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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 3

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 1, 2019

## Growing groups mix faith, science

Seven years after the first Faith and Ecology group was started in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, there are now three such groups working to connect their faith with their duty to protect God's creation.

The first Faith and Ecology group, located in Lake Clear, is still going strong, and additional groups have formed in Watertown and Canton/Potsdam.

Each group has its own goals and focus areas, but all three aim to connect environmental science with our call as Christians to care for God's creation, a call that has been echoed by church leaders for decades.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

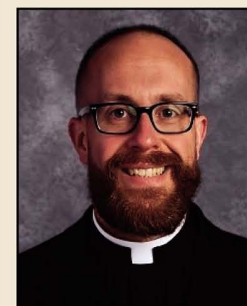
## EGGSELLENT HAUL!



PHOTO BY STACY BEAUDIN

The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay Confirmation class hosted its annual Easter Egg hunt following Easter Sunday Mass on April 21. Molly Dwyer took inventory of the content of her eggs with her mom, Kate Dwyer, and friend, Lizz Labare.

## PRIEST & DEACON ASSIGNMENTS



Father Joseph W. Giroux is among the priests and deacons whose assignment will change according to an announcement made by Bishop Terry R. LaValley after an April 24 meeting of the Committee on Assignments. The majority of the changes will be effective June 26. In all, 11 priest and two deacons, along with their parish communities, will be impacted by the assignment changes.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3-5

## Jesus replaced law of revenge with law of love

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The scales of justice cannot solve everything, especially when it comes to stopping a cycle of evil vengeance, Pope Francis said.

"Evil knows revenge and if it is not halted, it risks spreading, suffocating the whole world," he said April 24 during his weekly general audience.

Christians must forgive and love others even beyond what is due to stop the cycle of evil and to start things anew, he told

thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Francis continued his audience talks about the Lord's Prayer by looking at how people ask God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

The use of the word "trespasses" in the original Greek of the Gospel means "being in debt," so this part of the prayer recognizes how much people are in debt to God, especially for the gift of life

and his infinite love and mercy, the pope said.

The so-called "self-made man" doesn't exist in the church," he said, because Christians recognize the divine gifts and graces bestowed on them and the "beneficial conditions in life" they received from others.

"Those who pray, learn to say, 'Thank you.' Many times, we forget to say, 'Thank you.' We are selfish."

Those who seek to live a

Christian life also realize "there always will be something" for which they will need to ask God's forgiveness, for example, for being too lazy or letting rancor take over one's heart, he said.

It would have been wonderful, the pope said, if the prayer only asked God to forgive one's debts to him, however, God asks for more.

"God's grace, so abundant, is always challenging" because God asks

people to do unto others, what he has done for them. "God, who is good, invites all of us to be good," the pope added.

"Whoever has received a lot must learn to give a lot and not keep it all for oneself," Pope Francis said. God always offers his infinite love, mercy and forgiveness "vertically," from heaven to earth, and he expects it to be redistributed and given anew, "horizontally," among his children.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## 'I didn't even know who I was'

If I were recounting this incident on social media, I'd likely end the post with a hashtag and the phrase, "twin problems."

As my rather large and rather loud family gathered in my parents' newly-remodeled kitchen for lunch on Easter Sunday, my parents had several photos on display – pictures that had been found during the renovation process.

Among the handful of images was a picture of me and

my two sisters as young children. Of course, my twin sister and I were adorned in matching clothes with matching yellow barrettes in our hair, which was also cut in matching styles.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

As I showed the picture to my son, Jacob, I said to him, "this is me," pointing to the bottom right corner of the photo, "and this is Deanna."

Deanna, my twin sister, peered over my shoulder.

"Wrong," she said. "I'm on the right, you're on the left."

We asked our mother to settle the dispute.

"Deanna's on the right, Darcy is on the left," she said, confirming Deanna's assertion.

I didn't even know who I was.

As such as this incident was uniquely related to being a twin (I'm guessing most people can identify themselves in photos), I think we all have moments in which we forget who we are.

While we are children of a loving God, we don't always act in ways that reflect that. We sin. We have feelings of loneliness and unworthi-

ness, feelings of being unloved or being unlovable.

We forget who we are.

If we're lucky, we have people in our lives to look over our shoulders and correct us when we lose sight of our identities in God.

Just in case you don't have such a person, let me remind you that God loves you. Made in His image and likeness, and created out of His perfect love, you are a beloved child of God. Jesus said, in the Gospel of John, "I have loved you just as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love."

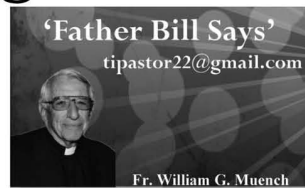
Don't forget who you are.

## Celebrating the stories of the risen Christ

Easter is so important to us, Catholics, the Church sets aside several weeks to celebrate. This we call the Easter season. This a special time for us to fully realize again how we should recognize just how the resurrection of Jesus should influence us. During the Easter season, the liturgy presents to us the Scriptures of the wonderful Gospel stories of the Lord's activities after his resurrection.

Personally, this is my favorite time of the year. I truly love these Gospel stories. Each Mass is very special. The Scripture readings each day are among my favorites. Each reading gives us an image of the loving Jesus who cared so much for his apostles and for all people that he simply did not want to leave us. He used this time after his resurrection to prepare for the future of what was to be our Church.

These resurrection stories focus on many of my favorite people in the Scriptures. I must share a couple of them with you. There is of course Mary Magdalene. She was among the first to dis-



cover that the tomb of Jesus was opened, the rock was rolled back, and the tomb was empty. In one of these stories, Mary is standing weeping outside the empty tomb. Jesus comes along, but somehow, he is not recognizable to Mary. She thinks he is the gardener. He asks her why she is weeping. "Whom are you looking for?" he asks. She responds, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus simply says to her, "Mary." Immediately, she realizes that he is Jesus.

How often has Jesus spoken my name? I really don't know, but as I think back over my life, I am certain that Jesus has often walked with me. He has led me and guided me. I wonder if I have noticed the presence of the Lord each time He has tried to enter my life. However, I am certain there have been

innumerable times when the right words came to me. I am certain that it is like the Lord whispering to me. I am aware that there have been so many times when I have been prompted to do something important that turned out to be the right time. As I look back, I realize it was Jesus leading and guiding me.

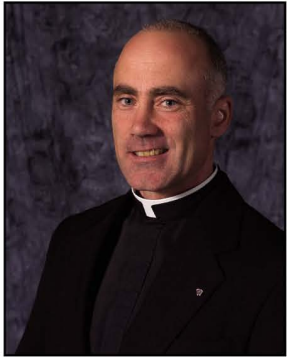
One other of my favorite resurrection stories is the Emmaus Gospel from Luke 24. Jesus comes along to walk with two of his disciples as they were walking home to Emmaus from Jerusalem. They are saddened and disappointed because of the crucifixion of Jesus. They have heard rumors about Jesus resurrection, but they are still confused. Jesus takes the time to walk with them and demonstrate to them from the Scriptures that Christ would have to suffer these things and enter into his glory. Jesus then began with Moses and the prophets, to interpret to them what referred to him in all the Scriptures.

I remember that ages ago someone suggested to me

that these two disciples were a married couple. In the story, they invite Jesus to spend time with them in their home. During a meal, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. The image of the Mass is obvious. The Gospel tells us that this couple immediately recognized that this was Jesus. They confided to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"

I have celebrated Mass so many times. I believe I have thought of the presence of Jesus, but I wonder if I have properly recognized Jesus each time I go to the altar. I wonder if my heart has burned within me. I suspect there have been times when I was too rushed or too anxious. Each time I get back to Emmaus, I pray again for a stronger faith, a more alive faith, so that I will better discover the presence of Jesus as I celebrate the Mass. I pray the Lord will be close to me, will walk with me, with pray with me, and I pray my heart will burn within me.

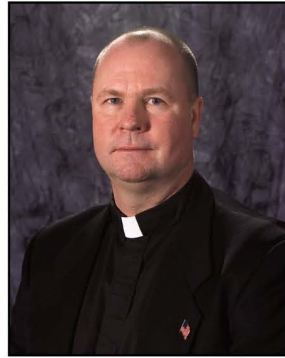




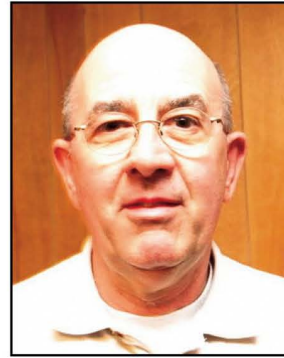
Father Mark R. Reilly



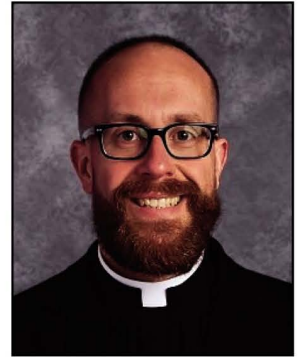
Deacon Brian T. Dwyer



Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer



Deacon Jack M. Lukasiewicz



Father Joseph W. Giroux

## Priest, deacon assignments to change

OGDENSBURG – Bishop Terry R. LaValley is pleased to announce the following assignments, which were made at the April 24 meeting of the Committee on Assignments.

