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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 12

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 31, 2019

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The *North Country Catholic* will print every other week throughout the summer. The next edition will be Aug. 14.

NFP Awareness week

National Natural Family Planning (NFP) Awareness Week was July 21 to 27. The dates highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (July 25) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (July 26), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3-6

CAMP GAMES



Anthony Semeraro launches a volleyball back toward the net during afternoon activities in week three of Camp Guggenheim. Campers can choose from a variety of afternoon activities, including hiking, rappelling, volleyball, basketball, waterfront games and more. For the full story, see page 10.

CAMPAIGN BRINGS NEW LIFE



BRUSHTON – Using funds raised during the "It's Our Church, It's Our Future" capital campaign, St. Mary's Parish in Brushton renovated its parish center kitchen to enable the parish to conduct social events, bereavement ministry and vital parish fundraisers in the space.

The old kitchen did not meet Department of Health standards and could not be used for large events.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

'World of faith under siege,' says congressman

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The world is "filled with people in need," including the unborn, trafficking victims, those "suffering the agonies of addiction and abuse, people with disabilities and still others facing famine and disease, said U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey.

"In some areas, slow progress is being made," he said in an address during the State Depart-

ment's recent second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington. "New treatments are developed. Laws are passed, like the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which I authored to protect victims and aggressively prosecute those who profit from human trafficking."

But at the same time, "there has been little progress in ending religious persecution," Smith

said. "In fact, in some places like China, it's getting worse."

"The world of faith is under siege," he said. "We are at a tipping point -- threats are multiplying by the day making this ministerial, and comprehensive follow-up especially necessary and urgent."

Smith said people and governments around the world cannot stand silent while so

many groups right now are being persecuted for their religious beliefs.

He listed the situation of several, including: Rohingya Muslims being brutally "cleansed" from Myanmar; Nigerian Christians facing "horrifying violence"; Iraqi Christians and Yazidis facing genocide at the hands of the Islamic State; and over a million Uyghur and other Turkic Muslims being interned by the Chinese

government.

He also said the "anti-Semitism spreading like a cancer around the globe" cannot be allowed "to fester."

"The terrible, largely unacknowledged reality is this: We are witnessing in the early 21st century an international megacrisis in religious freedom," Smith said. "Religious persecution is festering and exploding around the world."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I'll aim for 'smother of the year'

I'm not likely to win any awards as "mother of the year," so I'll aim for "smother of the year."

Even under ordinary circumstances, I'm known for being a bit protective of my son. Dropping off my son for his first ever week of Camp Guggenheim – his first extended time away that wasn't with family – was not an ordinary circumstance. To say I was nervous would be the understatement of the century. I was terrified.

In addition to the typical concerns any parent has in such situations (will he be

homesick, will he get hurt, will he make friends...), my husband and I have to worry about how Jake, who is on the autism spectrum, will fare in a group of neurotypical kids. Will he be accepted? Will he get overwhelmed? Will he need help transitioning from one activity to the next?



Darcy L. Fargo

Enter smother of the year.

Filling out Jake's camp registration forms, I listed everything I could think of related to his autism. I described his "stims." I listed out all the foods he will eat (he has sensory issues around food). I must've asked

the youth ministry director if he was sure they could handle Jake at camp eleven billion times (sorry, Tom).

Then, on the day we arrived at Camp Guggenheim, I was instructed to talk to the camp nurse about any concerns we had. The nurse, Maura, made it clear that they had a plan to ensure Jake would have a good camp experience. A counselor was assigned to Jake for the first couple days of camp to ensure he was transitioning well. A Jake-friendly menu had been prepared. Jake had the option to step away from any activity if he needed a break.

In another smother of the year moment, I took advantage of my position to visit

camp with a camera around my neck and a notebook in hand. While I was there to collect information and photos for the annual camp article (see page 10), I was also there to check on my son.

Jake was having so much fun, he didn't want to take time to chat. He loved camp. He's already looking forward to next year.

And we loved camp. The world is not always autism friendly. Worship isn't always autism friendly (see page 9). We're thankful and blessed that camp was autism friendly.

Thank you to everyone who made camp great for Jake.

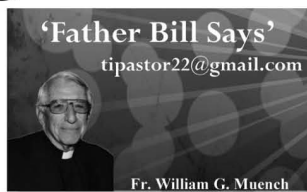
I promise I won't be smother of the year next year.

Jesus gave us the perfect prayer

Our Sunday liturgies continue to include the Gospel readings from St. Luke's Gospel. On one of the recent Sundays, the gospel describes the time when Jesus presented the Lord's Prayer to the apostles. Much has been written about this prayer – retreats have been preached entirely focused on the Our Father. Personally, I remember preaching many homilies on this perfect prayer.

Today, I would like to meditate again with you on the Lord's Prayer. I believe Jesus must have surprised many in his day when he began this prayer by saying "Our Father." You see those people thought about God as almighty, all powerful, a Creator, but not as a personal, loving Father. Jesus tells them and us that God is our Father.

Jesus wants to teach us, his disciples, then and now – in fact, people of all time – to establish a relationship with God as "Our Father." Our God wants to be close to us as a



father. Jesus wants to be certain that we never forget that our God loves us intensely and passionately as a father.

In this prayer, Jesus continues by praising God the Father: "you are in Heaven, your name is holy, your Kingdom will continue to grow here among us on this earth," and all of us are ready to follow God's will in our lives.

Then we appeal to Our Father, "Give us this day our daily bread." Our prayer is that God will take care of the hungry and the needy of our world.

Spiritually, we ask God to nourish us. Jesus does that through the Holy Eucharist. Holy Communion is our daily bread from the Lord. Jesus comes to us through this sacrament of the Holy

Eucharist. In this way, we find strength from the Lord, giving us his help and his love.

Then Jesus asks us to make a covenant with our God each and every time we say this prayer, as we express our gratitude to God for his forgiving love, this forgiveness of our sins. However, in this regard, Jesus asks us to boldly allow God to forgive us just as we now forgiven those who have hurt us. I say "boldly" because I believe this a very challenging deal that we are making with our God.

Then Jesus' prayer continues with this sentence that we continue to use, "Lead us not into temptation." Many today – including myself – are very uncomfortable with this request that we make of the Father. I do not believe that the Lord would ever "Lead me into temptation." However, I do need the Lord to give me courage and guidance so that I will be wise enough to recognize bad temptations and the courage

to avoid all temptations that would keep me from my loving relationship with God the Father and trusting in the Lord Jesus. I am certain there is a better way to express this need in our prayer, but I will leave that to those who are holier than I.

Then, our prayer appeals to God, "but deliver us from all evil." I need the power of the Lord's Spirit to not only protect me from evil, but to love me so much that my God will deliver me from any evil that I may fall into – those bad decisions that enter my life. Each time I say the Lord's Prayer I remember and proclaim my trust in the Lord, the God who will truly deliver me out of those evil ways that will interfere with my relationship with my God, those evils that will interfere with my health.

When I need a prayer, the Lord has given me the Lord's Prayer. When I want others to pray with me, I always have the Lord's Prayer. I know those nearby will be ready to join me.

FOLLOW ME

NFP: Cooperating with God's design

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

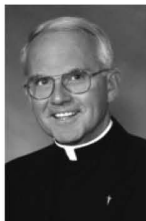
At one time or another, we've heard the persistent voice of a child very much wanting to know, "WHY? But WHY?!" Every parent is familiar with this questioning – and so is our Mother, the Church, as her sons and daughters struggle to understand Church teaching on sex, love, and marriage.

With her annual celebration of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week, the Church invites us to ask "WHY," to better understand the reasons behind her teaching. This year's theme: *LOVE NATURALLY! COOPERATING WITH GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIED LOVE*, reminds us that Natural Family Planning is, in fact, God's plan, as revealed in Scripture and understood through two millennia of the life and teaching of the Church.

The heart of this teaching: God made us. He loves us and wants us to be happy with Him forever. The beginning of this love story is told in the Book of Genesis. There we learn that God created human beings in His own image, that He created us male and female, blessed us, and commanded human beings to be fruitful and multiply. We learn further that a man shall leave his father and mother, and cling to his wife, so that the two may become one flesh. And God, looking at what He had made, found it very good.

