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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 5

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 15, 2019

A different liturgical expression

LAKE PLACID – Residents of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will have an opportunity to participate in a Byzantine rite Divine Liturgy this Pentecost, as the pastor and youth group from Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church visit the North Country from Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated June 9 at 4 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, with Father Jason Charron celebrating.

Attending the Divine Liturgy meets the Sunday obligation for Latin rite (Roman) Catholics.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

SEALED IN THE SPIRIT



Bishop Terry LaValley recently confirmed 32 young people at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ticonderoga. The newly confirmed are, in alphabetical order, Chloe Baker, Jarret Banish, Montgomery Benedict, Tristan Carey, Bayleigh Clark, Garrett Dedrick, David Facticeau, Michael Facticeau, Alexis Gibbs, Travis Hunsdon, Julianne Holman, Stephen Johns, Shannon Jordon, Avery Kidder, Ryan Kidder, David LaPointe, Aurelia Leerkes, Lorelei Leerkes, Cory Lender, Anna McDonald, Kennedy McKeown, Jack Michalak, Kathryn Moran, Jennifer O'Neill, Joshua Peeters, Molly Price, Aidan Stacy, Aubrey Whitford, Ryan Woods, Thomas Woods, Laura Zelinski, Sophia Zelinski.

WOMENS RETREAT



Full of holy humor and wisdom, Edwina Gately spoke of her passion for God, and her journey, which includes missions to Africa and living in prayer in the woods for nine months, to women gathered for a one-day retreat at the Father Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk on May 5. Gately spoke to the women about hearing God's calls in their lives.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope draws lessons from Mother Teresa

SKOPJE, North Macedonia (CNS) – Pope Francis went to the tiny Balkan nation of North Macedonia to pay tribute to a tiny saint who accomplished big things: St. Teresa of Kolkata.

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Ganxhe Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in Skopje Aug. 26, 1910, so after paying the obligatory formal visit to North Macedonia's president, Pope Francis went May 7 to the memorial and museum built on the site of the church where she was baptized. The church

was later destroyed in an earthquake.

"Moved by the love of God," the pope told the president, Mother Teresa "made love of neighbor the supreme law of her life."

At the memorial, Pope Francis did not speak about the saintly founder of the Missionaries of Charity, but after praying silently before her relics, he praised God for the gift of her life and prayed for her intercession for North Macedonia.

Pope Francis also prayed that God would give Chris-

tians the grace "to become signs of love and hope in our own day when so many are poor, abandoned, marginalized and migrants."

Among the guests present at the memorial were dozens of Missionaries of Charity, about 100 of the people they serve in Skopje, and two of Mother Teresa's cousins, the Vatican said.

Celebrating Mass in the nearby Macedonia Square on a brisk spring morning, Pope Francis drew people's attention to human hungers – the hunger for bread, but

also the hunger for truth, for God and for love.

"How well Mother Teresa knew all this and desired to build her life on the twin pillars of Jesus incarnate in the Eucharist and Jesus incarnate in the poor," he said. "Love received and love given" marked her journey from Skopje to India and kept her going.

Too many people, he said, "have become accustomed to eating the stale bread of disinformation," and so they end up being prisoners of a worldview that

makes them either indifferent to others or downright hostile.

Christians must never be afraid to tell God that they are hungry "for an experience of fraternity in which indifference, disparagement and contempt will not fill our tables or take pride of place in our homes," he said. "We are hungry, Lord, for encounters where your word can raise hope, awaken tenderness and sensitize the heart by opening paths of transformation and conversion."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It was a beautiful day at the ballpark

I spent most of Friday afternoon not-so-secretly hoping the rain would continue and my son's baseball game would be rained out.

I love watching Jake play, but the weather was cool, damp and windy, and nothing makes me more miserable than being cold.

So, it was with great dismay that I read the text from Jake's coach indicating the field was good and the game was on.

Jake's team from Brushton-Moira was playing against a North Franklin team. They were playing in Fort Covington, the opposing team's home field.

We arrived at the park, and

Jake joined his team for pre-game warm-ups. My husband and I claimed seats in the bleachers.

It quickly became clear that most of the people seated around us were supporting the home team.

Darcy L.
Fargo

As the game began and the first member of Jake's team stepped up to the plate, the group behind us cheered on the player they came to see, a child who was playing left field, encouraging him to be attentive to the batter and ball.

Then, as the lead-off batter made contact and hit a grounder toward the short stop, a woman in the group

behind me cheered the little guy on.

"Great hit," she shouted.

While the short stop wasn't able to get to the ball and get it to first base on time to make the out, the woman behind me praised him, too.

"Way to keep it in front of you! Nice throw!"

For the entire game, she continued to cheer on every child from both teams. At one point, she explained her somewhat odd cheering practices.

"(A young family member) once told me, 'you're only supposed to cheer for our team,'" she told the people seated with her. "But they're so little! They all deserve to have people cheering for them!"

My husband and I were soon cheering for both teams.

Sports are, by their nature, adversarial. It's easy to view opponents as almost enemies, as those you hope to defeat. Yet here was this woman offering love to all these children, even those who were opponents.

This woman embodied Jesus' call to love one another and love our enemies, and her love set an example for others to follow.

Despite the cold, it was a beautiful day at the ballpark.

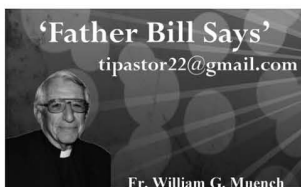
On a related note, happy belated Mother's Day to all the mothers, grandmothers and women who provide maternal support to others. Your selfless love is beautiful and inspiring.

Loving each other as Jesus loves us

During the Easter Season, a Sunday each year is dedicated to Jesus' new commandment, his commandment of love. John's Gospel describes at length Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. During that discourse, Jesus tells his apostles of his new commandment.

In John 13:34, Jesus says: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

This is a new commandment only in the sense that it sets a new standard – "as I have loved you." Our goal as disciples of Jesus is to love others as Jesus loved. The apostles were well aware of the depths of the love with which Jesus lived and loved. The apostles witnessed the way that Jesus demonstrated his love for everyone he met. Jesus came to bring himself



Fr. William G. Muench

and his love for us all – for the people of all time. Jesus loved us all as he suffered and died on the cross. Such love this world has never known. The followers of Jesus have taught this love for all time. We are all to imitate Jesus when we love as he did.

We are all called to love like Jesus. We know the Gospel stories of Jesus' love. Jesus loved others so deeply that he worked miracles, as a demonstration of his love, as he recognized other's needs. Jesus' love was so deep and so powerful that he often felt that he simply must do something. Can we love like Jesus? Is it possible? Jesus makes it clear for us that when we unite ourselves with him in a close and loving re-

lationship, we will find the power, the faith and hope to love others as he loved; we will become a loving people.

So, let us talk about love. Here are a few ideas that I found somewhere. Love makes us instruments of God's providence in the lives of others. Our love becomes the channel through which they will experience the love of God. Love always brings out the best in the one who loves. People are at their best and brightest when they love. Love is a choice not a feeling. But to refuse to love is to begin to die. The worst thing of all is a cold indifference.

As you might expect I have spoken of God's love and mercy often in my homilies. Recently, our Sunday Scripture tells us of Jesus reaching out to Peter, preparing Peter to be a leader of the Church. Jesus challenges Peter to be a loving person. Jesus asks Peter three times: "Do you love me, Peter?"

Peter had failed Jesus at the time of his arrest and crucifixion. Peter had boldly promised to stand by Jesus even to the death. But he failed. Three times he denied ever knowing Jesus. Jesus did not reject Peter. But Jesus made it clear to Peter that the only healing solution he asked of him was love.

Peter would find the wisdom and the strength of leadership only through a deep and honest love for his Lord and Savior. The same is true for us. We will become good disciples of Jesus – ready to follow Jesus living a good life and bringing his message to our world – through our recognition of God's great love for us and our readiness to be a loving person – to love as Jesus did.

So, we pray: Lord, touch our hearts so that we may be people who are able to love, and thus we will enjoy the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever.