Please pray for the priests, deacons and parishioners of the involved parishes.

### Effective April 19:

**Father Mark R. Reilly**, pastor of St. Peter's Church in Massena, was appointed Dean of the St. Lawrence Deanery.

### Effective May 1:

**Deacon Brian T. Dwyer**, currently pastoral associate of St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington, St. Joseph's Church in Bombay, The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay, and The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, is appointed pastoral life coordinator of these parishes.

**Father Thomas E. Kornmeyer**, V.F., pastor of St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington, St. Joseph's Church in Bombay, The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay and The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River, remains canonical pastor and takes on the duties of sacramental minister. In addition, Father Kornmeyer remains the Dean of the Franklin

Deanery.

The Living Stones Planning Document for the Diocese of Ogdensburg envisions the use of Pastoral Life Coordinators as the means for providing a strong pastoral presence in parishes configurations where a resident pastor might not be available. Pastoral life coordinators are distinct from pastoral associates. Pastoral life coordinators report to the Bishop as do pastors, whereas pastoral associates are part of a single or multi-parish structure and report directly to the pastor.

While the job description may vary from place to place, typically the pastoral life coordinator will arrange and prepare various liturgical celebrations; assist the sacramental minister, who may or may not be the canonical pastor, in celebrating sacraments and other liturgical ceremonies; coordinate details surrounding funerals and cemeteries; provide leadership for faith formation, including sacramental preparation and youth ministry programs; implement diocesan programs; visit the homebound, hospitals and nursing homes, and arrange for a priest to visit when needed; take responsibility for evangelization efforts; undertake all

parish business and personnel activity; provide parish social activities; preside over finance councils and pastoral councils; and facilitate other advisory groups and committees.

### Effective June 1:

**Deacon Jack M. Lukasiewicz**, deacon assistant at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh concludes that assignment and is appointed deacon assistant at The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew in Au Sable Forks with its Mission of St. Margaret's Church in Wilmington, as well as The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville.

### Effective June 26:

**Father Joseph W. Giroux**, pastor of St. André Bessette Parish in Malone, will be attending St. Paul's University in Ottawa for advanced studies in Canon Law this fall.

**Father Steven M. Murray**, currently pastor of Church of the Holy Family in Watertown, is appointed pastor of St. André Bessette Roman Catholic Parish in Malone.



**Father John M. Demo**, now pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford is appointed pastor of Holy Family Church in Watertown.

**Father Scott R. Seymour**, pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph in Morrisonville and St. James Church in Cadyville will additionally become pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford. This linkage is part of the Living Stones Planning Process.

**Father Patrick A. Ratigan**, currently pastor of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake, is retiring and will assist with weekend and short-term coverage needs.

**Father Martin E. Cline**, pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams with its mission of Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson, is appointed pastor of

St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake.

**Father Robert L. Decker**, now pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River and St. Rita's Church in Deferiet will become pastor of St. Cecilia's Church in Adams with its mission of Queen of Heaven Church in Henderson.

**Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin**, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Evans Mills, with missions of St. Theresa of Avila in Theresa and St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia, will additionally become pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River and St. Rita's Church in Deferiet. This linkage is part of the Living Stones Planning Process. Msgr. Aucoin will remain the Episcopal Vicar for Education and the New Evangelization.

**Father Todd E. Thibault**, administrator of St. Edmund's Church in Ellenburg Center and St. Bernard's Church in Lyon

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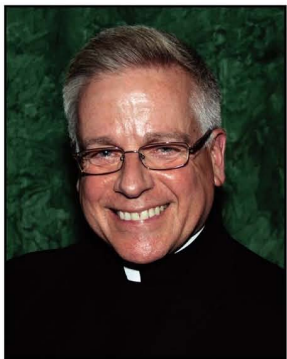


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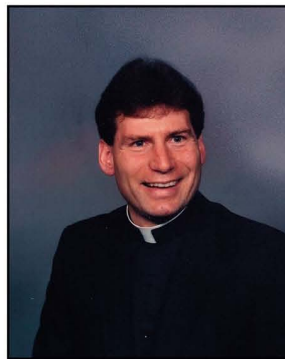
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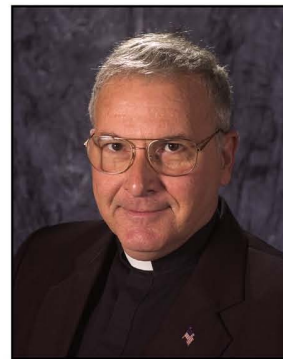
Father Steven M. Murray



Deacon John M. Demo



Father Scott R. Seymour



Father Patrick A. Ratigan



Father Martin E. Cline

## Priest, deacon assignments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Mountain is appointed pastor.

### Father Mark Reilly

Father Reilly became pastor at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Massena in 2014, taking on responsibilities as pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Massena in 2016. In July of 2018, the parishes officially merged as St. Peter's Parish.

A Syracuse native, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and entered LeMoyne College after graduating high school. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from LeMoyne and was on active duty from 1986 to 1992.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Ogdensburg in August of 1997 by Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

Father Reilly's first assignment was as parochial vicar in Saranac Lake. He later became spiritual director at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. He has served as pastor in Evans Mills, Theresa and Philadelphia, as well as in Saranac Lake, with parishes at Lake Clear and Bloomingdale and mission in Gabriels.

In 2005-06, he was called up for active duty as a navy chaplain to serve with the Marines in Iraq, and again was activated for service from August

2012 to August 2013 in Djibouti, Africa. He retired from the Navy Reserves in 2014.

### Deacon Brian Dwyer

Ordained as a permanent deacon in 2009, Deacon Dwyer, a Chateaugay native, worked for over six years as Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry before moving into his current assignment in the spring of 2015.

Deacon Dwyer, along with his wife, Monique, and the couple's five children, resides at St. Patrick's Rectory in Chateaugay.

### Father Thomas Kornmeyer

Born in Constableville and raised in Boonville, Father Kornmeyer graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary College in 1980, entered the U.S. Army and served for four years, and later returned to seminary studies at St. John's Seminary in Boston. He was ordained in May of 1990 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Kornmeyer was first appointed pastor in Bombay, Fort Covington, Westville, Constable, Trout River, Burke and Chateaugay in July of 2015.

Prior to that assignment, he has served as pastor of Saranac Lake, Lake Clear and Bloomingdale (including missions in Gabriels and Paul Smiths), Evans Mills, Philadelphia and Theresa, and Newcomb.

He served as parochial vicar at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, Sacred Heart in Massena and Notre Dame in Malone.

### Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz

Deacon Lukasiewicz resides in Beekmantown.

Ordained in September 2009, he currently serves at Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh.

He is a retired military member, having served the majority of his career working in aircraft maintenance.

His last assignment was at the former Plattsburgh AFB. After military service, he worked for lodging and retail businesses in the region. He has two adult children.

### Father Joseph Giroux

Ordained in August of 2000 by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, Father Giroux has been assigned to Malone since 2010.

Prior to that assignment, he served as administrator and later pastor of St.

Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Inlet and Raquette Lake; as parochial vicar at Notre Dame Church in Malone, St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake; St. Peter's in Lowville; Sacred Heart in Massena, and St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. While in Ogdensburg, he also served as part-time chaplain at the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility. Father

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



## THE HOLY LAND

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# Priest, deacon assignments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Gioux also served as the first director of the diocesan Program for the Ongoing Formation of Newly Ordained Priests.

He is a Plattsburgh native.

## Father Steven Murray

Ordained in September 1988 by Bishop Brzana, Father Murray has been pastor at Holy Family in Watertown since 2002.

Prior to that, he served as pastor in Hammond and Rossie, Louisville and Madrid, and in Chaumont. He also served as a faculty member and spiritual director at Immaculate Heart Central School, and as an administrator at St. Patrick's in Watertown.

Father Murray is an Ogdensburg native.

## Father John Demo

Father Demo has served as Pastor in Dannemora and Redford since October of 2013. Prior to that, he served as administrator in Willsboro and Essex.

A native of Brasher Falls, he was ordained in September 1988 by Bishop Brzana.

He has served as parochial vicar at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, Holy Family in Watertown, St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg and Notre Dame in Ogdensburg. He also served as pastor in Hopkinton and Saint Regis Falls, as parochial vicar in Carthage, and as administrator in Chateaugay and Burke.

## Father Scott Seymour

Father Seymour, a native of West Chazy, has served as pastor in Morrisonville and Treadwells Mill since 2010 and took on additional responsibilities as pastor in Cadyville in 2017.

Ordained in May of 1999 by Bishop Loverde, Father Seymour's first assignment was as parochial vicar at

Notre Dame in Malone. He later served as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, and administrator and later pastor of St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro and St. Joseph's in Essex.

