. Trasancos has been a guest on Relevant Radio, Ave Maria Radio, EWTN, and Catholic Answers Live. She has written numerous articles for Catholic publications and is the author of *Particles of Faith: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Science*.

FISH & SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

Date: Now to April 19

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Place: St. James School

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: Take-out and deliveries available by calling 315-287-1030

LENTEN FISH FRY

Massena – Friday Fish Fry to be held during Lent.

Date: Now to April 12

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$5

ALPHA COURSE

Massena – Alpha is here and you are invited to attend.

Date: Starts April 8 and runs for 12 weeks

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian Faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

Contact: For more information, please call the parish office at 315.769.2469 or visit our website at www.massencatholics.com.

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 Holywood "Knights"

Date: April 27

Place: Trinity Catholic School

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

Feature: A five-course meal with a choice of prime rib or chicken marsala provided by Allen Chilton.

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

WOMEN DISCERNMENT GROUP

Women's discernment groups are forming in three areas of the diocese.

Date: April 7

Place: Potsdam, St. Mary's Rectory 5 p.m. to 7; Plattsburgh, Newman Center 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; Watertown, Hearthside Room at SSJ Mother House 5 p.m. to 7

Features: Come pray and discuss with other women how to know what God has in mind for you. Dinner will be provided.

Contact: Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920. Registration is requested by emailing Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org

YOUTH RALLY

Massena – 2019 Youth Rally to be held.

Date: April 6

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Trinity Catholic School

Cost: \$25 (Lunch is included)

Speakers: Kevin Dowd will be the Keynote Speaker and Marihon Alzuhairi will be presenting.

Features: Prayer and reflection, Mass, adoration, climb the Scripture Wall, indoor Snowball Blast, Glow Ball fun and arts and crafts.

Contact: To register visit www.rcdony.org/youth and select "Youth Rally."

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – Chrism Mass to be held.

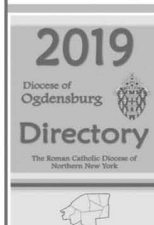
Date: April 11

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: All the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the diocese, symbolizing that we are one family in Christ.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus fulfills God's promise of something new

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we need to perk up the ears of our hearts when God says to a despondent people in exile to look forward, not backward, as though this moment in which they hear Isaiah's prophecy is really the first day of their lives. He tells them to forget the past, for He has decided to do something new! This prophecy is really a veiled reference to the Father's decision to send His Son, Jesus, as Messiah. By his sacrifice, He will bring them out of their vicious cycle of sin-



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

ning. How sad that hundreds of years later, when their descendants saw their Messiah in the flesh, they failed to remember Isaiah's words that God was doing something new!

In the light of that first reading, we can better understand that mercy is the "something new" in the message of Jesus. The Gospel describes what incredible mercy Jesus shows towards the woman in today's Gospel. There is no question that she is guilty as well as the man

April 7

Fifth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

involved. The law in Deuteronomy clearly says they should both be put to death by stoning.

For the time being, the Pharisees have placed the woman squarely in front of Jesus, hoping to trap him into saying something incriminating. By writing on the ground, Jesus cleverly shifts the attention to the sins of those about to stone her to death. Here, indeed, is

"something new," and the Pharisees immediately see that Jesus has placed them in the trap! The elders among them are the first so acknowledge that Jesus has won the test, and they are the first to drop their stones and slink away. The others follow, leaving Jesus alone with the woman. Without excusing her sin, He merely tells her she is free to leave, but to "sin no more." What surprises and delights us here is that the Lord has placed something new into the Law – He now includes MERCY – mercy is now a part of justice!

The second reading on

Sunday doesn't always fit the meaning of the other two readings, but it does today. St. Paul tells the Philippians that in the light of our faith, Jesus has redeemed our sins, and in the power of His Resurrection, we now have God's mercy as the reason for our hope and joy. Now, it will be much easier to "strain ahead" each day in pursuit of that goal to which Jesus and His Spirit calls us. This Fifth Sunday brings us more joy than we had expected.