What is God teaching us in this familiar story? First, out of all that He has made, human beings alone have been created

in *God's image* – the image of a God who is Himself a community of loving persons. Secondly, we are created male and female so that we might image and participate in the free, total, faithful, fruitful love of the Blessed Trinity. Thirdly, this participation is made possible, in a special way, through the mari-



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

ital union of man and woman, which makes them one flesh and at the same time opens them to becoming co-creators with God of new persons.

So, what is God asking of married couples? Is it even possible for them to respect both the life-giving and love-giving meanings which God has written into the conjugal act? Consider Pope Francis' emphasis on the wisdom of the Church in this regard: "The use of methods based on the laws of nature and the incidence of fertility are to be promoted, since these methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them, and favor the education of an authentic freedom." (*Amoris Laetitia*, 222)

In proposing Natural Family Planning, the Church invites couples to

live in harmony with their fertility, to accept it as a gift from God rather than attacking the gift as one would a disease or an invader. NFP is an invitation to see things from God's perspective. After all, no one knows more about love than God who is love itself, and no one knows more about sex than the God who created

it. NFP accepts fertility as the wise design of a loving creator and educates couples to recognize and interpret the regularly occurring signs of fertility and infertility. A couple then uses this shared knowledge to avoid (or achieve) pregnancy according to their family planning intention. But NFP offers much more than effective family planning. As St. John Paul II explains in *Familiaris Consortio*, "The choice of the natural rhythms involves accepting the cycle of the woman, and thereby accepting dialogue, reciprocal respect, shared responsibility, and self-control." Growing in these qualities can only deepen a couple's love and strengthen their marriage. (# 32)

So, yes, God's design for marriage is good, very

good, and cooperating with it brings blessings to couples, their families, and the Church. NFP is a way of life and love that values children as uniquely precious gifts of God and understands why the Church sees them as "the supreme gift of marriage." Faithful marriages and generously responsible parenthood will build up the People of God for years to come.

There is no time like the present to learn more about God's design for married love – especially now when it is being rejected and re-shaped by so many. Church documents, and other materials are available through our diocesan NFP Office at (518) 483-0459 or via

email at apietropaoli@rcdony.org. Feel free to contact the office with any questions or concerns you may have, and/or visit the website at www.rcdony.org/nfp. We are grateful to Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli who lead so faithfully our NFP efforts in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

May you discover all the blessings God intends for you!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

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— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...)

Amen.

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NFP saved my health – naturally!

By Brooke Paris Foley

When only seventeen, I experienced my period every other week. My greatly concerned mother took me to see her gynecologist who promptly prescribed the birth control pill. This, the doctor did, though she performed no tests to discover why the frequent menses.

Uninformed about the dangers of hormonal contraception, and desperate for a relief, I happily accepted the medication. About a year later, however, I learned about the negative effects of hormonal contraception. I decided it was not good for me.

Returning to the doctor, I asked for an alternative treatment. I was told that there was nothing that could be done for me.

Throughout my college years, I resigned myself to a fate of irregular and painful menstrual cycles. During this time, I had also suffered a number of ovarian cyst ruptures. Unfortunately, I did not dig into the causes of my reproductive health problems until later in marriage preparation when I first started tracking my menstrual cycles through Natural Family Planning (NFP).

I worried that my condition would make NFP difficult to practice. And, in fact after I married, the first few months were difficult. My charts were confusing. My husband and I spent hours studying the charts trying to figure out what was going on. I became convinced that something was happening. The clear data empowered me. Not only did I know that there was something wrong, but I knew I could prove it!

After a few months of tracking my cycle, I went to see an NFP trained gynecologist. The doctor reviewed my charts, treated them as medical records, and ordered a number of tests to check my hormone levels.

Many medical appointments, charts, and blood draws later, the causes were discovered. I was diagnosed with both Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) and Hashimoto's Thyroiditis (an autoimmune condition). Though my irregular cycles and

difficulty charting seemed like a confusing burden at first, they ended up being my saving grace.

It was only through NFP that I was able to recognize the physical signs telling me that something was wrong. If I had not charted, I would not have had the necessary medical data to have my PCOS or Hashimoto's diagnosed. These conditions would have remained unchecked and untreated – thereby doing further damage to my health and life.

While getting the right

diagnosis was just the beginning of a lifelong journey with these conditions, I am grateful for the role NFP played.

This journey led me to a compassionate and skilled Catholic NaturalProcreativeTechnology™ (NaPro) physician, who walked with me on a journey of infertility caused by my PCOS.

When first diagnosed with PCOS I was told by an endocrinologist that conception would be unlikely. If I had not found a NaPro physician who took my

NFP charts seriously, offering appropriate and individual treatment, I would not also be able to say that my husband and I conceived our first child – an amazing gift made possible by God's grace and NFP charting, naturally!

—
Brooke Paris Foley and her husband, Tim, live in Alexandria, Virginia. They are the proud and blessed parents of a baby due in September 2019, who they welcome as a gift from God. Brooke is a Bioethics teacher.

LOVE,
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*Cooperating with God's
design for married love*

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NFP: It's worth it! Join the revolution!

By Jill Cherrey

In marriage preparation programs, couples frequently ask: "What is the difference between contraception and Natural Family Planning (NFP)?" Although I am happy to explain, I often realize that words are inadequate. I try to encourage them to ask a better question: "How can a couple have 'authentic sexual intimacy' and responsibly plan their family?" The difference between the two questions is deep and wide. The answer has to do with joining a revolution—God's revolution!

God's love is revolutionary. It is freely given. It is permanent, total, faithful, and fruitful. And, God shares His love with us as gift. When man and woman marry, they make a vow at the altar to love each other as God loves. In their consent, the "I" becomes "we!" And, there is more. God's gift of sexual relations to husband and wife gives them a particular way to "seal" or "perfect" their vows in a physical reality where the "we" can become "us" in a child.

With NFP, spouses say, "I love you freely" because the time of sexual abstinence demonstrates that they can say "No" and do no harm to God's gift of fertility. This makes their times of "Yes," more meaningful. To put it another way, if we cannot say "no" to our sexual urges then we are not truly free and our "yes" really means nothing. When a couple jointly respects God's gift of fertility rather than seeking to manipulate it, they offer the total gift of their persons to each other. A faithful gift is one that is always in the best interest of the person, and NFP allows a couple to say, "You are amazing just the way you are" (remember, when using NFP, the couple does not seek to alter their fertility through chemicals, devices, or procedures). In addition, the discipline of periodic sexual abstinence helps couples to resist temptations that offend sexual fidelity and the virtue of chastity. NFP allows the couple to give God the final word on whether their sexual union will result in pregnancy. In turn-

ing over physical fruitfulness to God, the couple practices spiritual fruitfulness as they open their hearts to God who is love.

A revolution is not an easy endeavor. It can be exciting, but it inevitably will require personal sacrifice and even suffering. NFP is no different. Accepting God's invitation to live His plan for married love is both humbling and wondrous. It involves many blessings. And, yet, it will also have its difficulties. For example, when postponing a pregnancy, some couples may experience prolonged periods of sexual abstinence due to unclear fertility signs—and they will feel the loss of their physical intimacy. When facing the challenge of postpartum and breastfeeding or during perimenopause, other couples may wonder if their efforts are worth the trouble. And, sadly, some couples may be tempted to give up when receiving disapproval from friends or family. At times such as these, it will be important for NFP couples to know that they are not alone. They can seek help

from their NFP teachers and local diocesan leaders. The diocesan NFP community has access to resources, including spiritual directors and appropriate medical professionals, who can help couples who are in need of assistance.

Most importantly, when facing challenges, NFP couples should be encouraged to turn to God in prayer—as individuals and as a couple. In my own life, I have both worn down rosary beads and the path to the Adoration chapel during spiritual battles in my life—and God never failed to give me consolation and direction!

In my mind's eye stands an image of a heart with the caption, "Sacrifice is the Metric of Love." We know this truth in the deepest part of our being. Unfortunately, today we live in a culture that has tried to redesign love and in particular, sex. In doing

so, it has eliminated the language of love which is the language of self-sacrifice.

NFP supports the language of love. It stands against any notion that love is about self-satisfaction to the exclusion of self-donation. NFP allows couples to honor God by respecting His design. It both respects man and woman as created by God, and values God's gift of fertility. NFP therefore values the child as gift.