Father Seymour has been active in ministry with the Catholic Daughters of America serving as a chaplain for local courts and is a past New York State chaplain.

## Father Patrick Ratigan

Father Ratigan was appointed pastor in Saranac Lake, with parishes in Lake Clear and Bloomingdale and mission in Gabriels, in 2014. Prior to that, he served as pastor in Adams and Henderson, and Brasher Falls and North Lawrence. He has also served as associate pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral, as parochial vicar of St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville, and at Sacred Heart Church, Massena.

A native of Saranac Lake, he served in the U.S. Army from 1972 to 1975.

He was ordained by Bishop Brzana in September of 1983 at St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake.

Father Ratigan served as a U.S. Army Chaplain from 1988-2005, including one year deployments to both Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. His military assignments included Fort McClellan, AL, Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Meade, MD, Fort Stewart, GA, Fort Hood, TX, Fort Shafter, HI, Fort Monmouth, NJ, Fort Campbell, KY, two one year assignments in South Korea, and a one year assignment in Egypt, as well as deployments to Haiti and throughout Central and South America.

## Father Martin Cline

Father Cline has served as pastor in Adams with its mission in Henderson since 2014. Prior to that, he



Father Robert L. Decker

served in Fort Covington and Bombay, first as administrator and then as pastor. That assignment also included St. Patrick's Church in Hogansburg until the church closed in July of 2013. His first assignment was as parochial vicar at Malone Catholic Parishes.

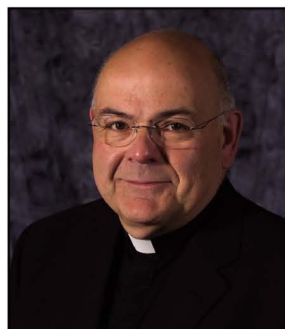
A native of Winthrop, he was ordained by Bishop Robert J. Cunningham in June 2005.

## Father Robert Decker

Father Decker has served as pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River and St. Rita's Church in Deferiet since 2013.

He was previously pastor of St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake with St. Michael's Oratory in Fine and St. Anthony of Padua Oratory in Newton Falls; of St. Francis Solanus Church in Harrisville with St. Henry's Oratory in Natural Bridge; and of St. Therese Church in Newcomb and St. Henry's Church in Long Lake. He has served as parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Watertown, St. Mary's Church in Clayton, St. John's Church in LaFargeville, Sacred Heart Church in Massena, and St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid. He served as administrator in Harrisville and Star Lake, later becoming pastor there.

From 1998 to 2003, Father Decker served as a missionary for the Ogdens-



Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

burg Peruvian Apostolate in Mollendo, Peru.

Father Decker, a native of Hammond, was ordained by Bishop Brzana in May of 1983.

## Msgr. Robert Aucoin

Msgr. Aucoin became pastor of St. Mary's in Evans Mills, along with the mission churches at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia and St. Teresa's in Theresa, in August 2018 after serving in that role at St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown for three years.

He is also the Episcopal Vicar for Education and the New Evangelization.

A Massachusetts native, Msgr. Aucoin was ordained in March of 1970 as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart in Rome. In 1973, he was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Msgr. Aucoin's first pastoral assignment was as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown and as a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. In 1975, he was appointed director of the Family Life Department and, in 1977, principal of IHC. He has also been a chaplain at Fort Drum, pastor in Evans Mills, administrator in Lake Placid and pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Watertown.

Msgr. Aucoin served as president of Mater Dei College from 1986 to 1988



Father Todd E. Thibault

until his assignment at St. Patrick's, Watertown. In 1991, he moved back to Ogdensburg to serve as rector of St. Mary's Cathedral and chancellor of the diocese. In the following year, he was named a monsignor and also served the diocese as Episcopal Vicar for Diocesan Services.

In 1994, Msgr. Aucoin was named pastor in Madrid and, two years later, was named rector-president of Wadhams Hall Seminary-College, a position he held until the seminary closed in 2002.

That year he was named Episcopal Vicar for Education and also served as director of the permanent deacon formation program from 2001 to 2013.

During 2003, he served as administrator of Norwood. From October of 2003 until June 2006, he was pastor in Alexandria Bay and Redwood. He then served as principal at Seton Catholic, becoming pastor in Potsdam and Colton in 2010.

## Father Todd Thibault

Father Thibault was ordained in October of 2016 by Bishop LaValley.

A Native of Colchester, Vt., he served as parochial vicar at St. Mary's in Canton before becoming administrator of St. Edmund's in Ellenburg Center and St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain in November of 2017.



# Faith & Ecology efforts continue to grow

By Darcy Fargo

Editor

**WATERTOWN** – Seven years after the first Faith and Ecology group was started in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, there are now three such groups working to connect their faith with their duty to protect God's creation.

"The idea originated with Father Paul Beyette," said Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, a Sister of St. Joseph and coordinator of the diocesan Faith and Ecology groups. "He called me and said he was referred to me as someone who would have an interest in ecology. He wanted to get a group going."

Father Beyette connected Sister Bethany with an up-and-running environment group in Plattsburgh, and Sister Bethany knew of an individual in the Lake Clear area who was also interested in connecting faith and science.

The first Faith and Ecology group, located in Lake Clear, was born.

"We started out with seven or eight people," Sister Bethany said.

A group later formed in Watertown and another formed within the last year serving Canton and Potsdam.

Sister Bethany noted each group has its own goals and focus areas, but all three aim to connect ecological and environmental science with our call as Christians to care for God's creation.

"I think there's a misconception that this call to care for our common home is just a Pope Francis thing," she said. "The church has been saying a lot about this since way before Pope Francis. There are articles going back to Pope John XXIII. Pope John Paul II talked about it.

Pope Benedict will likely be remembered historically as the 'Green Pope.' He wrote a lot about these issues."

The Faith and Ecology groups typically study these church teachings along with current environmental science. They then try to come up with ways to share the message and implement changes.

"We talk a lot about the connections between faith and science," said Faye Martin, a member of the Watertown group

"It's nice to have a group that prays together and learns together" added Susanne Arens, a member of the Lake Clear group.

The Lake Clear Faith and Ecology Group, the longest running group, focuses its efforts on actions individuals can take to reduce their impact on the environment and education.

"Lake clear has done a lot of work with youth and information sessions, and we'll probably continue in that direction, though we've talked about other possibilities, too," said Arens. "Not everyone is involved in group life, but everyone can be involved in caring for what's around them – the people around them, the environment around them. We talk about ways we can do that."

"We're more grassroots people," added Richard Arens, also a member of the Lake Clear group. "We try to spread the word to repurpose and reuse things; clean up your local environment."

The Watertown group manages the Faith and Ecology group social media presence and frequently hosts workshops, retreats and educational

**LEARN MORE, GET INVOLVED**

Want to learn more about the Faith & Ecology group near you? Interested in starting a group in your area? Contact group members listed below.

**WATERTOWN**  
Sister Bethany Fitzgerald – 315-212-6592 or srbethssj@gmail.com

**LAKE CLEAR**  
Sheila Harrison – 518-578-9218 or jrterriers0541@yahoo.com  
Tom Kalinowski – 518-891-1876 Kalinowski@roadrunner.com

**CANTON/POTSDAM**  
John Tenbusch – 315-388-4510aj10busch@verizon.net

**FACEBOOK**  
Faith and Ecology of Upstate New York

Group member Tom Kalinowski also produces a Faith & Ecology video series. It can be found on YouTube by searching for the channel "Tom Kalinowski Kalinowski" or at youtube.com/channel/UCLyqex9Lal8MXlosV\_pjLmw.

events.

"We want to share the most current science and share church teachings," said Martin. "We're trying to increase our reach. There's a lot of good information out there, but it's only useful if people see it."

The Canton group, founded last May, has formed committees based on member interests and goals.

"We did some visioning and strategic planning," said John Tenbusch, a member of the Canton group. "Out of that, we created three different committees that are just getting off the ground. One committee is reaching out to every faith group in St. Lawrence County. We've identified 160 faith communities. We want to connect with them, say 'hi, we're out here, and we're interested in working on issues of faith and ecology. What are you doing, and how can we work together?' Another committee is looking to address single-use and non-recyclable plastics, working with St. Lawrence Environmental Management and possibly

Save the River. The third committee is looking at helping residents whose water is bad. We see an awful lot of people buying water at Walmart. We want to help those people figure out what's wrong with their water and how to fix it. Doing so would save them money at Walmart and it would keep a lot of waste out of the environment."

Tenbusch, along with Keith Zimmerman, also a member of the Canton group, have been bringing their professional experience to aid all three Faith and Ecology groups develop goals and action plans. Both work for St. Lawrence Environmental Management and have extensive experience in strategic planning, implementing programs and accessing resources.