Retreat speaker discusses hearing God's call

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing writer

NORFOLK – When diocesan Vocations Coordinator Cathy Russell heard Edwina Gateley speak at a conference in Chicago, Russell knew she had to get this spell-binding speaker with a heroic story to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

That goal turned into reality as dozens of women heard Gateley speak at a one-day retreat on May 5 at the Father Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk.

Full of holy humor and wisdom, Gateley spoke of her passion for God, and her journey, which includes missions to Africa and living in prayer in the woods for nine months.

Born in Lancaster, England, Gateley's relentless sense of mission started as a teenager when God's call led her to serve the poorest of the poor in Africa for three years. Upon returning to England and not wanting to sit on the sidelines, she founded the Volunteer Missionary Movement in 1969, an organization which dispatches lay Catholics around the world.

After a second mission in Africa's Sahara Desert, Gateley left her home country for the U.S., where she earned a degree in theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Gateley said after graduation, she was unsure what path to take next.

"I felt God tell me, you must do nothing," she said. "It was a real trauma for me. I had to spend time trying to listen, trying to understand. How can I do nothing? What am I supposed to do?"

In search of a renewed calling, Gateley used her



JESSICA HARGRAVE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Edwina Gateley addresses women gathered for a day-long women's retreat at the Father Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk on May 4.

lifetimes to purchase a mobile home, in which she would live and pray in for nine months in the woods in search of where God needed her next.

"As the months past nothing was happening," she said. "The biggest temptation was to say I've done my bit, but I held on to nothing, and I think that's what we have to do. I think we must learn what it means to hold on to nothing. And I think where we are now in our history and culture there's not much to hold on to, except God."

Suddenly, in the ninth month, Gateley felt God's presence. That led her to the streets of Chicago in 1983, where she spent over a year walking with the homeless and prostitutes.

"I realized my call was to tell these women who they really are," she said. "They're daughters of

God."

By the end of 1983, Gateley founded Genesis House, a refuge for women involved in prostitution, and those seeking recovery from drug abuse and violence.

"My dream from the very beginning was to create a home, a family, not a program," she said. "One of the biggest problems facing these women is they never felt connected and loved by family."

While most people would be reluctant to frequent the streets of Chicago at 2 a.m., Gateley said she never doubted the call she had to walk beside these women on the streets and in brothels spreading the Great Love.

Today, a resident of Erie, Pennsylvania, Gateley continues to give talks and retreats internationally. Her speaking events help fund her program for women seeking recovery

through a small foundation called "Sophia's Circle."

In all, Gateley has helped over 1,500 women leave prostitution.

Gateley advised the women gathered on recognizing when God is calling them. Gateley said she believes we frequently question ourselves and God's will, and she advised the retreat attendees to trust their hearts.

"If an idea comes to you and you're a woman of prayer and you're doing your best, then go, trust it," she said.

The Rev. Susan Kohlmeier, from Zion

Episcopal Church in Palmyra, traveled to Norfolk with three of her parishioners to hear Gateley speak.

Rev. Kohlmeier said she has been attending Gateley's retreats for over 20 years, traveling to areas spanning from Quebec to Virginia to hear her speak.

"She's just very life-giving," she said. "And her energy and her enthusiasm and her mystical relationship to God is just really amazing."

Norwood resident Denise Divincenzo said the event was an opportunity to refresh and renew and step away from the busyness of life.

"I think anytime we can gather more information that helps us become deeper in our faith, it's always good," she said.

The Volunteer Missionary Movement celebrates a milestone this year with its 50th anniversary. Gateley reflected on her struggle to receive church support in the 1960s to start the organization, which has since sent over 3,000 volunteers to the poorest parts of the world, "I know God can move mountains," Gateley says, "they aren't out there where all you need is a bulldozer, mountains are within us; mountains of doubt, disbelief, fear, those are the mountains that must be dissolved with a little bit of salt, yeast, and light to leave space for God's seed within us."

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A different liturgical expression

Byzantine Rite Divine Liturgy to be offered in Lake Placid on Pentecost

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

LAKE PLACID – Residents of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will have an opportunity to participate in a Byzantine rite Divine Liturgy this Pentecost, as the pastor and youth group from Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church visit the North Country from Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated June 9 at 4 p.m. at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, with Father Jason Charron celebrating. Father Charron, who studied at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg, brings his community's youth group to Camp Guggenheim every couple years.

"The kids love it there," he said. "We've been celebrating the Divine Liturgy at St. Agnes in Lake Placid when we take those trips. This year, we thought,

'this is something they don't have there. Let's open it up to the diocese.' Bishop Terry (R. LaValley) has been very gracious, and everything came together."

The Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrates in the Byzantine rite, one of seven rites listed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as "lawfully recognized rites to be of equal right and dignity." Attending the Divine Liturgy meets the Sunday obligation for Latin rite (Roman) Catholics.

"Through no fault of their own, people think the Latin expression is standard and other liturgical families are exceptions," Father Charron said. "The various liturgical forms aren't in competition. They're complimentary and draw from each other going back to the common source in Jerusalem."

Father Charron noted

ONE CHURCH, SEVERAL RITES

The Catholic Education Resource Center says, "according to the Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, the Catholic Church is understood to be 'a corporate body of Churches,' united with the bishop of Rome, who serves as the guardian of unity. The other Catholic Churches are not merely Catholics with papal permission to use different liturgies. They were also founded by the apostles and are particular, autonomous Churches of their own rightful existence. Any individual Catholic may freely attend and receive the sacraments in any of them."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists seven rites - Latin, Byzantine, Alexandrian (sometimes referred to as Coptic), Syriac, Armenian, Maronite, and Chaldean. Each has its own hierarchies, liturgies and traditions, as well as its own apostolic lineage, but all recognize the pope as the head of the visible church on earth and are faithful to Catholic teachings.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church celebrates a Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite.

that Saint John Paul II and Venerable Fulton Sheen both celebrated the Liturgy in both the Latin and Byzantine rites.

Father Charron said those accustomed to a Latin rite Mass will likely find the Byzantine Divine Liturgy to be a spiritual version of "sensory overload."

"The East employs all five senses to the highest degree possible in its worship," Father Charron said. "Through the use of the five senses, man reaches a point of surrender to the inner life of God and the life of grace. That happens through the Liturgy. The entirety

of the Liturgy is sung; no part is recited except the homily. Much of the Liturgy employs incense. There's visual stimulation with iconography. There's near-constant bowing, prostration and making the Sign of the Cross. It all aids in elevating the mind and heart to the contemplation of the heavenly kingdom."

Father Charron also noted that reception of the Eucharist is done through "intinction."

"It's one faith, one baptism, one Lord, one church," he said. "But the expression of that one faith takes on different forms. The Eastern Catholics and Orthodox adopted expressions of goodness and beauty as experienced in the Greek and Syriac cultures. One of the different expressions of that faith is the use of leavened bread and intinction. Intinction is the immersion of Eucharistic bread into the consecrated wine. When people approach for Communion, they tilt their heads back and open mouths. It's like a nestling bird whose mother is about to drop nourishment into the mouth."

With the Divine Liturgy being celebrated on Pentecost, Father Charron said Latin rite Catholics will likely notice at least one significant difference.

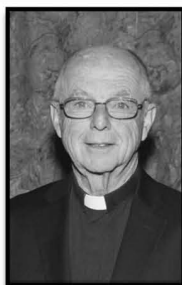
"Traditionally, we bring in trees from the forest and prop them up in the church," he said. "The whole interior would be filled with greenery, branches and boughs. I'm not sure if we'll be able to do that in this case, but our vestments are also green. It's a sign of divine life."

Because of the chanting and other liturgical differences, the Divine Liturgy lasts slightly longer than a typical Latin Mass, typically around an hour and ten minutes.

"You only get what you put into it," Father Charron said. "Coming to worship, it takes around 20 minutes to decompress from the world and get our minds oriented. The first 20 minutes is sort of an easing into worship. It's like a meal: when you come into a meal, you first have an appetizer, then the meal, then dessert. Same reality unfolds in divine worship. We have to disassociate ourselves from the world, the flesh and the devil."