What is God's design for men and women but that which is love and life, babies and bonding, unitive and procreative, together! With NFP, a couple can trust the gift as it was made, and when they do so, they can truly renew their vows and invite love, God's love into their marriage. This is a revolution worth joining!

—
Jill Cherrey is the NFP coordinator for the Archdiocese of Newark.



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Installation of Bishop Lucia to be televised

The Holy Father has appointed Father Douglas J. Lucia as the Bishop-Elect of Syracuse.

The Mass of Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia as the eleventh Bishop of Syracuse will be held on Aug. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.

The Consecrator will be His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan and the Co-consecrators will be Bishop Robert Cunningham and Bishop Terry LaValley.

This event is by invitation only due to seating capacity. No one will be allowed entry into the Cathedral without an invitation.

Where to watch

- Live Stream on Syracuse Diocese YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/syrdio

- Live on Ch. 9.2, which is also Spectrum 1240, Verizon Fios 490 and New Visions channel 23 and live stream on www.LocalSYR.com.

- Telecast live on Spectrum News, in Central NY, Northern NY and the Southern Tier. Spectrum News is available to Spectrum cable customers throughout the region on both channels 1 and 200.

There may be additional places to watch as the date draws near. A current list can be found at: www.syrdio.org and click on Installation/Ordination Information.

Fearfully, wonderfully, made!

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Natural Family Planning Director

Recently, as I do each July, I sat down to write about NFP Awareness Week. As usual, I searched for inspiration and prayed for the right words to communicate the beauty of God's plan for life and love. And the answer came quickly! An email arrived, announcing the birth of Evelyn Rose Duso. That email, entitled "A Beautiful New Life!", just vibrated with joy, and ended by saying, "God has blessed us abundantly!"

As I gazed in awe at the photos of this beautiful 12-hours-old baby, the words of Psalm 139 echoed in my heart: "I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made; how wonderful are your works! How precious to me are your designs, O Lord; how vast the sum of them!"

Precious indeed are the designs of God for his creation – like Evelyn Rose, they are precious and perfect.

The theme for NFP Week 2019 encourages us to trust in God's plan: LOVE NATURALLY: COOPERATING WITH GOD'S DESIGN FOR MARRIED LOVE.

Without doubt, in a culture that is constantly re-designing sex and emphatically separating sex and babies, it is relatively rare for a couple to make the effort to discover what the Creator intended by the union of man and woman. His plan is clear, and it is simple: the gift of life and the gift of love are both written into the meaning of marriage and of sexual union. Why? So that we can love as God himself loves – without condition, without restriction, making a



Evelyn Rose Duso is shown just a few hours after her birth on July 11. She was welcomed by her elated parents, Andrew and Brittany, and by her very excited siblings, Parker, Julia, Bryce and Oliver. The family lives in Malone, where they are members of St. André Bessette Parish. "In every child who is born... we see the image of God's glory." – St. John Paul II, THE GOSPEL OF LIFE 84

complete gift of ourselves to one another.

This necessarily involves learning to live as good stewards of our fertility in the service of responsible parenthood. The Church recognizes the right of parents to prayerfully determine, with generous hearts, the size of their families – while respecting the God-given connection between the life-giving and love-giving meanings of their sexual union.

Modern scientific methods of Natural Family Planning support this aim by educating couples to understand, observe, and interpret the bodily signs of fertility. This knowledge enables them to

know reliably when they are fertile and when they are not; they then use that knowledge to avoid or achieve pregnancy. These methods are as effective as the Pill, but entirely without side effects. NFP allows us the freedom to love naturally, as God intended.

One of the great blessings of our work in Natural Family Planning is helping couples embrace and live out God's design for married love. Getting to know these couples and being allowed to share the goodness of God at work in their lives is a unique privilege.

This brings us back to newborn Evelyn Rose – or more specifically, her par-

ents Andrew and Brittany, whom we first met at Pre Cana and subsequently came to know in the course of our work. Watching their love, and their family, grow over the last decade is a constant reminder of how very good God is, and of the amazing grace that comes to those who cooperate with his plans for them.

But it is time to hear this directly from Evelyn's mom, Brittany. "We are all head over heels in love with our little Evelyn! She has had a few extended periods of sleep, which have been very welcome. Our days and nights are very busy...but God is in control. With five children under 10, I have learned a great deal about letting go and allowing God to work. He knows what's best for us!"

Referring to Kimberly Hahn's Life-Giving Love, Brittany continues: "This book was certainly eye-opening. It brought to light a bigger picture than the one I was focusing on. If we allowed our fears to stand in our way, Evelyn wouldn't be here. I couldn't imagine missing out on such a gift! I thank God daily for entrusting these children to our care. I only hope we are doing a good enough job. God's creation is just so beautiful!"

Amen. Amen.

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CHEVROLET

New kitchen, events thanks to capital campaign

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

BRUSHTON – Using funds raised during the “It’s Our Church, It’s Our Future” capital campaign, St. Mary’s Parish in Brushton renovated its parish center kitchen to enable the parish to conduct social events, bereavement ministry and vital parish fundraisers in the space.

“The kitchen we had was not up to Department of Health standards,” said Father Raymond J. Moreau, pastor of St. Mary’s in Brushton and St. Augustine’s in North Bangor. “In the past couple of years, we had to hold our larger events – our harvest dinners – at the fire station in Bangor. We’re thankful we had that space available to us.”

The parish center, located on the Gale Road, a mile from St. Mary’s Church, is used for religious education, parish council meetings, RCIA classes, organization meetings, fundraising breakfasts and dinners, as well as bereavement ministry, providing families a location to gather for a meal after a funeral.

The project began with an extensive asbestos abatement.

“The asbestos abatement took a couple months,” Father Moreau said, noting the renovation portion took a similar length of time.

The wait was worth it, according to Jane Boyea, coordinator of the parish event committee.

“The size of the kitchen was more than doubled,” said Boyea. “Before, there was very little workspace, and it was very congested during larger functions.”

The project also included the installation of a walk-in cooler, a com-



Capital Campaign update

Projects now renewing parishes

- \$14.1 million in gifts and pledges from current campaign (over 85% of goal), and \$15.2 million including a parish that completed its campaign early and projected totals for a parish whose campaign was delayed.
- 29 parishes are over their goal and another 26 are at 75% or better out of the 90+ Parishes from all 3 Blocks.
- 6,939 donors.
- Over \$6.4 million has been received thus far.
- 24 Parishes (withdrawing \$1.15 million) have started projects listed on their case statements.

mercial dishwasher and countertops.

Boyea noted that the parish was also able to secure a donation of stainless-steel counters and equipment.

“It came from a McDonald’s that was being renovated,” she said. “I have a nephew who was working with the engineering firm on the project. My nephew asked what they were doing with the equipment. When they told him they were disposing of it, he told them he knew of a church that would love to have it. They gave him everything they didn’t want.”

Since the new kitchen expanded into a space previously occupied by storage and restrooms, new restrooms had to be constructed, also in exist-

ing space.

“We now have restrooms that are accessible for individuals with disabilities,” Father Moreau said.

In addition, 90 percent of the building’s flooring was replaced.

“Our Mother’s Day breakfast was the first event we were able to hold in the renovated space,” said Boyea. “It’s a much nicer kitchen now.”

Father Moreau said the renovated space also makes the center more conducive to social functions.

“Our hope is to use it for more gatherings and social groups, which we haven’t done in the past,” he said. “The plan is to begin offering more social activities starting in the fall.”

Father Moreau said the



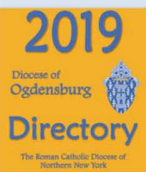
The kitchen at St. Mary’s Parish Center in Brushton was expanded and renovated using funds raised in the ‘It’s Our Church; It’s Our Future’ capital campaign. The previous kitchen did not meet Department of Health standards and could not be used for large events.

parish had previously not had the means to update the center.

“This wouldn’t have been possible without the capital campaign,” he said. “And without the fundraisers that take place in this

parish center, we wouldn’t be able to sustain this parish financially. This project, and the capital campaign, will help keep us going and hopefully help us offer more social functions.”

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Environmental Stewardship

More Green Apple Awards

This week, we are featuring the remaining participants of the Pope Francis Green Apple Award that appeared in the last edition. This Award sponsored by the Faith and Ecology Groups in the Diocese was an invitation to schools and youth in our Diocese to share what they had done during the year to help to care for our "Common Home."