All three Faith and Ecology groups try to work collaboratively, as well as with other faith communities and with organizations and entities within the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"We see a lot of collaboration," said Sister Bethany. "We see members from Lake Clear in Water-

town, we see Watertown people in Canton – there's a lot of commonalities. But we're also not just working by ourselves. We're always asking, 'with whom can we collaborate?' We'll have representation at various events with diocesan youth ministry or campus ministry. We've participated in Earth Week in Plattsburgh, and we're on a planning committee for an interfaith, intergenerational faith and ecology event. Maybe our group adds a spiritual component to an event or a group who may be approaching this issue more from a general concern for the planet. We add the ethical and moral elements from our religious tradition. But there are a lot of groups with similar concerns. We all have something to add, but it's better if we work together."

Sister Bethany said local environmentalist Curt Stager says that faith and morality component is critical.

"Curt Stager was once a climate change denier, but he researched it and came to believe the science," Sister Bethany said. "He came to us. He believes we need to see this issue – caring for the environment – as a religious, moral and ethical issue for people to make changes."

While the Faith and Ecology movement has grown in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, organizers say they'd like to see the group and its work reach more and more people.

"We're still finding our way, and we're still looking to grow," said Zimmerman. "If anyone is interested in participating or learning more, I encourage them to contact us."



# Factors that impact parish vibrancy

*Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles written by the Diocese of Ogdensburg's Living Stones Planning Committee.*

**William J. Amoriell**

Member of Living Stones Planning Committee

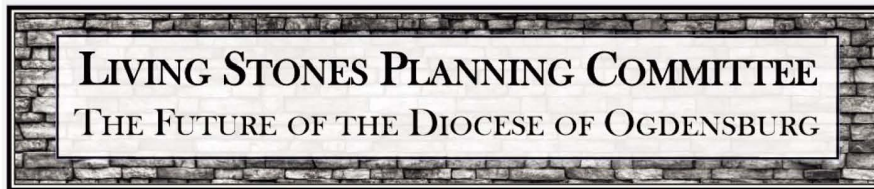
In the last article, we discussed the urgency and need to consider change. Let's now begin to look at issues that can have a direct impact on developing effective and vibrant parishes.

## Leadership

There is no single leadership style identified in parishes that have been judged to be vibrant. The leadership style within a parish grouping depends on the style and preference of the pastor. What is important is that everyone recognize the style and then function accordingly. All styles can be effective. Let's briefly look at some of the leadership styles included by William E. Simon, Jr. in his book, *Great Catholic Parishes*. "We identified three different styles of leadership sharing: the collaborators, the delegators, and the consultants."

"Collaborators" involve a process by which the pastor and his staff work together as a well-integrated team. All issues are discussed as a team and decisions made by consensus. "Delegators" by contrast involve a process by which the pastor empowers others to be responsible for a specific area, program, or issue. The pastor hires lay leaders he feels are competent and empowers them to formulate a plan and make decisions.

Finally, "consulters" involve a process whereby the pastor seeks input



from a broad cross-section of the lay leaders and parishioners in the parish grouping and then makes a decision based on the input received.

The key to all of the above leadership styles is the communication that occurs among the pastor, lay leaders, and parishioners and how lay leaders are empowered to accomplish an assigned task. "The shift to shared leadership represents a marked change from the traditional lone-ranger model of pastoring." "To discover new meaning, a leader must be open to many voices and willing to collaborate. Effectively leading a parish today requires communication, cooperation, consensus building, and teamwork."

## Communication

Communication can be the root of so many problems. It is critical that, as we contemplate change, we make certain to discuss potential changes, along with the rationale, with parishioners well before the change occurs. Involve everyone in the discussions on the need and rationale for change to help everyone understand why the particular change is needed. "Communicating the need for specific changes before they occur helps reduce tensions. Comments about changes where parishioners had no buy-in can ring through the minds of pastors long afterward..."

## Lay leadership

It should be made clear at the beginning that lay

leadership has been found to be an essential component within a vibrant parish. It is no coincidence that one of the goals specified in the mission statement for the Living Stones Planning Committee is to "activate greater participation among the laity in leadership roles." Pastors cannot do it alone. They need a team of committed and talented lay leaders to begin the development of vibrant parishes that better meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners. "Although, canonically, pastors are held responsible for all decisions made in a parish, these pastors were quick to admit that they do not lead their vibrant parishes on their own."

There is an elephant in the room that needs to be recognized and confronted. Our parishes do hire lay leaders. However, we cannot expect additional lay leaders to become involved in significant and strategic ways as unpaid volunteers. This will not work. Yes, we need volunteers involved in all parishes, but we also need to increase the number of paid lay leaders, if we are ever going to develop the kind of effective parish team that is necessary for building vibrant parishes. "The goal is to find the right people and pay them well..."

It needs to be recognized that hiring lay leaders does pose problems for the pastor. Unfortunately, hiring the wrong

lay leader or a weak lay leader can create major problems for the pastor and can also be counterproductive in trying to build vibrant parishes. This needs to be acknowledged, but should not dissuade us from moving in the direction of increasing the number of lay leaders who are involved actively in our parishes. It is essential.

However, we need to be up front and realize that "Despite the rosy picture painted in the last chapter of well-coordinated parish staffs, even the successful pastors we surveyed spoke of problems with personnel. In fact, nearly half (45.2 percent) spoke of challenges they face related to working with some of their staff members."

This is a sobering fact, but must not dissuade us from getting more lay leaders involved in all of our parish groupings.

We must also encourage talented people to actively discern what they have to offer the church community and to be willing to make a commitment. Again, we are talking about a combination of both volunteers and paid

lay leaders. "Our parishes need to become places where it is normal for adult Catholics to ask, "What is God calling me to?" Over the years we have discovered that a powerful way to foster a parish culture of discernment is by beginning with the discernment of personal charisms. Charisms are some of the many graces that we receive in baptism and confirmation. A charism is "a favor" or (in St. Thomas Aquinas's terminology) a "gratuitous grace" given to a member of the body of Christ to empower him or her to build up the Church and to witness Christ to the world."

Parishioners must actively discern what gifts or strengths they can offer within their parish community. This needs to be a coordinated team effort, if we are going to be serious about building vibrant parishes that meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners. It is by attracting, encouraging, and selecting talented "living stones" that will enable us to revitalize our parishes.

Next week we shall discuss evangelization, involvement of children and youth in our services, and music.

We hope you will contemplate the ideas presented in these articles and continue to discuss them with your pastor and fellow parishioners.


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## Environmental Stewardship

## Greening of the soul

As we look around us these days, the earth is greening up before our very eyes.

Almost before we put our snow shovels away, it is time to get out the mower! As the earth is watered by the spring rains and warmed by the sunshine, farmers and gardeners begin to prepare for plantings seeds.

This Season of Eastertime is also a time for spiritual growth. Sister Marianne Race, CSJ, describes our task at this time: "We are asked only to be soft ground that we might receive the gift, the seed, and allow it to be broken open and nourished. . . allow that which is already planted with you to come to life."

Just as the gardeners have tools to prepare the ground for planting and nurturing the soil, so Jesus gives tools to help our spiritual growth in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 6).

These tools, namely, prayer, fasting and almsgiving are usually associated with the Lenten season. However, they are given to anyone who wishes to live life more fully (John 10:10).

How might these tools enable us to be better stewards of the earth while growing spiritually?

Saint Isidore, the patron of farmers in the U.S., gives us a great example of the importance of prayer.

His feast day, celebrated on May 15, is a wonderful reminder of the importance of praying for the farmers who produce food we eat.

Secondly, choosing to fast from harmful pesticides and herbicides on our lawns, gardens and even inside our homes is a way to protect the air and our ground water from contamination.

However, if you have visited the garden section of the store lately, you may have noticed that the "greener," non-toxic lawn and garden care items are most often more expensive.

Could paying more for a product that is eco-friendly be another way of giving alms that will ensure a healthier future for all?

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**May 2** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

**May 3** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Andre Bessette Church (at Notre Dame Church) in Malone

**May 4** – 11 a.m. – Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new parish center at St. Mary's Church in Champlain

11:30 a.m. – Rev. Clyde Lewis' 80th Birthday Celebration and luncheon at Champlain Catholic Men's Club in Champlain

4 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Mary's Church in Champlain

**May 5** – 11 a.m. – Confirmation at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake

**May 7** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Stephen's Church in Croghan

## Rest in Peace

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

**May 1** – Rev. Joseph J. Halde, 1891; Rev. Edward P. Burns, 1985

**May 2** – Rev. Jean Marie Royer, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Joseph M. Blais, 1948; Rev. Leon LaPorte, 1954; Rev. Burchard Murray, O.S.A., 1966

**May 3** – Rev. Cormac Walsh, O.F.M., 1977

**May 4** – Rev. J. Napoleon Pelletier, O.M.I., 1935

**May 6** – Rev. P.A. Lynch, O.S.A., 1927

**May 7** – Deacon Thomas R. Finnegan, 1996; Rev. John Cosmic, 2017

## 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!

## Letter to the Editor

## Reproductive Health Act is anti-woman

## To the editor,

The NY Reproductive Health Act is anti-woman. Allowing non-doctors to perform abortions is a regression to the pre-Roe vs. Wade back-alley abortion era, vilified for non-doctors performing abortions! Allowing non-doctors to perform abortions – a surgery – drastically lowers safety measures for women.