Father Charron said he looks forward to worshipping with North Country residents. He indicated that worship aids would be available to help the unfamiliar participate in the Divine Liturgy.

"If it's possible, try to come without preconceived notions," he said. "Prepare with prayers before the Liturgy; that's part of our tradition. But come and sing your heart out in the glorification of the holy and life-giving Trinity."

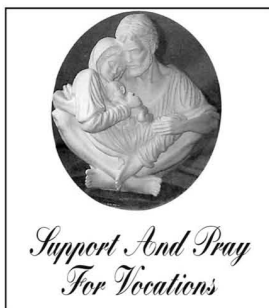
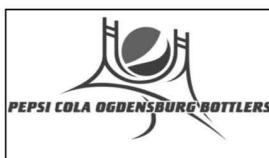


Fr. Philip Allen

Congratulations on the 60th Anniversary
of your Ordination to the Priesthood.

Sincerely,

*The grateful Parishioners you serve at
St. Joseph's, Olmstedville, NY*



Camp Guggenheim opens with week one art offering

SARANAC LAKE – It's almost camp season! Camp Guggenheim summer session begins June 30, and campers in that first week will notice a change from previous years.

"We're doing a pilot program in week one to see if there's interest in a camp experience that focuses on engaging in our faith through art and nature," said Tom Semeraro, director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. "Week one campers will be able to choose whether they want to participate in the traditional offerings – rotating through a variety of morning activities – or the art and nature offering."

Those participating in the art pilot will spend the morning activity portion of the camp day creating and discussing art as an expression of faith.

"There will be opportunities to paint with water colors and draw in nature, discussions about artistic expressions within the church, work on written word or poetry, and photography," Semeraro said. "All materials will be provided."

If the program is successful, Semeraro said it could become a regular offering at Camp Guggenheim.

Beyond the week one pilot, Semeraro said campers will see both new and returning staff members at this year's sessions. Staff biographies appear in today's edition of the *North Country Catholic* and will continue to appear in the next several editions.

Campers, and those driving them to their designated sessions, will also notice improvements made to the camp access road.

Registration is still open for the 2019 Camp Guggenheim season. To register, go to rcdony.org/youth-camp/camp-guggenheim.



Towne Meeting performs a previous benefit concert for Mission of Hope. The band will perform its tenth benefit concert for Mission of Hope on June 9.

Concert to aid Mission effort

PERU – The popular North Country band, Towne Meeting, will perform its 10th Anniversary Concert to benefit Mission of Hope's projects in Nicaragua.

The concert will be performed at St. Augustine's Church in Peru at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 9.

Admission is by donation.

During the past 10

years the band, with generous donations from the people of the North Country, has provided 432 families with safe cooking stoves through Mission of Hope.

Suggested resource: Catholic Daily Reflections

The following is an installment of "Resource of the Week," a blog composed by Marika Donders, director of the New Evangelization. The NCC prints installments as space allows. To see the blog, go to rcdony.org/evangelization/blog.html.

There are many websites, apps and booklets that offer daily reflections on the Mass readings for the day, but my go-to resource for daily reflections to help me pray the readings of the day is a webpage <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>. It offers simple reflections on the

daily gospel written by John Paul Thomas.

For each day, the author focusses in on one aspect of the Gospel, suggest an exercise of faith we may want to try - something to pray for or something to reflect on sometime during the day, and then offers a simple prayer to help us articulate our trust in Jesus.

For example, as I write this post on Wednesday, May 8, the Gospel reading in John 6:35-40, a continuation of the bread of life discourse. The reflection focuses in on the line "I will not reject anyone who

comes to me" (Jn 6:37). And the reflection is all about how, if we have experienced the pain of rejection in our life, we may fear entering into relationships out of fear of being hurt again. We may even fear entering into relationship with Jesus. But Jesus assures us that he is trustworthy, that we can come to him without fear and that he will not reject us if we open our hearts to him.

We are invited to reflect on the love of Jesus in our life and how he wants us to be in relationship with him. And the reflection ends with a simple prayer.

"Lord, I want to come to You in my sufferings and rejection. I know You are the Divine Healer and will bring comfort to my soul. Help me to trust You and to let You love me. Jesus, I trust in You."

Prayer need not be long-winded or complicated, and this website is a wonderful way to enter into the daily gospel and apply it to your life. (For the full reflection of this day see: <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2019/05/07/never-rejected-always-loved-2/>)

In addition to reflections' on the gospel, the site of-

fers daily reflections on the Divine Mercy, as well as seasonal resources and links to information about saints of the liturgical calendar

Most of the information is also available in book form for those who prefer paper or e-books, and there is an app for android or apple. Personally, I simply have the webpage bookmarked on my phone for easy access, which I personally find easier than the app.

If you are looking for a resource to help you pray with the Gospel of the day, this is a solid resource.

GUGGENHEIM 2019

MEET THE STAFF



Connor Cummings
Camp Director

Hello my name is Conner Cummings, I am 23 years old and I am from Alexandria Bay. This coming Summer will be my 11th year at Camp Guggenheim, my fourth year on staff and my first year as Camp Director.

Camp has always played a huge role in my life and I look forward to being able to give back to camp in such a direct way.

I look forward to seeing all of the campers again this Summer and helping them grow in their Catholic faith!



Joy Leader
Assistant Camp Director

Hello, Diocese of Ogdensburg! My name is Joy Leader, and I will be returning to Camp Guggenheim for my fourth summer on Staff – my first as Assistant Director!

I am originally from Gouverneur, but after graduating from Franciscan University of Steubenville in May 2018, I have moved to Chicago, Illinois. Though I love the city, I am overjoyed to be called home to the North Country for another summer at Guggenheim.

Please keep me and the rest of the Staff in your prayers as we prepare for another incredible year, and know that we are praying for all of you!



Clare Wooschlager

Hi, my name is Clare Wooschlager. I am from Croghan, where I am a member of St. Stephen's Parish.

This fall I will be a junior at Siena College, where I am studying in Biology.

This will be my ninth year at camp and my second year on staff at Camp Guggenheim.

I am so excited to spend another summer helping the campers grow in their faith and can't wait to be hiking, swimming, and praising again!



Michael Lennox

My name is Michael Lennox and I am entering my first year on staff at Camp Guggenheim.

I attended camp for three years while in school and am currently finishing my second year at Jefferson Community College in Watertown. I'm from Adams and am looking forward to the upcoming camp season. I cannot wait to be in an environment fully focused on prayer throughout the summer months, and I'm very excited to spend so much time in the beautiful Adirondacks.

My hobbies include hiking, ice skating, and gaming! I spend most of my time, however, studying and working. I'm so grateful to be on staff this year and am looking forward to the coming summer!



Marikate Parmeter

Hi, my name is Marikate Parmeter. My home parish is St. John's in Plattsburgh, New York.

I am just finishing my sophomore year at Russell Sage College, where I am a Health Science major.

I am so blessed to return for my eighth summer at Guggenheim and my second year on staff.

I can't wait to see all of you campers for another amazing year.

You are in my prayers as we get ready to hike, swim, and PRAISE!

Registration is still open for the 2019 Camp Guggenheim season!

Visit www.rcdony.org for information and registration. Weekly sessions begin June 30!

Technology, hospitality impact parish vitality

William J. Amoriell
Member of Living Stones
Planning Committee

In the last issue of the *North Country Catholic*, we discussed three elements that can impact parish vibrancy: (1) Evangelization: Children/Youth, Young Adults, Seniors, (2) Engaging Children and Youth in Meaningful Ways, and (3) Music.

In this issue, let's look at (1) technology and (2) hospitality and socials.

Technology

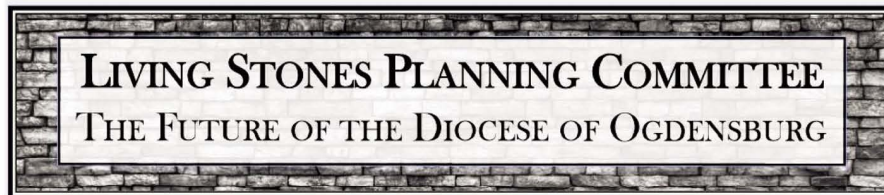
When we talk about the need to be open and hospitable, "the first portal of today's parish is its website," says author William E. Simon in his book, "Great Catholic Parishes."