SCHOOL: IHC

CLASS: Faith Service Club

TEACHER: Patricia Minter-Powell

PROJECT: Tree Planting

Club members helped plant new trees in Watertown Community-wide tree planting organization.

SCHOOL: Seton Catholic School

CLASS: Kindergarten

TEACHER: Natalie Wylie

PROJECT: Helping to make the Earth clean

Students pick up litter to make our common home cleaner and prevents it from getting into rivers and Lake Champlain and celebrate Earth Week making necklaces and singing, "Touch the Earth with Gentleness."

SCHOOL: Seton Catholic School

CLASS: Grade 3-5

TEACHER: Suzanne Beaumont

PROJECT: Faith in Action

Students planted trees to help hold the soil in place and for oxygen and moisture; recycled jeans that will help to make shoes for countries where people are infected with organisms from the soil; recycled sneakers to keep them out of landfills; used paper bags vs. plastic for the food drive; and stenciled drains and created educational brochures to let people know that the water goes into Lake Champlain and did educational brochures.

SCHOOL: Seton Catholic School

CLASS: Seventh Grade

TEACHER: Dulcie Semeraro

PROJECT: Planting Seeds

Students planted seeds and observed their growth for Earth Day 2019.

Bishop's Public Schedule

Aug. 1 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 2 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Aug. 4 – 11 a.m. – Mass and Celebration of the 60th Jubilee of Sister Stephanie Frenette, OP's at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

Aug. 5 – 5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Leadership Reception at St. Patrick's Parish Center in Port Henry

Aug. 6 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop's Residence

5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Leadership Reception at McKenzie's Grille in Saranac Lake

Aug. 7 – 7 p.m. – Ordination Eve Vespers for Bishop-Elect Douglas J. Lucia at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse

Aug. 8 – 2 p.m. – Mass of Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia as the Eleventh Bishop of Syracuse at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.

Aug. 9 – 4 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery Priests Listening Sessions at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

5 p.m. – St. Lawrence Deanery picnic at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena

Aug. 10 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Aug. 11 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant

10 a.m. – Mass at St. Ann's Church in Wells

Aug. 12 – 5 p.m. – Bishop's Fund Appeal Leadership Reception at St. Mary's Parish Center in Indian Lake

Aug. 13 – 10:30 a.m. – Mass and annual pilgrimage with the Catholic Daughters of America to St. Anne's Shrine at Isle La Motte in Vermont

Aug. 14 – 11 a.m. – Gathering of the Diocesan Prison Chaplains at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

Mass of Christian Burial celebrated for Sr. Anne Walsh

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Anne Walsh, 86, a beloved member of the Ursuline Community, at the Province Center Chapel in Hastings, NY on July 23.

Sister Anne died peacefully July 19, 2019 at An-

drus-on-Hudson in Hastings.

Sister Anne was born to Margaret O'Hanley and John J. Walsh in Newport, Rhode Island, on May 2, 1933. She was the youngest of 10 children and was predeceased by all.

She entered the Ursulines in 1955 and was professed in 1958. Sister Anne graduated from the College of New Rochelle in 1955 with a BA in Psychology, and in 1968 she was awarded a MA in Education from Villanova University.

Sister Anne's ministry included elementary school teacher in Wilmington, Delaware and Malone, New York, as well as Blessed Sacrament School in New Rochelle. She also served as principal of

Notre Dame School, Malone, and as pastoral associate in Chateaugay.

In community, Sister Anne ministered as Superior in Wilmington and assistant Superior at the Marian Residence. She lovingly devoted herself to the needs of the sisters at the Marian Residence, Andrus and St. Teresa's Community.

Well known for her extraordinary warmth and kindness, Sister Anne will be deeply missed by those who survive her: her Ursuline Sisters, her brother-in-law, Bill Durgin, and her many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804

Rest in Peace

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

July 31 – Rev. Napoleon Brisson, 1950; Rev. Michael O'Reilly, 1980

Aug. 1 – Rev. J. Everett Densha, 2013

Aug. 2 – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

Aug. 4 – Rev. Alexandre Soulerin, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

Aug. 5 – Rev. M. Calixte Mourier, O.M.I., 1912; Rev. Gerald A. Sharland, 1973

Aug. 7 – Msgr. Edmund H. Dumas, 2000; Rev. Lawrence E. Cotter, 2016

Aug. 8 – Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

Aug. 9 – Rev. Edward B. May, O.S.A., 1953; Rev. James N. Flattery, 1997

Aug. 10 – Rev. Walter J. LaRocque, 1936; Rev. Joseph Bolduc, O.M.I., 1956; Rev. Cornelius Vullings, M.S.C., 1971; Msgr. Anthony A. Milia, 2010; Deacon Bruce C. Wadsworth, 2013

Aug. 11 – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; Rev. John M. Kennedy, 1979

Aug. 12 – Rev. Pierre Gagnon, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. John M. Varriely, 1913

Aug. 13 – Msgr. Bernard F. Kellogg, 1993

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

I would like to express my gratitude to Alan Kline, Master of the 3rd NY district, as well as my brother Knights for their courageous support of our time-honored regalia. I feel as a fellow proud Knight of Columbus that my thoughts on this tumultuous subject should be expressed.

The notion that younger men will be enticed to join the fourth degree

because of a beret and jacket is ludicrous by any stretch of the imagination.

I completely understand that every organization needs rules and regulations for its survival. I also believed that this was a democratic organization whose purpose was to serve the holy family and by extension our church priests and all clergy.

After reading the memorandum issued by supreme and the attached new uniform regalia violation policy form, I was deeply saddened. Such flagrant, casual disregard for your existing fourth-degree color corps members.

Our choices from supreme seem to be obey our rules or don't participate. What a sad self-centered commentary for such a prestigious organization. REMEMBER, that compromise creates harmony, dictators create animosity.

Sincerely,
**Brother Knight Frank Zammiello
 Council #3057 Old Forge, NY**

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

DOVS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Welcoming individuals on the autism spectrum

By Cathy Russell

Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

NORFOLK – “Understanding Autism: Creating Welcoming Faith Communities” was the theme of the presentation given at a luncheon hosted by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) on July 17.

As part of its mission to promote “creating a culture of vocation, the DOVS sponsors an annual event that is open and free to the public on a topic of importance to our parishes. This year, Darcy Fargo, diocesan director of communications and editor of the *North Country Catholic*, was the guest speaker. Fargo is the mother of a 12-year-old son, Jacob, who is on the autism spectrum.

Her talk addressed a challenge faced by many of our parishes: How can we be more welcoming to people who might be different? How can we educate our parishioners on what to do and what to say?

Fargo shared some facts on the prevalence of autism: one in fifty-nine children will be diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum. Worship can be very difficult for individuals on the spectrum, and because of that prevalence, it's helpful for parish communities to understand autism and be able to support those families in participating in worship.

“Autism spectrum challenges fall into three basic categories: relationship skills, sensory integration and processing and behavioral issues. Let me address each one briefly,” Fargo said.

Communication issues



CATHY RUSSELL/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Darcy Fargo, diocesan communications director and editor of the *North Country Catholic*, speaks to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) about autism and ways to be welcoming to individuals on the autism spectrum at the DOVS annual luncheon on July 17.

might not be recognized easily by observers. However, Fargo noted individuals on the autism spectrum may struggle picking up on language nuances, body language or facial expressions. They may exhibit repetition, they may be very literal in their speech and understanding of speech, and they have trouble understanding societal norms.

In the area of sensory integration, many individuals on the autism spectrum have hypersensitive senses. Churches are filled with lots of noises, smells, lights, singing, chatting, kneelers moving and bells ringing during worship. All of these can be a challenge and can overload a person on the spectrum.

Finally, parishioners might notice repetitive motions such as flapping,

rocking or hopping. These “stimming” activities are a way to cope with the overload.

Fargo noted, though, that autism is a spectrum, and individuals on the autism spectrum range from non-verbal to highly verbal; profoundly disabled to high functioning.

“There’s a saying in the autism community: If you know one person with autism, you know one person with autism,” she said. “When you look at the three categories of challenges – relationship skills, sensory processing and behavioral issues – one person on the spectrum may have a little of column A, a little of column B, and someone else on the spectrum may have all of column A, B and C. Each person has specific needs or sensitivities.”