Roe vs. Wade was supposed to guarantee medically 'safe' abortions. Now, how many more women will die? Is NY going to sanction non-doctors to perform appendectomies and tonsillectomies as well, or is surgical abortion and its potential physical and emo-

tional side effects of less concern to NY lawmakers?

The Reproductive Health Act removes criminal penalties for violence against a pregnant woman which causes the death of her unborn child. This is anti-woman.

Now, when the father doesn't want to take responsibility for the child he helped conceive, he is legally in the clear to physically assault his partner with the intent of ending her pregnancy. Why have NY lawmakers sanctioned this domestic violence against women?

Often in late-term abortions, babies are born alive. These children used to have legal protection. Now, how will they die? Will they be victims of vivisection so that their organs may be

harvested? Will they be dropped in to a bucket of water so that the abortionist and mother don't have to hear them cry? Will the abortionist put a hand over the baby's mouth and nose until the heart stops beating? Will they simply be neglected until they die? This is infanticide. If not babies – the most vulnerable among us – then who can expect protection from NY laws? It is anti-woman for mothers to be under informed about these possibilities.

Don't be misled. The Reproductive Health Act is not meant to benefit women, but rather to PROTECT LEGAL ABORTION by making it even more accessible!

Sincerely,  
Lisa Contini

## In brief

## Volunteers needed for Guggenheim cleaning day

Are you interested in helping prepare Guggenheim for the summer?

Adults can join us on May 17 after noon and May 18 until 4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to wash floors, windows, furniture, bathrooms, kitchens and just about anything you can imagine.

## 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:

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

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto: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

For planning, contact Deacon Jim Crowley at 315-393-2920 or [jcrowley@rcdony.org](mailto:jcrowley@rcdony.org).

## Golf tournament, grand prize raffle to be held

The fourth annual Frank Caprara Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Ives Hill Country Club in Watertown on Wednesday, June 19.

All proceeds will be used to help the Sacred Heart Foundation fulfill their mission of providing funds to seminarians studying to be priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Shotgun start is at 9 a.m. There will be dinner and awards following the tournament.

Cost is \$380 for captain and crew; \$95 for single players. Cost includes golf, cart, dinner, prizes, a chance at two hole-in-one contests, and a hot dog or hamburger at the turn.

Hole sponsorship for the event is \$100.

To register a team, visit [sacred-heartfoundation.com/golf](http://sacred-heartfoundation.com/golf) or contact Tom Bruno at 315-782-0436, Dan Villa at 315-649-2172 or Sabrina Rizzo in the Foundation office at 315-782-3344.

New this year, there will be a grand prize raffle. Winner will get to pick between four tickets for the Yankees vs. Red Sox game on July 27 at Fenway Park, along with an overnight hotel stay, or a 2019 Honda TRX 250TM Recon ATV.

Tickets are \$10 each. Winner does not need to be present to win.

For tickets or information, contact the Sacred Heart Foundation at 315-782-3344 or at [mail@sacredheart-foundation.com](mailto:mail@sacredheart-foundation.com).

## Trip to include two Yankee games in two days-

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 on July 12-13.

For \$320 per/person double occupancy, the trip includes Luxury Coach transportation, tickets to the two ball games, one nights hotel stay and breakfast on Saturday.

As an added bonus, the July 12 game is a Mariano Rivera Bobble Head giveaway and the July 13 game is Yankees Camo Hat day.

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



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## CLINTON

**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

**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/Maalc60EI00>.

**Contact:** Brenda Smith

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

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

Lyon Mountain - Knights of Columbus Council #7215 & Mission of Hope 2nd Annual Mother's Day Brunch to be held.

**Date:** May 12

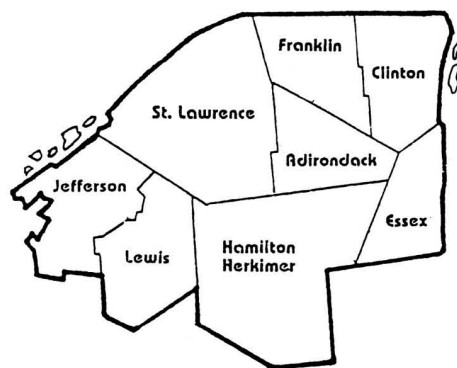
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** Lyon Mountain American Legion Post #1623

**Cost:** Adults, \$12; All mothers, \$6; Children 6-12, \$5; 5 and under, Free

**Features:** 50/50 raffle. Proceeds to benefit Mission of Hope & St. Bernard's Capital Campaign Fund

**Contact:** Take outs available 518-735-4372. For more information call



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](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

518-578-2638 or 518-593-2052

**BAZAAR & FESTIVAL OF CARS**

Mooers Forks – St. Annual Bazaar and Festival of Cars to be held.

**Date:** June 9

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

**Place:** St. Ann's Grounds

**Features:** Craft Show, Big Ticket Pull Tabs, Bake Sale, Theme Baskets, Free Entertainment. To enter the car show it is \$15 before or \$20 the day of the show. There will be top 40 picks and special awards.

## ESSEX

**CELEBRATING 60 YEARS**

Olmstedville – Please join St. Joseph's Parish to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Father Phillip Allen's Ordination to the Priesthood.

**Date:** May 19

**Time:** After the 11 a.m. Mass

**Place:** St. Joseph's Parish House

**Features:** Potluck luncheon, please bring a dish to pass.

## FRANKLIN

**HEARTS ON FIRE**

Malone – Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.

**Schedule:** 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks & Fellowship

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR**

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held.

**Date:** First Saturday of each month.

**Time:** immediately following the

4:30 anticipated Mass.

**Place:** St. Ann's Church

**Features:** Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions, and refreshments are provided in the Church Hall.

**Contact:** 518-856-9656

## JEFFERSON

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

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

**Date:** May 4

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

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

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

**WINE APPRECIATION**

Evans Mills – Wine education experience to be held.

**Date:** May 11

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

**Cost:** \$10

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

**Contact:** For tickets please call

Kareta at 315-629-4678.

**ROSARY CRUSADE**

Carthage - Please join in praying at the 17th Annual Family Rosary Crusade.

**Date:** May 17

**Time:** 5:30

**Place:** St. James Church

**Features:** Mass followed by seven hours of praying the Rosary in honor of OUR LADY's Seven Sorrows. Come for one or more hours. For those who stay to pray the Rosary at St. James for at least three hours (in honor of Our Lord's Passion), they will receive a print of this year's painting, "The Key - a tribute to Padre Pio." However, for those who can't join the Crusade physically, please join your prayers spiritually from wherever you are.

**Contact:** For more information you may wish to check out the parish website:

[catholicsofcarthagecopenhagen.org](http://catholicsofcarthagecopenhagen.org)  
OR event organizer/artist Bob Renaud's site: [bobrenaudart.com](http://bobrenaudart.com)

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Watertown – The 4th Annual Frank Caprara Memorial Golf Tournament to be held.

**Date:** June 19

**Time:** Registration start at 8 a.m.; Shotgun start at 9 a.m.

**Place:** Ives Hill Country Club

**Cost:** Captain and Crew -

\$380/Team; Singles - \$95/player. Includes Golf, cart, skins, mulligans, dinner buffet, prizes, a chance at two hole in one contests and a complimentary hot dog or hamburger at the turn.

**Features:** All proceeds from the golf tournament aid in supporting the Sacred Heart Foundation mission to raise funds to provide financial assistance for the education of those studying to become future priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

**Contact:** Applications forms available at [www.sacredheartfoundation.com/golf](http://www.sacredheartfoundation.com/golf). Or you can contact 315-782-3344

**GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE**

Watertown – The Sacred Heart Foundation to have a raffle in connection with their golf tournament.

**Date:** Drawing will be June 19

**Cost:** Tickets are \$10 each, only 1000 will be sold

**Features:** 2 Grand prizes. Prize 1: 4 tickets to the Yankees Vs. Red Sox with an overnight stay included. Prize 2: 2019 Honda TRX-250TM Recon

**Contact:** For any questions or to buy tickets please contact the Sacred Heart Foundation office by phone at (315)782-3344 or by email at [mail@sacredheartfoundation.com](mailto:mail@sacredheartfoundation.com).

**TI CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP**

Clayton – The Thousand Islands Catholic Men's Group is a group of Catholic men who meet on a regular basis to discuss their experiences as Catholic men in today's society.

**Date:** Second Saturday of every month

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church Parish Center

**Features:** Come join us, whether you've been to a meeting before or not.

**Contact:** For further information contact Scott Beeles at 315-686-1303 or Gene Kleinhans at 315-482-3981.

## LEWIS

**EUCARISTIC ADORATION**

Lowville – Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Date:** May 3

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

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** To pray for vocations and world peace, you are invited to join us in morning prayer, Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration.

**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



# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## LASAGNA DINNER

Harrisville — Lasagna Dinner to be held.