Now we should be convinced that Lent is truly a seedtime of hope for the glory to come.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

New York Legislation is equivalent to death penalty

To the Editor,

I read with interest the commentary in the March 19th issue of the Glens Falls Post Star how the apparatus of death is being dismantled in California, and hundreds of inmates slated for execution have been granted reprieves.

Gov. Gavin Newsom's couched it in personal and principled terms: "The intentional killing of another person is wrong. And as governor, I will not oversee the execution of any individual"

I find it enlightening that the state of California is at least having a debate. Whereas in NY, the state with already the highest abortion rates in our country, with very little debate recently passed legislation under which late-term abortions are conducted. This amounts to a death sentence on the most vulnerable of our so-

ciety. NYS Health Dept statistics show in 2016, 1,763 abortions were performed at 20 weeks of pregnancy or more.

This new Legislation removed protections that require immediate medical attention for any infant who might accidentally survive an abortion procedure, removing the civil rights protections guaranteed to all born human being. Now there is no certainty that a born-alive baby won't be left to die untreated.

This is not about politics or one being left or right. As Christians we are taught not to judge least we be judged as we are all sinners, but can we ignore what God directed Moses to tell his people in the book of Leviticus 19 :16 "don't stand idly by while your neighbors life is in danger." Does this not apply to our defenseless infants?

We live in a world with mass violence, We can

make a difference in our own backyard, by letting our voices be heard in Albany, I encourage your readers to contact their legislators. Or go to www.nycatholic.org and click take action.

Aaron Gadway
Indian Lake

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM



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AT THE MOVIES

UNPLANNED

NEWYORK (CNS)— The hard-hitting, fact-based drama "Unplanned" (Pure Flix) dares its viewers to confront the reality of what happens when a baby is aborted.

That's an effective strategy on the part of co-writers and directors Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon, not least because the peculiar institution of our day thrives on concealment, muddled thinking and Orwellian euphemisms. But it also means that this emotionally unsparing film is not for the casual moviegoer of any age.

Adapted from the eponymous 2011 memoir by Abby Johnson (Ashley

Bratcher), "Unplanned" traces her steady rise to become one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the country. Yet it also shows how she gradually became uneasy about the organization's marketing of abortion.

The conversion in her outlook reaches a dramatic climax when Abby is asked to assist a doctor performing the procedure and witnesses via sonogram what it actually involves. As the child in the womb tries to move away from the suction tube and medical containers quickly fill with blood, this scene may prove as upsetting for the audience as it



CNS PHOTO/UNPLANNED.COM

Ashley Bratcher, who plays Abby Johnson, is pictured in a scene from the movie "Unplanned," the story of Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director, and her decision to join the pro-life movement.

was for Johnson.

Her new stance is welcomed by Abby's husband, Doug (Brooks Ryan), and parents Kathleen (Robin DeMarco) and Mike (Robert Thomason), all of them pro-life. It also brings reconciliation with

some of the protestors she once considered adversaries, including 40 Days for Life activists Shawn (Jared Lotz) and Marilisa (Emma Elle Roberts).

Unsurprisingly, Abby's ornery former superior, Cheryl (Robia Scott), views

her change of heart in a different light. Once Abby's mentor, infuriated Cheryl becomes the moving force in a lawsuit against her ex-protege as well as against Shawn. Kaiser Johnson steals this portion of the picture playing Shawn and Abby's unflappable lawyer, Jeff.

While Cheryl is clearly the villain of the piece, the script avoids demonizing all those associated with Planned Parenthood. Nor does it present all pro-life activists in a positive light. Whether this sense of balance will give "Unplanned" any traction with supporters of legal abortion is open to question, however.

Given that the full horror of slaughtering the unborn is on display here, the parents of older teens will have to decide whether the informative value of Abby's story outweighs its disturbing elements. Those also include a sequence showing the sufferings Abby endured after taking RU-486 in the second of her own two abortions.