How can parishioners

help?

“Be aware of how you respond and be kind,” Fargo says. “If a family seems to be struggling, approach them and offer to help. Express that you love seeing them at church. Offer to sit with them so they have someone to help or so they at least have someone supportive nearby.”

Other things a parish might do to be more welcoming is offering sensory tools for people who

might need them. A sensory toolbox may include items like noise-reducing headphones, sunglasses, quiet fidget toys and compression tools.

Fargo also suggesting parishes put up a sign noting they welcome individuals with special needs and offering the contact information for a person or people families can go to for help if they need tools or a plan to make Mass or other parish functions accessible.

Fargo also noted parishes could use their bulletins as tools to educate parishioners by putting in brief facts about autism.

Fargo also indicated she will gladly be a resource for any parish or parishioner who would like to help or learn more about this topic. She can be reached at dfargo@rcdony.org or by calling 315-393-2920.

The complete presentation is available on the diocesan YouTube channel [youtube.com/user/DioOgd](https://www.youtube.com/user/DioOgd), and will also be distributed via e-Notes.



JOB OPENINGS

Trinity Catholic School currently has an opening for an elementary level teaching position. It is preferred that applicants are Catholic, but not necessary.

All applicants should possess a NYS State teaching certificate. Send letter of interest and resume, along with application which can be found at www.trinitycatholicsschool.net, to Joyce Giroux at: 188 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662 by August 9, 2019.



DARCY FARGO/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Left) A small group of Camp Guggenheim campers play basketball, an activity they chose from a series of afternoon options. (Right) Father Larry Anderson, a Franciscan and former Camp Guggenheim counselor and camp director, gives the blessing at benediction during week three of youth camp.

Campers hike, swim, praise at Guggeheim

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

SARANAC LAKE – On a warm, cloudy Tuesday, shrieks of laughter could be heard in the woods, by the lake and in the gathering areas. Camp Guggenheim was in session.

According to Conner Cummings, this year's camp director, around 270 campers signed up to attend one of the six camp sessions offered this season, which extends from June 30 to Aug. 9. Weeks one through five target youth ages 12-15, while the sixth week is open to ages 16-18.

"The staff gets together ahead of the first week for prep," Cummings said. "It's our time to plan, it's a

time for team building and figuring out how we work together as a staff. We grow as a small Catholic faith community."

Cummings noted that the planning and evaluating continues as the season goes.

"The first week tends to be the smallest in terms of number of campers, so it gives us a chance to make sure everything is working, and the kids are responding well," he said. "We tweak as the summer goes. Different weeks have different personalities, too. We try to tailor to the group, to some extent."

In a typical camp day, campers have breakfast and participate in one of four morning activities.

"They spend a day in each of the morning programs," Cummings said. "They do one day of project adventure – a sort of obstacle course and outdoor games; they do one day of waterfront activities; a day of arts and crafts; and a day focused on liturgy – it's sort of bible study and aspects of the liturgy."

In the afternoon, campers choose their activity from a list of available options.

"We have rappelling, hiking, basketball, games," he said. "And then we have a different camp-wide activity every night. We have camp Olympics, a variety show, a bonfire, a dance."

Campers participate in Mass daily, including one celebrated each week by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and have time for brief Adoration set aside each day, as well as an Adoration chapel.

"We also offer a reconciliation night," he said. "For many kids, that's their favorite night."

The camp staff is bol-

stered by assistance from the Teen Vision program, a sort of counselor-in-training opportunity for youth ages 16-18.

"It's a two-week program," Cummings said. "The teens grow in leadership, they build community, and they see the different aspects of what it's like to be on staff. It's something I did as a camper. It really challenges our young people to be leaders."

Together, the staff and Teen Visions participants try to make Camp Guggenheim a place where campers can forge friendships and grow in their love of the Lord, Cummings said.

"One of the greatest things about camp – it provides community. These are not just people you're going to see one week a year. You're going to want to go out of your way to see them, you'll want to hang out with them. It's a great place to interact with different people from all over and create a genuine friend

group and faith group centered around Christ."

And the campers say it's a great experience for them.

"It's fun," said Emma Kompan, 12, from Constable, a first-time camper who attended week three. "My favorite thing so far has been playing 'Werewolf,' (a role-playing mystery game). And I've met a lot of people."

"It's fun every year," added Noah Parker, 14, of Massena, a second-year camper. "I went to week one last year. I picked week three this year. I think I'll be doing week three next year, too."

Parker said his favorite part of camp is, "getting to meet new people and getting closer to God."


Cummings said the staff hates to see the camp season end.

"We love being here," he said. "Most of us are really sad when it starts to wind down. We're thankful we get to sleep again, but we always miss the campers and the joy they have for their faith and for camp."

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Editor's Note: Due to a printing error that compromised photo quality in the last edition, we are re-printing these pages.

SOLEMN VESPERS FOR THE BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING OF LAY PASTORAL MINISTERS

AT THE COMMISSIONING



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and most of the 64 newly commissioned lay ministers gather in front of St. Mary's Cathedral after the Solemn Vespers for Blessing and Commissioning of Lay Pastoral Ministers on June 30. The names, parishes and ministries of the newly commissioned lay ministers are listed below.

Lay ministers from 23 parishes commissioned

CARTHAGE SITE

The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter

Edward J. Queal – Liturgical Ministry
Theresa A. Queal – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. J. Michael Gaffney

St. James Minor Church, Carthage

Anna Margaret Archer-Runge – Catechetical Leadership
Susan M. Gibbs – Parish Life and Outreach
Lori A. Hanno – Parish Life and Outreach and Catechetical Leadership
Nicholas R. Hanno – Parish Life and Outreach and Catechetical Leadership
Joseph Margrey – Liturgical Ministry
Joanne M. Norrgard – Liturgical Ministry
Judy H. Nye – Liturgical Ministry
Brandon J. Olley – Catechetical Leadership
Monica M. Olley – Parish Life and Outreach
Michelle L. Wojcikowski – Youth Ministry

Thomas D. Wojcikowski – Youth Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Donald A. Robinson

St. Mary's Church, Copenhagen

Michael Joseph Arsenault – Parish Life and Outreach
Sadie L. Shettleton – Parish Life and Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Donald A. Robinson

St. Mary's Church, Evans Mills

Tammie M. Eggleston – Youth Ministry
Cathy Anne Voos – Catechetical Leadership
Sponsor: Rev. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

St. Francis Solanus Church, Harrisville

Julie Chartrand – Youth Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Donald J. Manfred

St. Peter's Church, Lowville

Sarah Jane Neddo – Catechetical Leadership
Sponsor: Rev. James W. Seymour, VF

Church of the Holy Family, Watertown

Charles N. Childs – Liturgical Ministry
Anne M. Seegebarth – Catechetical Leadership
Gary E. West – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Steven M. Murray/Rev. John M. Demo

St. Anthony's Church, Watertown

David Buskey – Parish Life and Outreach
Kathi Buskey – Parish Life and Outreach
Sarah Buskey – Youth Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Christopher J. Looby

LAKE PLACID SITE

The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew, Au Sable Forks

Henry Coolidge – Liturgical Ministry
Holly Coolidge – Liturgical Ministry
Louise M. Hatch – Liturgical Ministry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Commisioned lay ministers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Norman W. Hatch – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Kris C. Lauzon

The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville, Keeseville

John LaHart – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Kris C. Lauzon

St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid

Marcia Bugbee – Parish Life and Outreach
Kristen Clark – Parish Life and Outreach
Bernadette Clarke – Liturgical Ministry
Ann M. Hearden – Liturgical Ministry
Sandra E. Izzo
Sponsor: Rev. John R. Yonkovic, VF

St. Augustine's Church, Peru

Dwane Bast – Catechetical Leadership
Kristen Bast – Parish Life and Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Alan D. Shnob

St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

Janice Tobin – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, VF

St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake

Stuart Darrah – Parish Life and Outreach
Tracy Darrah – Parish Life and Outreach
Claudia A. Fennell – Liturgical Ministry
Robin Hogan-Law – Parish Life and Outreach
Jimmy Law – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Patrick A. Ratigan/Rev. Martin E. Cline