**Date:** May 10

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7; Take-outs available at 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Francis Solanus Church

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 12-5, \$6; under 5, Free

## LEWIS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville — Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Date:** May 16

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

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** To Thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to morning prayer, Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ITALIAN FEST

Gouverneur — Italian Fest to be held.

**Date:** May 10

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School

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

**Features:** Chefs, Joe & Carolyn Pistolesi. Take-outs available. Raffles, games & face painting, fried dough and Italian Dessert sale. Open house to check out St. James School.

## 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 srbethssj@gmail.com by May 15

## BLESSED IS SHE

Norwood — Blessed is She workshop to be held.

**Date:** May 19

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Andrew's Church Hall

**Features:** Join us for a "Joy in Jesus"

talk, then make your own scripture/prayer board. Snacks will be provided. Please bring a drink.

**Contact:** There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to Sara to reserve materials: call/text 315-212-7565, n-arow56@gmail.com

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY RECOGNITION DINNER

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

**Date:** May 22

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church

**Cost:** \$12 per person

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

## 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 Bobble 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 or call 315-714-2016.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### ALBANY LOBBY DAY

Albany — Join New York State Right to Life at the Annual Lobby Day.

**Date:** May 1

**Time:** 10 a.m. to Noon; followed by lobby appointments with your legislators.

**Place:** "The Well" Legislative Office Building

**Features:** Keynote speaker Carol Tobias, President, National Right to Life. This is your opportunity to address lawmakers and make a difference in our state and oppose more attempts to further spread the culture of death.

**Contact:** Pre-registration not required but requested: 518-434-1293 or email admin@nysrighttolife.org.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT

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

**Date:** May 4

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** \$20, includes lunch

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

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

## CLEANING CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake — Looking for volunteers to help clean and prepare Camp Guggenheim for the summer.

**Schedule:** Arrive at noon May 17 and leave May 18 at 4 p.m.

**Features:** We will be washing floors, windows, furniture, bathrooms, kitchens and just about anything you can imagine. The more bodies, the more we can do!

**Contact:** For planning, contact Deacon Jim Crowley at 315-393-2920 or jcrowley@rcdony.org.

## TEEN LIFE DAY

Saranac Lake — Teen Life Day to be held.

**Date:** May 18

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

**Place:** St. Bernard's Church

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

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

**Contact:** Online registration www.rcdony.org/prolife Questions?

The Respect Life Office 518-524-0774 (call or text) or Youth Ministry 315-393-2920 Ext. 1415

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

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

**Date:** May 31 — June 2

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

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

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

## FFM COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTER'S RETREAT

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

**Date:** June 7-9

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Cost:** \$10

**Features:** Theme will be "The Coming of the Holy Spirit"

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

## SUMMER DISCERNMENT WEEKEND FOR MEN

Saranac Lake — Summer Discernment weekend retreat weekend for men to be held.

**Date:** July 5 at 5 p.m. to July 7 at noon

**Place:** Guggenheim Main Lodge

**Features:** For a time of prayer, reflection, fellowship, & recreation. Participants should bring Sleeping bag (or bedding), towels, toiletries, casual clothes, swim trunks, & sweatshirt. Overnight retreatants must be age 18 and over.

**Contact:** Father Doug Lucia at dlucia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 or 315-388-4466

## DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Saranac Lake — In Conjunction with the discernment retreat there will be a Day of Recollection for High School Young Men age 14-17.

**Date:** July 6

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

**Place:** Guggenheim Main lodge

**Features:** Participants may want to bring swim trunks and towel. Parental Consent and Medical forms are required and will be provided when registering.

**Contact:** Father Doug Lucia at dlucia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 or 315-388-4466

## STEBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

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

**Date:** July 19 — 21

**Features:** The best Catholic 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 contact Dayna Leader Family Life Associate at 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.

## 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).



# Speakers address role of laity as church moves forward from abuse scandal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In introductory remarks during a conference examining the laity's role in helping the church move forward from the clergy abuse crisis, a speaker pointed out that what has happened impacts, and continues to affect, the whole church.

"We can't fix the church by our own efforts," but Catholics, like Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus carry the cross, "can carry some of the weight," said Stephen White, executive director of The Catholic Project, a group sponsored by The Catholic University of America in response to the church abuse crisis.

The group, which organized the April 25 conference at Catholic University, looks at root causes of abuse and ways for the church to move forward with conferences and consultation with theologians, sociologists, canonists, social workers and historians.

Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron started the day's discussion by stressing the importance of lay leaders working with bishops in response to the crisis.

"My leadership in this crisis would not be possible without cooperation of the laity," he said, stressing that "consultation is of indispensable value" and that bishops must determine responses that are authentic vehicles for moving on and finding healing.

In his own experience, he has listened to victim survivors and lay groups, which he said have animated his own response.

He also formed a group of clergy members, laity, archdiocesan leaders, communicators and experts in civil and canon law that has simply been dubbed: "the group."

"We know what we mean when we say the group needs to get together," he said, stressing that this body of people can identify where the local church stands and what actions need to be taken.

Other speakers at the conference included lay leaders and a victim-survivor advocate.

The day ended with criticism of recent comments made by the Pennsylvania attorney general about the abuse crisis.

George Weigel, a theologian, biographer of St. John Paul II and senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, found fault with a recent Washington Post column by Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

The attorney general had initiated a months-long investigation into how six of Pennsylvania's Catholic dioceses handled abuse claims over a 70-year period, beginning in 1947. Last August, a grand jury released its report on that investigation, which linked more than 300 priests and other church workers to abuse claims during the period investigated and said alleged victims numbered over 1,000.

Since the report was made public, many commentators have taken issue with some of its conclusions, including veteran journalist Peter

Steinfelds, who wrote an in-depth critique of the report in *Commonweal* in January.

The Pennsylvania grand jury said the dioceses acted "in virtual lockstep" to cover up abuse allegations and dismiss alleged victims over seven decades, a conclusion Steinfelds called "inaccurate," "unfair" and "misleading." "Nor are there comparisons to other institutions. One naturally wonders what a 70-to-80-year scrutiny of sex abuse in public schools or juvenile penal facilities would find," he added.

In his remarks at Catholic University, Weigel quoted Shapiro's April 25 op-ed in *The Washington Post*, which said: "Where is the sense of urgency and acceptance of responsibility to support the victims and survivors of sexual abuse at the hands of Catholic clergy?"

"Well, it's everywhere," Weigel said, adding: "It's there in the bishops who have spent hundreds of hours (with victims of abuse), it's there in the \$4 billion in settlements that the Catholic Church in the United States has provided — far too disproportionate amount of which has gone to predatory tort lawyers."

"This kind of distortion of the Catholic reality by self-seeking politicians in cooperation with the biased media has to be called for what it is," he said. "That is no reason for us not to take our mess seriously and fix it, but it is to say that we are dealing here with a societal plague."

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Sri Lankan mission hosts memorial service for victims of attacks

NEW YORK (CNS) — All Sri Lankans "are going through one of the saddest and most devastating periods of our history," Father Nalaka Silva told those gathered at an evening interfaith memorial service April 24 in New York for the victims and all people affected by the Easter terrorist attacks. "I myself am struggling with mixed feelings of anger, fear, pain, sadness and many other feelings I cannot express," said the priest, who is chaplain of Sri Lankan Catholics of New York and New Jersey. The priest said he has celebrated Masses in both Catholic churches bombed by terrorists April 21 and noted that he and other Sri Lankans who live outside their homeland "have that intimate connection with our people, therefore the wounds in our hearts hurt so much." Two Catholic churches — St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo and St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo — as well as an evangelical church in Batticaloa were targeted during Easter services. The Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand hotels in Colombo also were attacked. Officials reported April 26 that the death toll was approximately 253; the number was revised downward from the earlier number of more than 350 deaths. The injured numbered about 500.

### Chilean bishops fear law would force breaking confession seal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Chilean bishops said that while they support legislation requiring priests and religious authorities to report crimes, they also fear that an update to the country's current law would force clergy to break the sacramental seal of confession. The 155-member Chilean House of Representatives unanimously approved a measure April 23 that would add clergy and religious men and women to the list of police, members of the armed forces, teachers and civil servants who are obliged to report all crimes under article 175 of Chile's penal code. However, the House of Representatives also rejected a proposal that would exempt crimes reported during the sacrament of confession. The measure will now be debated in the Senate. Bishop Luis Fernando Ramos, secretary general of the Chilean bishops' conference, told Chilean news site *La Tercera* that while the church supports laws that will ensure justice to victims of abuse, rejection of the amendment presents a "serious difficulty" because confession "is a sacrament and, consequently, an act of worship that is protected by Chilean law, specifically the penal code."

### Church needs joyful disciples, pope tells young people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In back-to-back audiences with a group of French young people and an Italian association for deaf people, Pope Francis cited personal example and witness as a vital piece in the church's evangelization mission. Meeting with young people from the Diocese of Aire et Dax in southwestern France April 25, the pope encouraged them to remain united with Christ through the sacraments and the example of the saints so that they can spread the message that "God wants to give to the world through your lives. Yes, let yourselves be transformed and renewed by the Holy Spirit to bring Christ to every environment and give witness to the joy and youthfulness of the Gospel," he said. The pope told the young men and women their pilgrimage to Rome was an opportunity to reflect on the lives of the martyrs who remained faithful to Christ until the end. The martyrs' example, he added, is important now more than ever "because many people today think it is more difficult to call themselves Christians and live their faith in Christ."