The film contains gruesome images of abortion and dismembered fetuses, much medical gore, a mild oath, a few crass expressions and a vague sexual reference. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled

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Diocese of Ogdensburg
are cordially invited to join

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley Bishop of Ogdensburg

for the annual Renewal of Priestly
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use in all the churches of the Diocese
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ
on

**Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 11 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.**

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- * Silent No More/40 Days for Life by
Nancy Belzile, Regional Coordinator
- * How to start a Students for Life Chapter
- * Making NY an abortion-free state,
by Kathy Gallagher, NYS Catholic Conference

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Students for Life
Northeast Regional Coordinator!
Kate is Catholic, lived in 6 states
(military family), an Ithaca College
graduate -vocal performance major-
who now uses her voice to educate &
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The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

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Our pope, our environment; actions needed

Pope Francis has declared October to be an Extraordinary Missionary Month, during which the Synod on the Amazon will also take place. During October, Pope Francis wants us to reflect on themes from his Encyclical on the Environment, *Laudato Si'* and take swift action to protect our common home.

Pope Francis chose his papal name to honor St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of those who promote ecology. Pope Francis describes "the poor man of Assisi" as "a man of peace, a man of poverty, a man who loved and protected creation" – in other words, a person who embodies integral ecology.

Integral ecology, or an integrated approach to environmental and social justice as being required and the bond between humans and the natural world. Everything is connected. An integration of our concerns for people and our planet while recognizing the systemic links between ecology, equity and justice through the sciences, arts and humanities.

Pope Francis says, "It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an 'ecological conversion,' whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." *Encyclical Laudato Si', 217*

Pope Francis's attention to creation is not a new focus for the papacy. Especially since 1891, when Pope Leo XIII began the modern tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, many popes have reiterated that care for creation is a moral responsibility and a core commitment of the Christian faith.

In recent decades, Catholics have come to find a deeper appreciation of God's good gift of creation. Additionally, many recognize that the care of creation is fundamentally connected to other Christian commitments like the protection of human life, defense of human dignity and particular care for the poor. These are all things that the work of missionaries in the Developing lands strive for each day. Coming to understand that everything is connected is the key.

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

Funeral Mass celebrated for Sister Ann Marie Striegl

A Funeral Mass for Sister Ann Marie Striegl, was celebrated March 30 in Redeemer Sisters Chapel, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania.

Sister Anne Marie, formerly Sister John Bosco, 84, a sister of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, died March 25, 2019 in her 62nd year of religious life at Holy Redeemer Lafayette in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Her service as a certified and licensed social worker spanned more than 40 years at Catholic Charities in the Dioceses of Buffalo (1975-2015) and Ogdensburg (1973-75). She previously spent 10 years in the field of education at St. Mary's, Potsdam and Holy Angels School, Buffalo; Christ the King, Atlanta, Georgia and Grey Nun Academy, Yardley, Pennsylvania.

In 1983, she was named Religious Educator of the Year, Holy Angels Parish. She was a recipient of a Pro Vita Award from Bishop Kmiec, Bishop of Buffalo in 2010. Sister Ann Marie was a frequent contributor to The Buffalo News, author-

ing several articles for the "My View Column" on a variety of topics and in letters to the Editor. She also had an article published in Sisters Today, "Remembering - During My Annual Retreat."

Daughter of the late Joseph and Helen Wyborski Striegl, she was born October 27, 1934 in Buffalo. Ann Marie attended St. Gerard School and graduated from Sacred Heart Academy. She received a B.S. in Elementary Education from D'Youville College in 1957, entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart that same year. She was awarded an MSW from Loyola University, Chicago in 1973.

In addition to her religious congregation, she is survived by her sister Margaret Piniewski, and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; a brother, John; and a sister-in-law, June Striegl.

Donations in her memory will be gratefully received by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116-1188 or at www.greynun.org.

OBITUARIES

Cadyville – Verda (Smart) Norcross, 103; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in Cadyville Protestant Cemetery.

Croghan – Pearl T. (DeVeau) Sienkiewicz, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 28, 2019 at St. Stephen's Church.

Malone – Joyce (Purdy) Conto, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Fort Covington.