WADDINGTON SITE

St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls

Lynda A. Lemieux – Parish Life and Outreach

Sponsor: Rev. Garry B. Giroux

St. Mary's Church, Brushton

Troy J. Deno – Catechetical Leadership
Sponsor: Rev. Raymond J. Moreau

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, Canton

Cathleen E. O'Horo – Liturgical Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Bryan D. Stitt

St. Regis Mission, Hogansburg

Dr. Rose-Alma J. McDonald – Catechetical Leadership
Caroline Peters – Youth Ministry
Lisa M. Tarbell – Parish Life and Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Jerome Pastores

St. André Bessette Roman Catholic Parish, Malone

David Petrelli - Parish Life & Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Joseph W. Giroux/Rev. Steven M. Murray

St. Peter's Parish, Massena

Patricia A. Badlam
John C. Kozsan – Parish Life and Outreach
Sylvie Marion – Parish Life and Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Mark R. Reilly

St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Ogdensburg

Lorraine Carney – Catechetical Leadership
Lil Dailey – Catechetical Leadership
Angela Morley
Mark E. Sovie – Liturgical Ministry
Mary Wood – Parish Life and Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Joseph A. Morgan, VG

The Roman Catholic Community



JESSE SOVIE/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Tammie M. Eggleston of Evans Mills receives a certificate from Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin to note her commissioning as a lay minister in Youth Ministry.

of St. Mary, Potsdam

John Andrikut – Parish Life and Outreach and Liturgical Ministry
Suzanne Francis Smith – Parish Life and Outreach
Sponsor: Rev. Stephen Rocker

St. Mary's Church, Waddington

Debra Lynn Gainey – Youth Ministry
Matthew J. Gainey – Parish Life and Outreach
Mary O'Horo Loomis - Liturgical Ministry
Anne Marie Young – Youth Ministry
Sponsor: Rev. Douglas J. Lucia

HONORING FATHER SOUCY



In June, a shine honoring Father Tim Soucy, who was pastor of St. Peter's in Lowville, St. Mary's in Glenfield, and St. Hedwig's in Houseville from 2002-09, was dedicated. The shrine, made possible by a generous donation from the local Knights of Columbus, is located behind St. Peter's Church, where Father Tim used to plant a garden. (Left) Seated by the shine are Father Tim's sister, Bobbie LaDuke, and his niece, Mary R. Greene. (Right) Assisting at the Mass and blessing were Father Bill Muench (former Pastor of Lowville), Father Chris Looby (former parochial vicar of Father Tim), Jude Nadibuagha (seminarian), Father Jay Seymour (current pastor), and Father Mike Gaffney (devoted friend of Father Tim).

ADIRONDACK

SUMMER RETREAT

Saranac Lake – A summer retreat will be held for adults. Come aside to the mountains and rest awhile with the Lord.

Date: Aug. 9-11

Place: Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake

Features: The theme will be "Exploring a Spirituality of God's Creation through the Seasons," as inspired by Ecclesiastes 3:1, "There is a season for everything..." Each season of the year has a message to teach us about how to live more fully as Jesus calls us to do. Retreat will include presentations, with opportunities for personal and group prayer with time for sharing. Presenters are Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, faith formation educator; Tom Kalinowski, former biology teacher and author of two nature books; and Father Paul Kelly, celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Cost: Suggested offering is \$150. For tenting or commuter options, the suggested offering is \$100.

Contact: For more information, or to register, call 315-212-6592 or email sr-bethssj@gmail.com.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – A Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be offered.

Date: Oct. 18 – Oct. 20

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: Chaplain for the weekend is Father Mark Reilly. If you are suffering after abortion, you're not alone. Help and healing is available.

Contact: Confidential online registration form available at www.rcdony.org/prolife. Please contact The Respect Life Office with questions 518-524-0774. Other retreat dates and locations available at www.rachelsvineyard.org

CLINTON

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church to have the 24th Annual St. Peter's Golf Invitation.

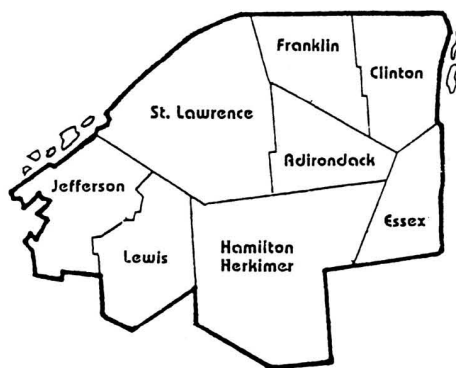
Date: Aug. 2

Time: 12:30 p.m. shotgun start

Place: Adirondack Golf Club

Cost: \$65 for non-Adirondack members, \$50 for Adirondack members, \$25 for awards dinner only (not able to dine with us subtract \$25 from total)

Features: All proceeds from this charitable, fun event will benefit youth



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@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

programs sponsored by St. Peter's Church.

Contact: John Mockery at 518-578-4927 or 518-562-4179 for more information.

CVRTL MEETING

Plattsburgh – The Champlain Valley Right to life to have their monthly meeting.

Date: Aug. 4

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Newman Center

Features: Short meeting followed by an educational presentation, snacks and beverage provided. Bring a friend. No cost to attend.

FOUNDATION DAY

Ellenburg – Foundation Day Gala to be held.

Date: Aug. 17

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

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer

Features: The gala will celebrate the founding of Mary special place of prayer by Fr. Joseph Trombley. 10 a.m. Guest Speaker: Deacon John Levison presents "The Indestructible Seed of God"; 11:15 a.m. The Celebration of the Mass with Bishop Terry LaValley; 12:30 p.m. Sharing of the Meal...Homemade Chicken 'n Biscuits Luncheon. Donations of any amount gratefully accepted, but not necessary. Please come and share the joy the this treasure in the North Country.

Contact: RSVP by Aug 10th to 518-594-3253 or 518-236-6832 (Jeanette) or 518-846-3060 (Sarah).

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

FAITH AND ECOLOGY

Clayton - Dialogue on our Common Home and Its Ecological Future to be held.

Date: Aug. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Insights from science as well as reflections on Pope Francis'

Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home will be presented by Dr. Curt Stager, author and Professor of Natural Sciences at Paul Smith's College in conjunction with Dr. Gerry Gacich, MD., Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital Heart Institute and NYS Catholic Climate Ambassador. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee and the Waretown Faith and Ecology Group.

Contact: For more information call Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, 315-212-6592

RAISING A JOYFUL NOISE

Alex Bay – St. Cyril's Choir to present their 11th Annual Summer Concert.

Date: Aug. 25

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Cyril's Church

Features: Free Admission. The choir will be performing an all new program of religious, jazz, pop and patriotic music.

PILGRIMAGE TO PA

Lancaster, PA – St. Mary's and St. John's, Clayton to have a Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania.

Date: Sept. 18 – 19

Place: Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA; St. John Neumann Shrine, Church of St. Peter the Apostle and St. Katharine Drexel Shrine at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Cost: \$320 Double & Triple Occupancy; \$400 Single Occupancy

Features: Guided tours at both churches. Gift with Fr. LaBaff. Museum and Gift Shop at St. John Neumann's Shrine.

Contact: St. Mary's Rectory at 315-686-3398

LEWIS

BLESSING OF FLOWERS, HERBS & GRAINS

Houseville – St. Hedwig's will observe the Polish custom of blessing flowers, herbs and grains to honor the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Greens, and her Feast of the Assumption.

Date: Aug. 11

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: There are many plants named after the Blessed Mother. We are to imitate the qualities of the Blessed Mother that these plants represent. All are welcome to bring bouquets, pots, vases of flowers and herbs

and stalks of grains to be placed before the Blessed Mother statue in front of the altar. These blessed items can then be taken to the home, or cemetery, or be given as gifts.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE

SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary Apostolate will lead first Saturday Devotions.

Date: Aug. 3

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Our Lady of Fatima asked Catholics to pray the Rosary on the First Saturday of every month, and to meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary. Please join the parish for this inspirational practice.

GOLF OUTING

Canton – Golf Tournament to be held. Date: Aug. 31

Time: Shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Place: St. Lawrence University Golf Course

Cost: \$100 per golfer with discounts for 4-some registrations. Includes all greens and cart fees, drinks and snacks on the course as well as a banquet after golf.