# FACES OF FAITH



On April 7, the Plattsburgh SUNY Gospel Choir performed a gospel concert at historic St. Dismas church at Clinton Correctional.



The prayer wall created by Sara Spring and Deacon Paul White at St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro represented desert during Lent. For Easter, it was turned into living water and blooming flowers.



On April 7, St. Mary's of the Fort (Fort Covington) and St. Joseph's (Bombay) Religious Education students and teachers hosted a celebration of life, throwing a surprise baby shower for catechist Jennifer Reardon (pictured above with her husband, David, and daughter, Anna). In addition to celebrating with Reardon and her family, the students also learned about the beautiful gift that each person is, created and loved by God. Using handouts and models of pre-born babies provided by the Diocesan Respect Life Office, Catechist Kathleen Lauzon (pictured below) explained to the children how each life is truly a miracle. The shower ended with a blessing, with everyone gathering around the Reardon family, praying the Hail Mary and promising to continue to pray for Jen, her husband David, children Liam, Kyle and Anna, and the much awaited baby girl.



Nancy Belzile, coordinator of 40 Days for Life, strings a flower on a tree outside Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh during the 40 Days closing prayer ceremony. Each flower represents a baby lost to abortion.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Christ's teachings challenge the status quo

The weeks following Easter narrate events that are as exciting for us who read them now several thousand years later as they must have been to contemporary witnesses. Peter figures prominently in today's Scriptures. He has gone back to his original occupation of fishing. Six others, including John, have accompanied him. As they sit in the dark through the long night, nothing much is happening. Then, as the dawn breaks, they hear a voice across the waters



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

calling to them: "Children, have you caught anything to eat?" As they reply "No," the voice suggests to them that they try the right side. As the nets strain from the huge haul, John is the first to recognize the Lord's voice. As usual, impulsive Peter immediately jumps into the water and swims to shore. There he finds a charcoal fire with bread freshly prepared. As they gather in amazement and joy, they broil some fish and eat breakfast with

**May 5**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

READINGS

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-14

Jesus. The Master breaks the silence with a quiet question, "Peter do you love me more than these?" Eager to be reinstated in Jesus' good graces, Peter instantly affirms that he does. As Jesus asks him twice more, and Peter humbly reaffirms his love, the others hear Jesus thrice stated command to Peter, "Feed my lambs, feed my

sheep." Thus, has the Lord forgiven Peter his denials, but has also singled him out to head the infant church.

The primacy of authority that Jesus bestows on Peter at the seashore is amply demonstrated by Peter's amazing eloquence in preaching and his firm leadership of the early community following the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Our first reading today shows the outrage and swift reaction of the Jewish Sanhedrin to the spread of Christianity.

Strong and often vicious opposition to the gentle power of love has

been repeated over and over again through the ages, even to our own times. Whenever the real Truth of Jesus' teaching challenges our pleasure-seeking culture with all of its unjust exploitation of the weak and defenseless, prison doors close on those who pose a danger to the status quo.

Christ promised us that He is with His church, even to the end of time. May the earnest prayers of the faithful, and the guidance of Holy Spirit, give wisdom to Pope Francis, the successor to St. Peter, to respond in truth, justice, and humility.

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

# Nobody gets hurt?

A few years back, I gave a talk entitled "Thinking Through the Transgender Question" at a local parish. In the audience were several individuals supporting the transgender movement. During the question-and-answer session, one of them, a young woman, raised this difficulty: "If someone wants to transition, how does that hurt anybody else? If my friend wants to be transgender, how would that harm any of us?"

Behind this line of argument, first, is the widely held notion that each of us is an isolated unit and our private choices don't affect others. Yet the old adage that no man is an island rings perennially true. Grave harms to others, in fact, follow in the wake of the radical personal decision to "switch genders."

I recently spent some

time with a husband and wife who had a son struggling with depression and schizophrenia and who was convinced he was a woman. They shared with me how their son no longer spoke to any of his siblings or relatives, shutting everyone out of his life. He moved away to link up with the transgender community at his college for support, and his parents summed up his new way of thinking as the detonation of a bomb that had ravaged the whole family.

That kind of devastation has been thoroughly catalogued by those who have gone all the way through the process of transitioning, and years or decades later come to regret it.

Walt Heyer is one such individual who turned to hormones and surgeries to try to take on the appearance of a woman.

Many years later, he "de-transitioned," and started writing and speaking about his experiences. He has summarized the painful effects of his choices on those around him in several of his essays.

"Being transgender required destroying the identity of Walt as my female persona, Laura, would feel unshackled from Walt's past, with all of its hurt, shame, and abuse," he wrote.

"It's a marvelous distraction for a while, but it isn't a permanent solution when the underlying issues remain unaddressed. Gender change is at its heart a self-destructive act. Transgenders not only annihilate their birth identity, they destroy everyone and

everything in their wake: family, wife, children, brothers or sisters, and career."

Walt had been married for many years, but after transitioning, he and his wife divorced. Communication with his children ceased. He was fired from his well-paying job as an engineer, and became practically destitute. Virtually all the significant relationships in his life were damaged, some irretrievably.

In his essay, Walt follows the trail of breadcrumbs in his own life to its logical conclusion.

"It occurred to me after much self-reflection that asking a surgeon to modify my appearance through a series of cosmetic procedures was simply a socially accept-

able means of self-mutilation and self-destruction," he stated. "Taken to the extreme, self-destruction leads to suicide."

Follow-up studies of those who undergo sex-change operations have shown that they experienced highly elevated suicide rates, even many years post-surgery, revealing yet another of the grave harms associated with transitioning that brings untold heartache to family and friends, relatives and acquaintances.

Beyond wreaking havoc in the life of patients and those around them, other damaging societal consequences arise in the wake of transitioning.

In a recent article in Public Discourse, Dr. Monique Robles, a pediatric critical care specialist, stresses how schools and institutions of higher learning are now "enforc-

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**Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk  
Ph.D.**

AT THE MOVIES

# AVENGERS: ENDGAME

NEW YORK (CNS) – Aficionados of the Marvel Comics universe are likely to be thrilled by the sweeping epic "Avengers: Endgame" (Disney).

Even moviegoers less committed to that imaginary realm can hardly fail to be impressed as directors (and brothers) Anthony and Joe Russo's grand finale deftly weaves together whole franchises spanning 21 previous films.

With its action mayhem mostly stylized and its cast too busy fighting evil to spend any time in the bedroom, only some wayward language, an ambiguous domestic arrangement and passing mention of a gay relationship really mark this as material for grown-ups. So parents under siege from older adolescents agog to take in this three-hour extravaganza can give the go-ahead with little worry.

Primarily set five years after cosmic villain Thanos



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Chris Hemsworth stars in a scene from the movie "Avengers: Endgame."

(Josh Brolin) used a set of energy-endowed gems to wipe out half of all the living creatures in the universe, the film finds the members of the titular ensemble, like humanity at large, still mourning the loss of many friends and loved ones. Yet their defeat at Thanos' hands seems irreversible. Until, that is, Scott Lang aka Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) proposes a possible solution.

His travels, while miniaturized, in the quantum realm have revealed to Scott that that alternate dimension operates by its own chronological rules. Why not use it to travel back in time and prevent Thanos from assembling all the stones necessary to his scheme?

To achieve this, his fellow Avengers will need to win over tech whiz Tony Stark aka Iron Man (Robert

Downey Jr.), the only person who can safely engineer such a cutting-edge feat. But, after a recent brush with death, Tony is reluctant to endanger his happy home life – shared with true love Virginia "Pepper" Potts (Gwyneth Paltrow) and their little daughter – for the sake of such a risky mission.

Tony's cozy existence living in a rustic cabin on the edge of a rural lake and devotedly raising a child certainly suggests that he has finally wed Pepper, though this is never explicitly stated.

Vast, intricate and, by turns, exciting and poignant as well, "Avengers: Endgame" determines the fate, among many others, of Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner). It also showcases the value of teamwork, heroic self-sacrifice and reconciliation.

While Thanos' motive for

wiping out billions of human beings is not explored in this movie as it was in last year's "Avengers: Infinity War," his crazed version of retroactive eugenics is shown to have resulted not in the perfected world he imagined but in a deeply damaged and traumatized one full of mourners in need of therapy. To that extent, this adventure carries the same implicitly pro-life message as its predecessor.

The film contains much stylized violence with some gore, possible cohabitation, a few uses of profanity and of milder oaths, brief references to homosexuality as well as a half-dozen crude and several crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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## Nobody gets hurt?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

ing the use of preferred gender pronouns and opening bathrooms and sports teams to students of the opposite biological sex. Educators who refuse to comply are losing their jobs. Parents who do not agree with the trans-affirmative approach for their

gender dysphoric children are faced with legal consequences. In the sports arena, biological males identifying as transgender are competing in women's events with an unfair biological advantage. Biological females who claim to be male are allowed the unfair advantage of competing while taking testosterone, which is considered 'doping' in any other circumstance."