A parish website should contain all the information about a parish a parishioner needs to know. In addition to the Mass schedule, the weekly bulletin should be available online.

I know some pastors have considered the feasibility of installing large screens that can be seen by everyone to use for projecting hymns and readings.

Even though there are hymnals available in most churches, if you look around during Mass, you'll see many parishioners not using them and not engaged with the hymns or responses. Screens are an investment that churches might consider. Some would say there is a direct positive correlation between the use of screens and the number of people who are fully engaged during Mass.

"Fr. Steven told us they began projecting prayers and hymn lyrics up on large screens at one of the churches in this community three years ago. It



quite literally has changed our celebration of the Sunday Eucharist," Simon wrote. "When one parish renovated, they installed large screens. Now, they broadcast the words across the screens and the parishioners sing out. Some parishes have done away with the songbook entirely in favor of screens."

As mentioned earlier, Molly and I attended Mass at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida recently. They installed two large screens and projected the hymns and responses on the screen throughout Mass. It was remarkable the difference the screens made in terms of the participation of those in attendance.

Hospitality and Socials

Our last topic in developing vibrant parishes involves hospitality and socials. Churches must provide welcoming environments for parishioners and guests attending a church service. It is important for people to feel comfortable in their place of worship.

I would like to share another experience we had attending St. Michael's in Fernandina Beach, Florida:

The greeters there, as in our parishes, offered an initial welcome, but it didn't stop there. Before Mass began, the pastor asked for the visitors to raise their hands and for the parishioners located next to the visitors to introduce themselves and to offer a warm welcome to their

church. The pastor went on about how much he appreciated our attendance and that we were always welcome at St. Michael's. Unfortunately, many of our churches don't get many visitors/guests, so this might not be practical in all cases. Nevertheless, there needs to be a genuine spirit of welcoming to everyone who comes into the church.

Since I am sharing experiences we had in other churches, let me add one more vignette:

This was a Catholic church in Virginia that we attended for Christmas Mass while visiting our son and his family. The church was filled. One of the lay ministers in the choir took the microphone and, in a very unpleasant tone, told everyone to find a seat and keep quiet, as the choir was about to sing. It was obvious that the person speaking was directing her comments to those who probably attend only at Christmas and Easter.

Nevertheless, the tone, besides being inappropriate, was a perfect example of how to be unwelcoming. It sometimes comes down to the little things we say and how we say them that can make a difference – one way or the other.

When Bishop LaValley hosted a number of Listening Sessions as part of his Envisioning Process a few years ago, he sought advice from parishioners as to areas that the dio-

cese should focus on. Parishioners were encouraged to attend the listening sessions and provide the Bishop with their thoughts on the strengths of the church and areas that need addressing.

As was mentioned in the first article in this series, the three diocesan priorities evolved out of this process.

The point that I want to make here is there were many comments that related to the need for our churches to become more welcoming. Hospitality is important, and it makes people feel good about being a member of the community. This feeling or spirit should not be underestimated.

Vibrant parishes not only provide welcoming environments, they also consider the scheduling of social activities as an important part of building vibrant parishes. It is also seen as an important way to get Catholics who have fallen away or people considering Catholicism to get engaged in an informal way with the church.

All of our parishes include active parishioners and disengaged parishioners. Unfortunately, the disengaged can actually be a larger number than the active parishioners. We need some way to draw disengaged and fallen-away Catholics back into the church community.

Social activities sponsored by a parish, with no expectation that anyone attending needs to be an

active participant of the church, can help the disengaged and fallen-away Catholics to begin during the social activities to make connections with our more engaged parishioners.

"Several pastors talked about developing social occasions that had no overt 'join our church' hook," Simon wrote. "Such secular activities forge initial contact with new people. Friendship and familiarity can pave the way for a future invitation to worship. One of the challenges is to offer high-quality events that intersect with the personal interests of a large enough number of unchurched people to justify the effort and the related costs."

That's where the social dimension comes in. Vibrant parishes need to consider Social Committees that have responsibility for offering throughout the year various social activities open to all people in their area: potluck dinners, movie nights (targeted at youth and adults), discussions, game nights (targeted at youth and adults), sports contests, etc.

These kinds of activities can be an important way of getting the disengaged parishioners interested in becoming more actively involved and re-engaged in the church community.

We have some parishes in the diocese that already do this. Perhaps, we need to look more closely at this and discuss how to infuse social activities into the overall pastoral planning of the parish community.

"When parishioners start filing out of the church, vibrant parishes provide more for them than just a friendly goodbye wave,"

Environmental Stewardship

One step at a time

By **Susanne & Richard Arens**
Lake Clear Faith & Ecology Group

God has blessed us with the gifts and beauty of all creation. By our acceptance of His gifts, we also accept responsibility for their sustainability, wise use, and honest and fair distribution. Caring for all this would be an impossible task for only a few. Clearly all are needed; everyone's thought consideration and helping hands all have purpose.

In order to continue this ongoing care for creation leaders, spokesmen of good faith, organizers are required, and we are grateful for their abilities. However, we don't all fall into those categories. Still we believe that just as every human being is of value so is every good they do. That is why in this struggle to ensure the sustainability of our environment and a healthy interaction between all people with the entire planet, we are proponents of this: that everyone can do something to help and nothing done in this regard for good is too small to be of value.

Learning from the examples of others, we have been inspired by our faith, by Pope Francis, by the words and actions of many individuals including members of Faith and Ecology groups of our Diocese, to take action in our daily lives that contribute to "caring for our Common Home."

Here are two practical things we do: First, we respect the gift of all lives by staying current and knowledgeable in order to maintain one's own health while helping family and neighbors near or far do so using helping hands and contributions when needed. Second, we exchange information with our grandchildren, adult children as well as other families and friends about caring for the earth, its people and wise use of natural resources.

Next week we will share some other simple but life-giving acts that can make a positive difference in the condition of the garden that God has entrusted to our care.

Bishop's Public Schedule

May 15 – 9 a.m. – Baptismal and Confirmation Mass at Watertown Correctional Facility

7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor

May 16 – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Peter's Parish (at Sacred Heart Church) in Massena with St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls

May 17 – 8 a.m. – Students for Life Assembly at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown

4 p.m. – Celebration Mass for Msgr. Paul Whitmore's 90th Birthday and 65th priestly ordination at Holy Family Church in Watertown

May 18 – 4:30 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams

May 19 – 4 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid with St. Brendan's Church in Keene, St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake and St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Tupper Lake

May 20 – 23 – Presbyteral Assembly at the Crown Plaza in Lake Placid

Protecting God's Children

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

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

Upcoming sessions:

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

To Report Abuse

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

terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

Impact parish vibrancy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Simon wrote. "Some pastors encourage parishioners to stay behind by hosting a breakfast where people can get to know each other. Others prefer the classic coffee and donuts to accompany the long conversations that can take place outside the church after Mass. It takes planning and work to create reasons for people to stick around and connect after Mass..." Food for thought.

Concluding Statement:

The Living Stones Planning Committee hopes you have found something useful in this series of articles and that it might be a continuing stimulus for discussion, planning, and positive change.

We cannot continue to do business as usual. We have the talent, creativity, and opportunity to begin a process of dynamic and significant change that can, in time, lead to the development of vibrant

parishes--parishes in an even stronger position to meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.

We may also be daunted by the task that lies ahead. Look at the struggles the church's faithful have had to endure over the centuries in trying to evangelize and spread the faith. We are fortunate to have a Catholic Church that is steeped in tradition and culture. The church has had to grow and change over the centuries as society has developed and changed. This couldn't have been more evident than in the Second Vatican Council from 1962-65 that profoundly changed the structures and practices of the church.