Features: We will play an 18-hole scramble format tournament. Feel free to join us for dinner only if you prefer. All proceeds from this event will go to St. Mary's School. Join us for a great time as we support our school and honor our former pastor, Fr. Doug Lucia.

Contact: Go to cantoncatholics.com and click on the school logo to register.

BLESSED IS SHE

Norfolk – Women's Group to have event.

Date: Sept. 8

Time: Noon

Place: St. Andrew's Church Hall

Features: The theme will be Holiness 101: Learning from Jesus the Ultimate Teacher. Lunch will be served and there is no cost to attend.

Contact: RSVP to Sara by 9/6: 315-212-7565 or narrow56@gmail.com

177 PROJECT

Canton – An Evening of Adoration and Music to be held.

Date: Sept. 17

Time: 7 p.m. to 9

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Speaker: Catholic liberal education instills virtue

WASHINGTON (CNS) – A sea of both experienced Catholic liberal teachers and neophytes eager to learn about the educational philosophy gathered at The Catholic University of America in Washington July 22-25.

The bones of a modern movement to restore traditional Catholic liberal education, these culture fighters hope to change society through education.

Elisabeth Sullivan, executive director of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, began the institute's four-day conference by introducing the fundamental ideas behind a Catholic liberal education, and the modern obstacles seen as derailing 2,500 years of educational tradition.

"This renewal of authentic Catholic education it is fully ordered toward eternal happiness, toward the child's future," Sullivan said July 22. "It restores the meaning and purpose that has been stripped from modern education. It is the formation of the whole person."

Sullivan explained a liberally educated person is free not to do whatever he wants, but free from ignorance. With an education that develops critical thinking and encourages wonder, a person can govern himself with wisdom and virtue.

"It is fundamentally to be fully human," Sullivan said.

According to Sullivan, Catholicism is the most natural courier for a liberal education because a liberal education broadens from personal observations to the overarching picture of truth. The personification of this picture, she said, is Jesus Christ, the logos through which all things are intelligible, and from which all truths proceed. Through Catholicism, then, liberal education can reach its culmination in the Eucharist.

Sullivan said that because students see and live this connection, their intellectual being develops alongside and intertwined with their spiritual being.

John Turrentine, a history and English teacher

at St. Augustine's Academy in California, returned this year for his third conference organized by the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education. He affirmed Sullivan's message.

"As you progress in this style of education, you are growing closer to our Lord, and by necessity, the closer you get to our Lord, the more kids see that," Turrentine said. "You are living your Catholic faith, your students see that, see that it's beautiful, and they want to have it too. That's the first thing: You follow this path, you are getting closer to Christ."

Meanwhile, Sullivan said that modern education, which began at the dawn of the 20th century with John Dewey's reforms, is the antithesis of unity. If there is no objective truth, learning becomes fragmented, meaningless and purposeless.

Sullivan was adamant that a Catholic liberal education is neither too demanding for young children, nor elitist. Rather, its pedagogy pro-

ceeds according to a child's natural development.

"We begin to know through our senses, we observe through the natural world, and that eventually leads us up this ladder to more complex truths, ethics, and political sciences."

For that reason, the liberal Catholic tradition calls for kindergartners and first- and second-graders to begin their studies observationally. For example, science ought to start with going outside and cataloging bugs and rocks and leaves, things 6-year-olds can see and remember. Instead, Next Generation Science Standards requires first-graders to study molecules, waves, energy and motion.

Sullivan defended the didactic system with evidence, first citing the 2,500 years of tradition that carried it to the beginning of the 20th century, and then citing current case studies that prove its effectiveness.

One school, Our Lady of Lourdes in Denver, stood on the brink of closure

eight years ago, down to a dwindling 90 students. Upon introducing a Catholic liberal pedagogy and methodology, enrollment increased, and the school eventually opened up a second campus to accommodate the inundation of students who wanted to study under this "new" system.

The pastor at Holy Innocents in California tentatively adopted a Catholic liberal pedagogy when no amount of skills and test based teaching had made any impact on his students. Within the first quarter after adopting the methodology, the school witnessed a 50% jump in student growth.

Sullivan said that Catholic liberal teaching catalyzed both of these rebounds because it engaged students, forcing them to question and discover why the things they learn are meaningful.

"Perhaps most importantly, we are seeing unparalleled faith formation in these schools," Sullivan said. "Why? Because the faith is integrated in all learning ... and that's what has been missing."

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Come join us as we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with worship music provided by Catholic musician, Lee Roessler. This event is free and open to all.

Contact: Amanda at 315-386-2543 or conklina@canton.edu for more information. For additional information visit www.the177project.com

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ALTAR SERVER GATHERING

Ogdensburg – Altar Serving Gathering to be held.

Date: Aug. 16

Schedule: 10 a.m. Registration and Cathedral Tours; 11 a.m. Presentations; 12 p.m. Mass with Bishop LaValley at Cathedral; 1 p.m. Picnic and tour of Bishop's House.

Contact: Register by contacting Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or by calling 315-782-3620 by Aug. 9

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Registration is open for Family Guggenheim 2019.

Date: Session 1: Aug. 15-18; Session 2: Aug. 22 – 25; Session 3: Oct. 11-13

Features: Come pray and play with other faithful families, enjoy the beautiful mountains and lake, beach time, engaging workshops, and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!

Contact: For information contact Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Guggenheim Directors dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 visit <https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/family-guggenheim.html>

MARRIAGE AND CONSECRATED LIFE JUBILEE MASS

Ogdensburg – The 2nd Annual Mar-

riage and Consecrated Life Jubilee Mass to be held.

Date: Sept. 15

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: Reception to be held after Mass.

Contact: If a couple is interested in attending, please direct them to <https://www.rcdony.org/marriagejubilee> to register. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Family Life Office.

DOVS PILGRIMAGE

Ottawa – DOVS to have a pilgrimage to

Notre Dame Cathedral with Bishop LaValley.

Date: Oct. 2

Time: Departing from Malone at 7 a.m., Potsdam at 7:45 a.m. and Ogdensburg at 8:15 a.m.

Cost: \$125 prior to Sept. 1, \$145 at Sept. 1

Features: Bus ride, 1 lunch at Tuckers Market Place Restaurant, Mass/Holy Hour for Vocations at Notre Dame Cathedral, Tour of the Cathedral and free time at Little Italy.

Contact: Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Enslow at 315-268-1016

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Faith leaders: Chaplains shouldn't be banned from executions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 180 faith leaders in Texas, including 18 Catholics, signed a statement sent to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice July 23 asking the agency to change its policy banning prison chaplains from execution chambers. "Clergy have the right to minister to those who have placed themselves in their care, up to and including the moment of death. The state cannot, and should not attempt to, regulate spiritual solace," the faith leaders said. The signers representing several religious traditions, including Episcopalian, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Presbyterian, Reform Judaism, United Church of Christ, United Methodist and Buddhist, urged the state agency's officials to reconsider a policy it adopted this spring. Women religious, priests, deacons and laity were among the Catholic signers. The group acknowledged that they have differing opinions on the death penalty but said they are "united in recognizing that the right of condemned people to spiritual comfort at the moment of death is a long-standing and widely recognized religious practice. Each faith tradition marks this sacred moment in different ways, including anointing, singing, praying and chanting, and laying on of hands. These rituals, stemming from sincerely held religious beliefs, often require the direct assistance of clergy," the statement said.

'Positio' for Father Flanagan's cause presented to Vatican

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — The sainthood cause of Father Edward J. Flanagan took a step forward July 22 with the presentation of the "positio" to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, along with a letter of support from Omaha Archbishop George J. Lucas. The "positio," or official position paper, is a summary of the volumes of records that were sent to the Vatican by the Archdiocese of Omaha in 2015 and makes the argument that Father Flanagan demonstrated heroic virtue in his life, and thus worthy of being declared venerable by the pope. Archbishop Lucas met with Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, prefect of the congregation, to personally endorse this step toward the eventual beatification and canonization of Father Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town. "It has been a privilege to offer my support for the cause of Father Edward Flanagan at each stage of this process," Archbishop Lucas said in a statement. "I was able to share with Cardinal Becciu the encouragement offered to all of us in the church during this challenging time by the virtuous life and work of Father Flanagan." The Father Flanagan League Society of Devotion is what is officially known as the "actors" for Father Flanagan's cause for canonization.