Malone – Myra F. (Griffith) Rousseau, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 29, 2019 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Mary D. (Tarbell) Bruno, 73; Funeral Services March 30, 2019 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Massena – Jake James "Sak" Hopps, 71; Funeral Services March 25, 2019 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Norfolk – Loretta S. "Petey" (Sabad)

Regan, 88; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2019 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Bangor – Janet (O'Connor) Rolland, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Beverly Joan Rabideau McLaughlin, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 23, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Elizabeth R. "Sully" (Sullivan) Pelletieri, 96; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2019 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Theresa – Doris E. (Putman) Whitmore, 95; Funeral Services March 30, 2019 at the Frederick Bros. Funeral Home.

Watertown – Lena (Dick) Bearup, 95; Mass of Christian Burial March 26, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – John Joseph Derrigo, Jr., 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 27, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Patrick M. Jank, 58; Mass of Christian Burial March 30, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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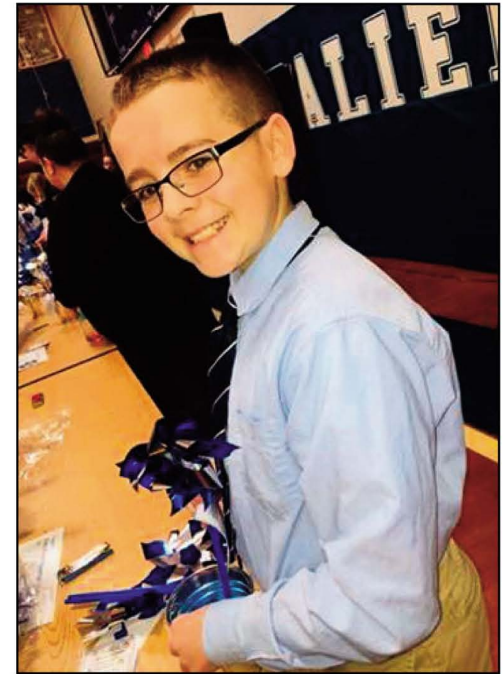
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IHC IN ACTION



(Left) Immaculate Heart Central tenth grader Bryce DaFoe is registered to take the Plunge in Sackets Harbor on April 6 at at the Sacket's Harbor Boat Launch, in memory of his father, Charlie Zeltwanger Jr. DaFoe is currently accepting donations to raise funds for local Special Olympics Athletes and is on his way to meeting his goal of \$2,000. (Middle) Upon graduating from Immaculate Heart Central School's Intermediate Building (6th grade), Loryne G. Nebie received the "Presidential Award." To congratulate her on her accomplishment, her family rewarded her with some monies. With the monies, Loryne funded the drilling of a well in Serekeni, a small village in the West African nation of Burkina Faso. She visited the village over Christmas Break with her family to see the impact she's had on the village. The well cost was \$5,000 (U.S. Currency). Before the well, the village members had to walk up to three miles a day just for clean water. (Right) Seventh-grade student Brendan Mercer participates in Immaculate Heart Central Jr./Sr. High School's annual Retreat Day on March 27. The theme of the day was "Many Parts, One Body," based on 1 Corinthians Chapter 12. The day's schedule consisted of ice breaker activities, faith enrichment projects, a service project, and Father Michael Gaffney concluded the school day celebrating Mass with the students. This year's service project was creating Pinwheel Bouquets to support the Victims Assistance Center of Jefferson County, Inc. - Child Advocacy Center of Northern New York. Each individual pinwheel represents a victim of child abuse. The Child Advocacy Center set a goal of selling 730 pinwheels to support the 730 children served by the program in 2018.

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FAMILY NIGHT



St. Mary's School in Canton held a St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Family Night on March 17. The dinner was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, games & decorations were provided by the PTO. Entertainment was provided by both teachers and students, who sang and played Irish songs and performed Irish step dancing. Nicole White, Veronica Tartaglia, Emma Lamphere, Skye Palmer, Eleanor Bailey, Sophia Tartaglia, Alexa Romano participated in an after-school mini class on Irish step dancing with teacher Marianne Augenstein.

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