This series of articles has presented many facts and figures. However, as we know, Jesus saw first and foremost with His heart and that is how we must respond to this crisis – with our hearts, and then with our time and talents for the survival of the Church, which we all love.

From the earliest beginning, its history is filled with stories of sacrifice. We are now called to sacrifice. Our church is faced with a critical problem, one perhaps made more so, because it is insidious, as the effects come upon us slowly.

Shaking our heads and yearning for the good old days will not bring solution. Working together, side by side, parish by parish, will.

Don't forget that in our parish communities, personal and spiritual growth is a shared responsibility.

As already mentioned, the parishes need to develop activities to be offered and parishioners need to come and participate in those activities to demonstrate their commitment to the community and their commitment to personal and spiritual growth on all levels.

Young families face the demands of balancing work and family and wonder how they could add one more thing to the "to-do list."

Perhaps older parishioners think, "It does not matter, I will not be around." However, there comes a time when the church calls us – all of us – and we must respond – for our children, our grandchildren, and those children whose names we do not even know.

Ensuring the survival of a vibrant church in the end may not "be for us, but let it be because of us."

Let us pray for the courage, strength, and perseverance to accomplish the task.

Let's sail and not "fall adrift or lie at anchor." Let's finish with Oliver Wendell Holmes's quote cited earlier in these articles:

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

Thank You and God Bless.

Rest in Peace

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

May 15 – Rev. William Rossiter, 1908; Msgr. James R. McClure, 1960; Deacon William G. Schmidt, 2016

May 16 – Rev. Moses Legault, 1908; Rev. John M. McIntyre, 1944

May 18 – Rev. John B. A. Legrand, 1891; Rev. Richard J. Cotter, 1928, Rev. Augustus J. Dumont, 1949

May 19 – Msgr. Arthur M. Leary, 1968; Deacon Vincent J. Frattali, 2003

May 20 – Rev. Robert Booth, 1939; Rev. Eugene Noury, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. P. Andrew L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1962

May 21 – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998



ADIRONDACK

AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET

Tupper Lake – The Annual K of C Auction and Flea Market sponsored by the K of C council #2177 to be held.

Date: May 19

Time: 9 a.m. Flea Market; Noon, Auction

Place: Holy Ghost Parish Center

Features: Lunch Available, Cash prizes awarded every hour starting at 1 p.m. 50/50 Raffle (Pair Adirondack Chairs and Gas and Charcoal Grill combination).

CLINTON

SPRING FABRIC FUNDRAISER

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is hosting another fabulous fabric fundraiser.

Date: May 18

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: 75% off. Light refreshments served. Located at 7270 Star Road, Route 190 in Ellenburg.

Contact: Call Carol Alexander at 518-236-6016 or Jeanette Sans Souci at 518-594-3253 for more information.

HEALING MASS

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Church will hold a Healing Mission.

Date: May 20, 21 and 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Features: Mission will be with Paul Rymniak. The Sacrament of Confession will be available during the Mission. Healing is NOT just for the Physically Impaired. Mental and Emotional Stresses and Strains can take a heavier toll on our lives, even more than the worst of diseases. So, if you or your family are in need of healing in these areas, come and experience the LORD, and what He can do for you. Come and meet JESUS by worshipping Him. Come and see what Our Lord has for you. Come and be healed. You need not be Catholic to come and benefit from this Healing Mission.

Contact: For more information, call 518-493-4521.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY
RIGHT TO LIFE MEETING

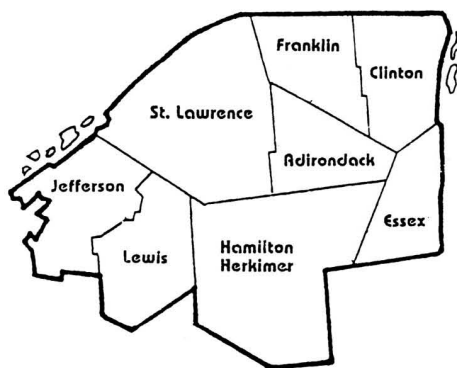
Plattsburgh – Champlain Valley Right to Life meeting to be held.

Date: June 2

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Newman Center

Features: Brief business, writing letters to Legislators & Editors, Movie "I Lived on Parker Avenue" Educational



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

materials and Snacks will be provided!

BAZAAR & FESTIVAL OF CARS

Moers Forks – St. Ann's 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.

TOWNE MEETING CONCERT

Peru – The popular North Country band, Towne Meeting, will perform its 10th Anniversary Concert to benefit Mission of Hope's projects in Nicaragua.

Date: June 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Features: During the past 10 years the band, with generous donations from the people of the North Country, has provided 432 families with safe cooking stoves.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru – The 33rd Annual Peru Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: June 14

Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club

Features: The 4-person scramble for charity is dedicated to its former chairman, the late Bill McBride Jr. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. All are welcome!

Contact: Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 518-643-5444, 518-593-2652 or email gnetlombard@charter.net.

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

GARAGE SALE

Malone – Saint Andre's to have garage sale.

Date: June 5 – 15 (Closed June 9)

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Notre Dame Church parking lot

Features: Saint Andre's Parish in Malone is holding their gigantic annual garage sale. Sale features furniture, household goods, tools, baby items, toys, books, bedding, and miscellaneous. New items arrive daily.

JEFFERSON

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. 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.

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – The Saint Joseph Cupertino Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will be having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations into the priesthood and to the religious life.

Date: May 25

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Features: All are welcome to come and share some moments with The Lord.

IHC MEMORIAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT

Watertown – The 6th Annual IHC Memorial Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: May 31

Time: Registration, 9 a.m.; Shot-Gun Start, 10 a.m.

Place: Ives Hill Country Club

Cost: Team entry fee, \$400 4 Person Captain & Crew

Features: First Place, \$800; Second Place, \$400; Third Place, \$200

Contact: Registration Deadline is May 11. Register at Ives Country Club, Pro-Shop 315-775-4653; Make checks payable to IHC Booster Club, 1316 Ives Street, Watertown, NY 13601; Questions, email ihcboosterclub@gmail.com

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: May 30

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

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

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

HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's to have their Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

Date: June 8

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: Father Arther LaBaff and Father Ray Diesbourg will be the celebrants and the Anointing of the Sick Sacrament will be offered during Mass. Following the Mass, prayer teams will offer individual prayers and there will be light refreshments and social time.

Contact: For more information contact the Parish Office, 315-686-3398.

OPEN HOUSE

Carthage – Augustinian Academy to have an open house.

Date: June 9

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Meet the teacher, tour the school, learn about curriculum. All Faiths welcome. Now serving PK (3 & 4) and K-8

Contact: 317 West Street, 315-493-1301, c-augustinian.org

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, mulligans, dinner, prizes, two hole in one contests and a hot dog or hamburger at the turn.

Features: All proceeds 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. 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

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.

Around the diocese

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ST. JAMES FAIR

Carthage — St. James to have its 45th annual fair.

Date: June 20, 21 & 22

Time: Thurs. and Fri., 6 p.m. to 10; Sat. 12 p.m. to 10

Place: State Street, Carthage

Features: Games of Chance, Ontario Amusement Rides (wristband day Sat from 12 p.m. to 4); Lots of food options and Entertainment.

LEWIS

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.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville — Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June to be held.

Date: June 2

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: 315-344-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE

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 srbthssj@gmail.com by May 15

BLESSED IS SHE

Norwood — Blessed is She workshop to be held.

Date: May 19

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall

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

Contact: There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to Sara to reserve materials: call/text 315-212-7565, narrow56@gmail.com

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

CLM ASSOCIATION SLFA SPRING EVENT

Norwood — CLM Association SLFA Spring event to be held.

Date: June 1

Time: Program 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Mass at 4 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Parish Hall

Features: Marika Donders, Director for the Office of Evangelization will be presenting an afternoon workshop "Discipleship: Three Scripture Stories in Mark". Free to attend. Snack will be provided.

Contact: early registration is appreciated at <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/dm-event-registration.html> or Contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 Ext. 1413 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org.