Coming to the conclusion that "no one gets hurt" whenever someone transitions is simply naive, contradicted by the facts on the ground and by the tor-

tuous lives of those pursuing this misguided "solution" to their gender confusion. They, along with their families and broader society, clearly deserve better.

Instead of propping up a fictitious and harmful understanding of human masculinity and femininity, we owe it to those struggling with gender dysphoria to address compassionately their underlying mental health concerns. Through evidence-based therapies, including appropriate psychiatric and interpersonal outreach and coun-

seling, we hope to bring healing, preserve family unity, and help sustain important, lifelong friendships.

That's what those struggling with their gender dysphoria deserve and all those who love them deserve.

*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)*

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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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# Missionary heart and hard work

Each year during the month of October, the Catholic World celebrates World Mission Sunday. A fairly decent portion of the World Mission Sunday collection each year goes directly to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, or CNEWA.

CNEWA is a papal agency established in 1926 and dedicated to giving pastoral and humanitarian support to Northeast Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and India. CNEWA operates specifically in areas of concentrated mass poverty, war, and displacement, providing human dignity and addressing basic needs for vulnerable populations. As a Catholic organization, CNEWA utilizes the network of Eastern Catholic Churches and devoted religious sisters in order to provide the most effective and holistic humanitarian support regardless of creed or religious affiliation. As sisters with CNEWA have stated, "We don't help people because they're Christian. We help because we are."

The President of the CNEWA is Reverend Msgr. John E. Kozar, a former National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Recently I heard from Msgr. Kozar in response to our Diocesan annual contribution to the CNEWA. Here is an excerpt from his letter that I thought I should share with you all, since the donation is a direct reflection of our Diocese's generosity.

"CNEWA serves as an arm of the Holy See to provide pastoral and humanitarian assistance to the poor in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, parts of Eastern Europe and India. All of our outreach is done in the partnership with Eastern Catholic Churches in these areas. Many of the faithful have been forced to flee their native lands. We are most grateful to you and to all your faithful for your generosity.

We are in receipt of your generous donation from the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. World Mission Sunday affords our faithful an opportunity to breathe with both lungs: to support both Latin and Eastern Mission needs around the world.

Please convey to the faithful the gratitude and appreciation of His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation of the Eastern Churches and also His Eminence Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of CNEWA.

The poor remember you in their prayers and ask that you remember their needs..."

I hope this simple message of gratitude from afar is driven home with this message. Your sacrifices matter. God Bless You All!

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

## OBITUARIES

**Black River** – Maxine K. (Sullivan) Bush, 93; Funeral Services April 26, 2019 at the Bruce Funeral Home; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

**Champlain** – Anita R. (LaBare) Snide, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Chateaugay** – Thomas Craig Morton, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Chateaugay** – Genevieve (Patterson) Tavernia, 79; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Dorothy Kathryn (La-gree) Woods, 96; Funeral Services April 27, 2019 at the Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

**Constable** – Douglas C. Barney, 76; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2019 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Scott A. Snide, 58; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2019 at St. Edmund's Church.

**Lowville** – Richard Goutermout, 71; Funeral Services April 25, 2019 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, New Boston.

**Massena** – Richard Barry; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2019 at St.

Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Mooers Forks** – Robert Surprenant, 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2019 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – William H. LePage, 91; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Gina M. Dean, 54; Funeral Services April 27, 2019 at LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home; burial in Pine-hill Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Donna L. (Manke) Gussmerotti, 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru** – Helen E. (Boswell) Jarvis, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Carolyn Bird, 72; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2019 at St. Peter's Church.

**Potsdam** – Thomas J. Dodds, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Edward L. Sweeney, 72; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

**Redford** – Jerome E. Miner, Sr., 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2019 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

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

**Saranac Lake** – Rick Fortune, 62; Funeral Services April 27, 2019 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

**Ticonderoga** – JoAnn M. "Nina" (Tobin) Rafferty, 77; Funeral Services May 6, 2019 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

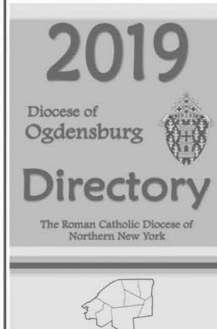
**Ticonderoga** – Dominick Joseph Viscardi Jr., 68; Funeral Services May 4, 2019 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Tupper Lake** – Patricia Mary Gravelle Keith, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 4, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in Highlands Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Gabriel John Caldwell, infant; Mass of Christian Burial April 29, 2019 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Muriel J. Harrienger Garcia, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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# Court upholds rule that House open with prayer

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In a unanimous ruling April 19, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the long-standing requirement of the House of Representatives that it open each day it is in session with a prayer.

The decision from Judges David Tatel, Douglas Ginsburg and Harry Edwards also confirmed that the U.S. House chaplain, Jesuit Father Patrick Conroy, can reject a secular invocation to open the sessions.

"Since 1789, the House of Representatives has begun each legislative day with a prayer," said the court's opinion, which was filed by Tatel.

Although a House-appointed chaplain has traditionally delivered the opening prayer, some time ago the House began allowing members to nominate other individuals to give a prayer as "guest chaplain."

As the opinion explained, this current case arose when a House

member asked Father Conroy to invite Daniel Barker, a former Christian minister who is now an atheist, to be guest chaplain and deliver a secular invocation. Barker is co-president of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes nonbelief and "works to keep state and church separate."

The priest denied the request and Barker sued in 2016, claiming that he was being "unconstitutionally excluded" from the guest chaplain program because he is an atheist. Barker cited the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment — which says Congress "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

A lower court dismissed Barker's claim and he appealed to the D.C. Circuit.

The House's Office of the Chaplain approves guest chaplains and coordinates their visits. A majority of guest chaplains over the years have been

Christian, but Muslim, Jewish and Hindu chaplains have been welcomed. "The House has never had an openly atheist or agnostic guest chaplain" the court ruling noted.

When Barker and the Freedom From Religion Foundation requested that he be allowed to be a guest chaplain, he was told of three requirements all guest chaplains must meet: They must be sponsored by a House member, they must be ordained, and they must not directly address House members and "instead address a 'higher power.'"

When he was turned down, Barker sued, alleging it was a violation of the Establishment Clause and labeling it discrimination "against those whose religious beliefs do not include a belief in a supernatural higher power (and) those who practice a religion that does not have ordinations."

"Even though we accept as true Barker's allegation that (Father) Conroy rejected him 'because he is an atheist' ... the House's requirement that prayers must be religious nonetheless precludes Barker from doing the very thing he asks us to order (Father) Conroy to allow him to do: deliver a secular prayer," the judges said in their decision.

The court cannot order the chaplain to allow Barker to deliver a secular invocation "because the House permissibly limits the opening prayer to religious prayer," they wrote.

## Survey: Catholics want church to invest in line with values

WASHINGTON (CNS)—More than 90% of Catholics said they believe that Catholic organizations should invest church funds in ways that are consistent with church teaching and values, according to results of a new survey.

In addition, about 31% of respondents to the survey conducted by Boston-based Catholic Investment Services said that news of clergy sexual abuse and the church's handling of such allegations has caused them to give less to their parish. Still, 7% of respondents said they have given more to their parish.

However, 41% of respondents said they either plan to donate less to their parish or are considering giving less in the future.

Peter Jeton, the firm's CEO, said the findings would help Catholic institutions understand the thinking of individual donors in planning future investments to fund church-based operations. The survey results were released April 24.

"My sense is that this (awareness of socially responsible investing) increasingly is a personal issue that people in the pews feel," Jeton told Catholic News Service.

"There is increasing talk of the notion of donating financial resources and to what kind of causes and there is an implied stewardship that needs to be played there," he explained. "If you are a parish or a diocese receiving this kind of funding, what kind of obligation is there to invest in a way that could be considered consistent with the church in a whole group of things."

Nearly nine in 10 respondents — 87% — also said they believed socially responsible investing can be done without sacrificing financial gains. Meanwhile, 13% of respondents disagreed with that standard.

Broken down by how much people donate, 58% percent of those who gave more than \$100 to their parish in 2018 said it was important that investments be based on Catholic values. Among those who gave less than \$100 to their parish last year, 40% expressed the same sentiment.

The survey involved 500 Catholic adults who answered a series of online questions March 19. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5%.

Catholic Investment Services was founded in 2013 to serve Catholic entities, including dioceses, colleges and universities, hospital systems and social service agencies. Jeton said the firm follows the socially responsible investment guidelines adopted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Those guidelines, in place since 2003, are divided into six broad categories: protecting human life, promoting human dignity, reducing arms production, pursuing economic justice, protecting the environment and encouraging corporate responsibility. Each category lists specific areas of concern, such as abortion, racial discrimination, labor standards and other social needs in which the church has had a voice.

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