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

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 Communion of the Holy Spirit"

Contact: To register for this event, simply go to: <https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/retreat-registration-wadhams-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

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

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

Date: July 19 — 21

Features: The best Catholic speakers, powerful praise and worship, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Celebrate of the Holy Mass, small groups, Adoration and more! All with 2,500 other faithful teens!

Contact: For more information contact Dayna Leader Family Life Associate at dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 and visit Family Life Office at rcdony.org/family-life-marriage/marriage/steubenville-youth-conference/registration

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. Application deadline is June 1, 2019.

2019-21 FORMATION FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM

The 2019-21 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.

For a New or Used Car
**Mort
Backus &
Sons**
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Court's abortion ruling 'goes beyond Roe v. Wade,' say bishops

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) – The bishops who lead Virginia's two dioceses blasted a federal judge's decision allowing non-doctors to perform first-trimester abortions in the state, saying the ruling "goes beyond Roe v. Wade," the 1972 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion virtually on demand. The May 6 ruling by U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson "reveals the extreme measures that are being taken by pro-abortion groups to eliminate even common-sense restrictions on abortion," said a May 9 statement from Bishops Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington and Barry C. Knestout of Richmond. The Falls Church Medical Center, which performs abortions in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, brought the case to court, along with other clinics and supporters of legal abortion. Hudson, in his opinion, said: "A consensus appears to have evolved" on the issue of whether first-trimester abortions are safe and simple enough to be performed by someone other than a physician, thus making Virginia's current medical requirements "unduly burdensome" and therefore unconstitutional. Bishops Burbidge and Knestout, though, said the decision "further advanced the extreme agenda of the abortion industry and placed Virginia's women at ever greater risk of harm from surgical abortion."

Quebec bishops uneasy with pro-life leader's anti-Francis stance

MONTREAL (CNS) – Some Quebec bishops have expressed discomfort that the main Quebec organizer for the May 9 National March for Life in Ottawa signed a letter accusing Pope Francis of heresy. Bishop Noel Simard, president of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec, did not mince his words May 6 about the anti-pope letter signed by the president of Campagne Quebec-Vie, the province's main Catholic pro-life group. "I used to send a check to Campagne Quebec-Vie every year. But now it's over," said Bishop Simard, a bioethics specialist, who added he was only speaking on his behalf and not for his fellow bishops. "Attacking Pope Francis this way is going far too far," he said about the letter signed by 19 Catholics from different countries. Only one Canadian initially signed this letter: Georges Buscemi, who has been in charge of Campagne Quebec-Vie since 2009. Buscemi and the other signatories, including theologians and religious, asked bishops and cardinals to accuse Pope Francis of the "canonical offense of heresy" and to take the necessary measures against him.

Gathering in Times Square celebrates dignity of human life

NEW YORK (CNS) – Thousands of people gathered in Times Square May 4 to celebrate the dignity of human life with song, prayer, inspirational stories and a live ultrasound screening of a baby in the third trimester of development. Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family, said the "Alive from New York" rally organized by his group, a Colorado-based Christian evangelical organization, was the "largest pro-life event in New York history." Organizers said 10,000 participants registered for the experience. Daly and Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, were emcees for the event. Mancini said New York's Reproductive Health Act "is out of step with mainstream America. In the last 10 years, eight out of 10 Americans would limit abortion in some way." New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan welcomed the participants in a video message where he said New York is "seeing an unprecedented attack on the unborn. Through your efforts, many hearts have been converted. We're live from New York, and it's good to be alive!" the cardinal said to applause. The program included appearances by pro-life activists, celebrities and survivors of abortion.

Pope issues new norms on mandatory abuse reporting

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis has revised and clarified norms and procedures for holding bishops and religious superiors accountable in protecting minors as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse.

The new juridical instrument is meant to help bishops and religious leaders around the world clearly understand their duties and church law, underlining how they are ultimately responsible for proper governance and protecting those entrusted to their care. For this reason, the new document establishes a clearer set of universal procedures for reporting suspected abuse, carrying out initial investigations and protecting victims and whistleblowers.

The new document, given "motu proprio," on the pope's own initiative, was titled "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world"), based on a verse from the Gospel of St. Matthew (5:14).

"The crimes of sexual abuse offend Our Lord, cause physical, psychological and spiritual damage to the victims and harm the community of the faithful," the pope said in the document, released by the Vatican May 9. The norms go into effect June 1.

In order to stop all forms of abuse from ever happening again, not only is "a continuous and profound conversion of hearts" necessary, there must be "concrete and effective actions that involve everyone in the church," he wrote.

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, said the new norms ascribe a new role to heads of dioceses by making them responsible for alerting the proper Vatican authorities of all forms of suspected abuse, including the possession, distribution or creation of pornography involving a minor.

He told Vatican News May 9 that the norms respond to Pope Francis' continued insistence for concrete and effective measures to ensure bishops and religious superiors have a very clear understanding of what their obligations are and what they should and should not do when it comes to safeguarding.

It also requires all priests and religious to report suspected abuse or cover-ups and encourages any lay person to report through a now-mandated reporting "system" or office in each diocese.

How the office or "system" works will be up to each diocese, but "the idea is

that anyone who has suffered abuse can have recourse to the local church, while being assured they will be well received, protected from retaliation, and that their reports will be treated with the utmost seriousness," Andrea Torielli, editorial director of the Dicastery for Communication, told Vatican News.

The new norms now stipulate:

- Procedures for the investigation of bishops, cardinals, patriarchs, religious superiors and all those who lead – even temporarily – a diocese or particular church, including personal prelaties and personal ordinariates.

- Leaders will be held accountable not only with suspected cases of committing abuse themselves, but also accusations of having interfered with, covered up or failed to address abuse accusations they were aware of.

- When the accused individual is a bishop, the metropolitan will receive a mandate from the Holy See to investigate or delegate a person in charge of the preliminary investigation. A status report must be sent to the Holy See every 30 days, and the investigation completed with 90 days with some exceptions. Vatican offices are also held to specific timeframes and prompt action.

- By June 2020, every diocese in the world must create an office or "public, stable and easily accessible systems" for reporting suspected abuse against a minor or vulnerable person, failure of compliance of abuse guidelines by bishops or superiors, and cases of interference or cover-ups in either a civil or canonical investigation of suspected abuse.

- All priests and religious that become aware of abuse or its cover-up must alert their bishop or religious superior promptly.

- A minor is anyone under the age of 18 and a vulnerable person is "any person in a state of infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, or deprivation of personal liberty which, in fact, even occasionally, limits their ability to understand or to want to otherwise resist the offense."

- The definition of child pornography as any representation of a minor, regardless of the media used, "involved in explicit sexual activities, whether real or simulated, and any representation of sexual organs of minors for primarily sexual purposes."

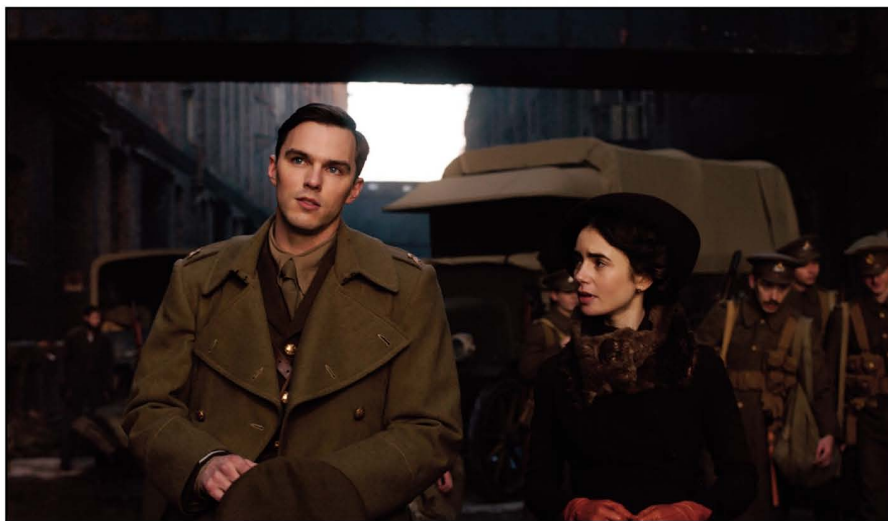
AT THE MOVIES

TOLKIEN

NEW YORK (CNS)—By turns lyrical and moving, “Tolkien” (Fox Searchlight) is a sophisticated profile of the future novelist’s youth that succeeds on a number of levels. This may not be the biography that every fan of Catholic author J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973) is looking for, and it may not even fully accomplish what its makers set out to achieve. But, if nothing else, it does tell the story of the young Tolkien and his times.

Director Dome Karukoski and screenwriters David Gleeson and Stephen Beresford trace Tolkien’s passage from orphaned and impoverished schoolboy (Harry Gilby) to Oxford University scholarship student and beleaguered officer in the trenches of World War I (Nicholas Hoult).

Beginning with Tolkien’s quest to locate a friend and fellow soldier during the 1916 Battle of the Somme, extended flash-



CNS PHOTO/FOX SEARCHLIGHT
Nicholas Hoult and Lily Collins star in a scene from the movie “Tolkien.”

backs take us to earlier periods both happy and sad. Most significantly, they show us how Tolkien bonded with a trio of precociously gifted peers – Geoffrey Smith (Anthony Boyle), Robert Gilson (Patrick Gibson) and Christopher Wiseman (Tom Glynn-Carney) – and fell for his future wife, Edith (Lily Collins).

After a shaky start at Oxford, Tolkien also eventually finds his initial vocation as a philologist after coming under the spell of magisterial professor of that subject, Joseph

Wright (Derek Jacobi).

As Tolkien wanders the scarred, mud-ridden landscape of the battlefield, vague visions of huge dragons and galloping warriors emerge from, then return behind, the smoke of war. This suggests that Karukoski and his collaborators are intent on showing how his service in the global conflict shaped Tolkien’s most famous works, his 1937 novel “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy published 1954-55.

If so, however, the connection between real life

and Middle-Earth remains elusive.

Certainly, the horrors of Tolkien’s experience may have inspired his portrayal of the forces of darkness and the travails to which his adventurers are subjected. And the deep friendship shared by the members of the club Tolkien and his pals formed may be reflected in the fictional fellowship referred to in one of his titles. But none of this is clearly or satisfactorily delineated in the film.

As for the strong faith that also contributed to

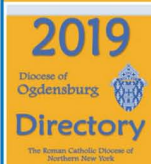
Tolkien’s outlook, its only representative is Father Francis (Colm Meaney), the caring but stern priest who served as his guardian after the death of both his parents. This may leave Catholic moviegoers feeling somewhat cheated, though it’s not clear how strong a hold religion had on Tolkien in these early stages of his life.

What the creators of “Tolkien” are most successful in capturing is the broad range of emotions to which their protagonist must have been subjected by his varied fortunes. Thus the buoyant camaraderie that led the imaginative, artistically inclined quartet to regard themselves as brothers gives way, in the poignant latter part of the movie, to the grim fate in which they were all caught up and the toll it exacted on them.

The film contains some harsh combat violence, a few gruesome images and a bit of slightly bawdy humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. 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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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Apostles grow in confidence about future

Each of the seven Sundays after Easter describe for us the reactions of the apostles to the news that Jesus was even more alive after Good Friday than He was before his death on the cross. They gradually began to understand how necessary it was for Him to die in order to accomplish His mission from the Father – freeing mankind from the ancient curse. On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, each of the readings show us how the apostles be-



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

came more and more confident about the future.

In the first reading, Paul and Barnabas have just completed their first missionary journey. In village after village, as only a few of the Jews accept their message, they turn to a more receptive gentile audience. Now they know this is God's plan – a truly "catholic" church in which God welcomes both Jews and non-Jews to the Good News of salvation.

In the second reading

May 19

Fifth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 14:21-27

Revelation 21: 1-5a

John 13:31-33a,34-35

from the "dream vision" of John, the Book of Revelation, God describes through mysterious, symbolic language, what the future will bring for the church. It will bring much suffering, rejection, and martyrdom, but it will also bring final victory and eternal joy to the vast multitude of those "washed in the Blood of the Lamb."

The old order has passed away. From the throne, God promises: "Behold, I make all things new." His Church, therefore, is to be dynamic and flexible with eyes always fixed on its purpose of bringing all to salvation.

In the Gospel, taken from Jesus' farewell discourse just hours before His betrayal by Judas, their Master and Lord solemnly reveals to them a new commandment. Love – "agape" – self-sacrificing love for one another, is to be the sign by which all will know they are His followers.

That love is to flow

through their faith and works into the structure and authority of His church. Love is to form the basis for all its ministry as well. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"

Our Pope Francis has made real efforts to bring the outward face of the church more in line with the humble, loving, and caring face of Jesus as it carries out the everyday work of its worldwide mission. May the example of Pope Francis give new life to the spirit of love, truth, and service in every local church.

A saint for our times

The following is an unsigned editorial titled: "A saint for our times," which appeared online May 8 on the website of The Catholic Register, the Toronto-based national Catholic Canadian newspaper. It is printed here with permission from Catholic News Service.

Jean Vanier, Canadian writer, philosopher and humanitarian who died May 7, was a champion for people with intellectual disabilities and touched countless lives through his constant message of love.

"The message of the Gospel," he once said, "is to become men and women of compassion. If you become a man or a woman of compassion, you will be like Jesus."

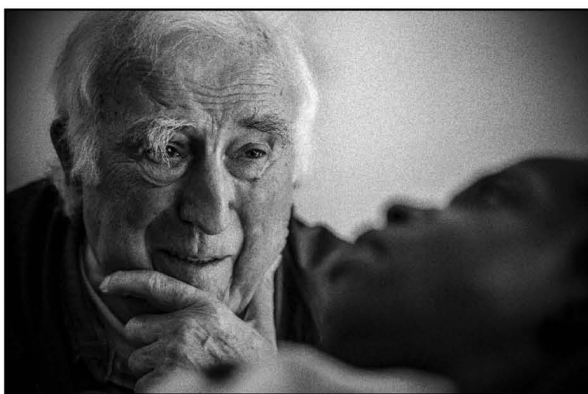
It was that quest to be a man of compassion that led Vanier to leave a comfortable university teaching post at Toronto's St. Michael's College more

than half a century ago and move to France. Living in a dilapidated house in a town north of Paris, he was introduced to two men with mental disabilities and was moved by the experience.

"I discovered a whole world of pain, of brokenness," he once recalled.

The natural reaction for many people would be to turn away from pain and brokenness. Vanier embraced it. He invited the two men to come live with him, not as wards or even roommates, but as brothers, as family.

At age 36, the accomplished Catholic university professor was a student again, learning about purpose and life and seeing the Gospel message in an entirely new light. These two men, shunned by a world that was unmoved by their disability and indifferent to their humanity, opened Vanier's eyes to what it means to be a true disci-



CNS PHOTO/ABRAMORAMA

Jean Vanier, founder of the International Federation of L'Arche Communities, appears in the documentary "Summer in the Forest."

ple of Christ, to not just preach love and compassion, but to actually live it.

"The wonderful thing is that when we live with people with disabilities, not only are they transformed, because they discover they're loved, but we also are transformed," Vanier once told an interviewer.

From that discovery, L'Arche was born. From a

single ramshackle home north of Paris, today there are 152 L'Arche communities in 37 countries around the world. These are not institutions for people with disabilities. They are living communities of people with and without disabilities in which, through mutual care, respect and compassion, all the residents – those providing support

and those being supported – are inspired to reach their full potential.

"That is the secret of L'Arche – that we transform each other in helping each other to become more human and more like Jesus," Vanier said.

It pained Vanier to recognize that, in a culture which tends to measure success by degrees of wealth, fame and power, the weak and vulnerable often were "put aside." Doing so is arrogant and prideful, a contradiction of our shared humanity and the Gospel. But Vanier's embrace of the disabled showed him mankind's path back to humility could be found through sincere relationships with those who have been humiliated.

Vanier leaves behind vibrant L'Arche communities, but his real legacy is the model of love and compassion upon which they were built.

FACES OF FAITH



Confirmation was celebrated April 17 at St. Regis Mission Church. Confirmed were Amanda Bay, Landon Cook, Jenna Herne, Jasmine Herne, Christian Massaro, Skyla Ransom, Prailey Ransom and Phillip Ransom. Bishop Terry R. LaValley administered the sacrament. Father Jerome Pastores was their confirmation teacher for 2018-2019. Catechists this year for St. Regis Mission Church were Dr. RJ Dolly McDonald, Vicky Phillips, Debbie Thomas and Connie Thompson.



on May 5, 22 children from St. Alexander and St. James made their first holy communion.



Severinus Torwoe, from Ghana, a candidate for the priesthood in our diocese, arrived and took up residence in Ticonderoga in early May. He was welcomed by Sister Sharon, Principal, and the students of St. Mary's School at the school's May Crowning.



Aurelia Leerkes, eighth grader at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga crowned the statue of Mary at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga where the school community recited the rosary together on May 3.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
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Gratitude for your 2019 Lenten appeal sacrifices

Give it up for Lent," they say. Yes, and give it to God by way of His most needy. Such charity and goodness literally go to the ends of the earth.

In this, the year of upcoming "Extraordinary Mission Month" coming up in October, may the Lord bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate the Easter season and our pending celebration of missionaries.

Through you, may He do the same for countless souls far away.

Life is filled with challenges.

At times, our own reality may seem like an endless journey of hardship.

We face perhaps the serious illness of someone we love, or maybe job loss or financial difficulties, or simply the trials of daily living.

What we need to recognize is that we are not alone. We live in a global village that is sharing the same dilemmas and challenges.

The following passage comes to mind:

"Neighbors in a Global Village"

"Not just the ones living next door, or down the block.

Not just those from my hometown or country...

No, my neighbors may or may not look
or talk or think like me.

My neighbors may be of another faith
or race or political persuasion.

My neighbors are whoever needs my help right now,
whether standing beside me or half a world away."

— A passage from "Who are My Neighbors,"
a meditation by Joseph Veneroso, M.M.

I am most grateful for your Lenten sacrifices.

These blessings to the Church serve the poor of the Missions. Our brothers and sisters in Christ in nations far away have a better life because of your gifts.

Remember that in the Missions, a seemingly small gift goes a very long way to help the Church serve the needy.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of
the Faith" in your Will.
www.rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls — Ronald Paul Plumadore, Jr., 57; Mass of Christian Burial May 9, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

Chazy — Carl Richard LaDue, 79; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Coopersville — Claire Genevieve (Caron) Fosher, 87; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church.

Dannemora — Scott "Pudge" Drollette, 58; Mass of Christian Burial May 9, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Fort Covington — Beverly J. (Sharrow) Capiello, 88; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gouverneur — Gloria Jean (Cole) Smith, 77; Funeral Services May 8, 2019 at the Green Funeral Home; burial in Hailesboro Cemetery.

Keeseville — Margaret F. "Robin" (Bowe) Harnish, 76; Mass of Christian

Burial May 11, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Lake Clear — Ruth Carley (Otis) Norton, 95; Mass of Christian Burial May 14, 2019 at St. John's in the Wilderness; burial in Harrietstown Cemetery.

Lowville — Frances M. (Farney) Britton, 92; Funeral Services May 10, 2019 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Connie L. (Stanton) Gagnon, 67; Mass of Christian Burial May 8, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg — Louis L. Testani, 91; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial Foxwood Mausoleum.

Ogdensburg — Barbara A. (Boyer) Otis, 95; Funeral Services May 10, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru — Albert F. LaDuke, 83; Funeral Services May 10, 2019 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Jeffrey J. Forkey, 41; Mass of Christian Burial May 10, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Elizabeth (Sullivan) Gregory, 98; Mass of Christian Burial May 10, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Dannemora.

Potsdam — Scott A. Golden, 52; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial Bayside Cemetery.

Potsdam — Edward J. Grudowski; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Redford — Donald E. "Duke" Dupraw, 72; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2019 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga — James R. McKee, 76; Mass of Christian Burial May 6, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Pope: Hope, mercy needed to combat indifference

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a world marked by violence, conflict as well as material and spiritual poverty, men and women need the Gospel message of hope, Pope Francis told members of the U.S.-based Papal Foundation.

Speaking to foundation members May 10, the pope thanked them for their contributions and work that "helps to bring the Gospel message of hope and mercy to all who benefit from your commitment and generosity."

"For this I thank you, and I pray that you will be renewed in your purpose to help build the church

in unity and advance her charitable outreach to the least of our brothers and sisters," he said.

Each spring, members of the foundation make a pilgrimage to Rome and present to the pope the projects they have funded for the year.

Established in 1988, the foundation has awarded millions of dollars in grants and scholarships since 1990.

The grants provide funds to build or repair churches, schools, convents and seminaries and to fund projects ranging from evangelization and communications training to helping a parish in

Africa install a solar energy plant.

Pope Francis said since its founding, the Papal Foundation has "contributed much to the fostering of a spirit of fraternity and peace."

"Through your support of various educational, charitable and apostolic projects, as well as the scholarships made available to lay men and women, those living the consecrated life and priests, you give witness to the untiring efforts of the church to promote the integral development of the human family," he said.

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT



St. Raphael Parish in Heuvelton held its First Communion on May 5. Receiving the sacrament were, from left, Brynn Eggleston, Jacob Green, Alexis Kelly and Austyn Wells.

COUPLE HONORED



Irving Papineau, a parishioner of St. Regis Mission Church, was recently awarded the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award. He and his wife, Rebecca, were also presented Marriage Certificate from Bishop Terry R. LaValley commemorating their 52 years of marriage.

Study on women deacons was inconclusive

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM NORTH MACEDONIA (CNS) – The commission Pope Francis appointed to study the history and identity of women deacons did not reach a unanimous conclusion about whether deaconesses in the early church were "ordained" or formally "blessed," the pope said.

"What is fundamental is that there was no cer-

tainty that there was an ordination with the same form and same aim as the ordination of men," the pope told reporters flying with him from North Macedonia to Rome May 7.

Pope Francis spent just under half an hour on the short flight answering questions, including about the study of women deacons he commis-

sioned in August 2013.

After the six men and six women scholars on the commission finished their work, he said, there was "some agreement," but not on the crucial question of whether women were ordained or solemnly blessed like abbesses are.

"Some say there are doubts," the pope said. "Well, then, let's study some more. I don't have a problem with that."

At a May 2016 meeting with the women's International Union of Superiors General, leaders of women's religious orders, one of them had asked the pope, "What prevents the church from including women among permanent deacons, as was the case in the primitive church? Why not constitute an official commission to study the matter?"

The pope had told the sisters that his understanding was that the

women described as deaconesses in the New Testament were not ordained like permanent deacons are. Mainly, he had said, it appeared that they assisted with the baptism by immersion of other women, with anointing women and with giving witness on behalf of women seeking a dissolution of their marriage because their husbands beat them.

However, the pope had promised to set up the commission, and two of the scholars said in January that they had completed their work. The pope did not tell reporters what steps, if any, would come next.

Although the flight was only 90 minutes and he took only four questions, Pope Francis wanted to share with reporters two moments he described as particularly "touching" during the May 5-7 trip to Bulgaria and North Mace-

donia.

The first, he said, was giving first Communion to 245 children in Rakovski, Bulgaria, May 6, which made him think back to his own first Communion.

And, he said, he was moved seeing Missionaries of Charity in Skopje, North Macedonia, where St. Teresa of Kolkata was born, and noticing the meekness and tenderness of the sisters with the poor.

"Today we are used to insulting each other, aren't we? One politician insults the other; a neighbor insults the other. Even in families people insult each other," he said. "I don't know if I can say there is a 'culture of insult,' but insults are a weapon always at hand."

Instead, he said, people should be inspired by the way the Missionaries of Charity treat each person as if he or she were Jesus.

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