Pope: Church needs apostolate of prevention to protect minors

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prevention is key in protecting minors from abuse, Pope Francis said. The protection of minors is a serious concern and what is needed is "an apostolate of prevention," he said in a video message to Catholic leaders taking part in a safeguarding course at the Pontifical University of Mexico. The monthlong course, ending July 27, was sponsored by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Formation for the Protection of Minors, which collaborates with the Center for Child Protection of Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. Pope Francis greeted participants and praised the course in the video, posted in Spanish July 20 on the Vatican News site. The course was "important for all minors so that no one, no one abuses them, that no one may keep them from going to Jesus."

Catholic leaders object to return of federal death penalty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The July 25 announcement by the Justice Department that it is reinstating the federal death penalty for the first time in 16 years was unwelcome news for Catholic leaders who have advocated against capital punishment.

"The United States' death penalty system is tragically flawed. Resuming federal executions — especially by an administration that identifies itself as 'pro-life' — is wrongheaded and unconscionable," said Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of Catholic Mobilizing Network, a group that champions restorative justice and an end to the death penalty.

The execution of five inmates on federal death row will take place from December 2019 through next January.

Attorney General William Barr said in a statement: "The Justice Department upholds the rule of law — and we owe it to the victims and their families to carry forward the sentence imposed by our justice system."

The last time there was a federal execution was in 2003.

In 2014, President Barack Obama directed the Bureau of Prisons to conduct a review of federal capital punishment cases and issues surrounding the use of lethal injection drugs. According to the July 25 announcement, that review is complete and the executions can proceed.

Currently, there are 62 inmates — 61 men and 1 woman — on federal death row, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Most of the federal death-row prisoners are at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Inmates in the group include convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Charleston, South Carolina, church shooter Dylann Roof.

In a July 25 statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said that Pope Francis in 2015 called for "the global abolition of the death penalty," which he said the U.S. bishops also have supported for many years.

"In light of these long held and strongly maintained positions, I am deeply concerned by the announcement by the United States Justice Department that it will once again turn, after many years, to the death penalty as a form of

punishment, and urge instead that these federal officials be moved by God's love, which is stronger than death, and abandon the announced plans for executions."

Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, who is a longtime opponent of capital punishment, tweeted a brief reaction to the July 25 announcement saying that as she was about to "board a plane to Alaska to join the celebrations of 62 years without the death penalty in that state" when she learned "the federal government plans to restart executions later this year after a 16-year hiatus."

"The DOJ regresses as the rest of our country evolves," she added.

Other church leaders also reacted on Twitter to the announcement.

In a July 25 tweet, Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich called Barr's announcement "gravely injurious to the common good, as it effaces the God-given dignity of all human beings, even those who have committed terrible crimes."

He also pointed out that last year that Pope Francis ordered a revision to the Catechism of the Catholic Church to say that capital punishment is "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person."

The Sisters of Mercy called the Justice Department's decision "tremendously disappointing" and said in a July 25 tweet that they would continue to uphold Catholic social teaching regarding the dignity of human life with education and advocacy efforts to "continue to work for the death penalty's abolition."

In a statement released the afternoon of July 25, Sister Prejean described the Justice Department's announcement as a "seemingly measured statement," which "belies the fact that this is a rush to kill: They plan three executions in one week using a new, untested — and not yet approved — lethal injection protocol."

She also said it is "disheartening that the administration has chosen to follow the death road, when the life road calls us to work for justice for all."

Sister Prejean, echoing a message she has said before, added: "The death penalty is deeply flawed, with a terrible history of racism in its implementation and an equally terrible history of errors, resulting in many innocents on death row. We also know that it does not offer the healing balm to victims' families that is promised."

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

An authentic democracy

Those of us who have grown up within the womb of a democratic society may not always recognize how radical the idea behind such a society actually is, nor how fragile its structure can be in the face of strident claims regarding individual freedoms.

Legalization of abortion, to focus on one of the most strident claims, corrodes the very pillars of our democratic society.

The legalization of abortion means guaranteeing immunity from prosecution for those older human beings who directly end the lives of much younger humans before they are born, or even as they are being born. Such actions constitute a form of injustice perpetrated by the powerful against those who are, by virtue of their extreme youth, the weakest, most vulnerable and most voiceless humans.

Laws sanctioning abortion fundamentally con-

firm the idea that "might makes right."

An ordered society, however, and especially a democratic one, can never be built upon such a self-serving, unjust and distorted premise.

This premise runs directly counter to the tradition of our great Western constitutional texts, which arose as a cry for an order of justice superior to the raw exercise of power and domination by privileged individuals and groups. Those texts were born from centuries of struggle by entire peoples living under various forms of oppression.

The order of justice they sought required the clear acknowledgement of the universality of basic human rights, first among which was the assurance that one's life would not be unjustly exploited, attacked or ended.

As Monsignor Michel Schooyans has noted, "That is why democratic regimes were founded —

first and foremost to protect citizens from arbitrary executions, from the terrorism of despots and their police."

Many of us who have lived in a democratic society for most or all of our lives, never having struggled or fought for its original implementation or continuation, can forget the threatening historical circumstances that led to forging the substance of that democracy.

Moreover, even as we benefit from the blessings of liberty, we can fall prey to erroneous conceptions about the meaning of freedom, as the rights of some begin to be subtly elevated over the rights of others.

Indeed, every democracy struggles to avoid the treachery of various forms of despotism, as the long and arduous battles over human slavery that culminated with the Civil War remind us.

At Gettysburg, President Lincoln declared that "a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" was now "engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure."

Preceding those turbu-

lent times, "equality" had certainly been proclaimed and was textually present within various founding documents.

It remained, however, fundamentally elusive as laws continued to sanction the inequalities of human bondage and realities on the ground continued to thwart basic human rights. During those dark times, the light of democracy sputtered and flickered, and nearly went out.

The widespread practice of abortion today raises a similar threat, as stronger individuals are tempted to establish their liberties upon the ruins of weaker ones. What is most important to recognize is how this existential threat to democracy is actually — without hyperbole — greater now than it was during the times of slavery.

Monsignor Schooyans trenchantly describes it this way:

"The liberalization of abortion laws puts into motion a political process in which the democratic State imperceptibly becomes transformed into a totalitarian State... From the very moment the state reserves for itself the right to decide, through its institutional organs, which human being has the right to protection and which human being does not, it ceases to be a democratic State because it negates the fundamental reason for which it was instituted: the defense of every human being's right to life. The power such a State exercises becomes

arbitrary when it authorizes certain citizens to execute their own equals with impunity..."

One is reminded of the testimonies of certain U.S. soldiers who, upon their return from Vietnam, in the wake of the sexual revolution, were shocked by the seismic shifts in the understanding of freedom that had occurred during their long deployment.

Some of them said that they hadn't stepped onto the battlefield and made great personal sacrifices in order to defend a false liberty so their fellow citizens at home could descend into promiscuity and abortions with reckless abandon.

The promotion and legalization of abortion inexorably leads to a system of privileges for the powerful that engenders instability and divisiveness as it undercuts the most basic of all human rights.

Abortion really kills at least twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of a nation, perverting the very essence of a democratic society.

Legal safeguards for all human life, on the other hand, assure the possibility of liberty, justice and equality — protecting the very core of an authentic democracy.

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



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

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AT THE MOVIES

THE LION KING

NEW YORK (CNS) – Advances in moviemaking technology allow a story that could only previously be told as a cartoon to be enacted, so to speak, by animals. And so we get "The Lion King" (Disney).

Director Jon Favreau's remake of the 1994 animated musical – also the basis for the Broadway hit that opened three years later and is still running – uses a blend of live-action techniques and computer-generated imagery to retell a tale so familiar it represents a touchstone of contemporary culture.

As we know, however, just because a thing can be done doesn't mean it should be. Thus diehard fans of the original may find Favreau's whole project redundant. The reac-

tion of other viewers will largely depend on how comfortable they feel seeing nonhuman characters mouth dialogue and interact in the manner of homo sapiens.

This is, of course, the fictional biography of Simba (voice of Donald Glover), a lovable young lion with a royal destiny. As opening scenes show us, Simba's birth is greeted with joy by most of the creatures over whom his parents, King Mufasa (voice of James Earl Jones) and Queen Sarabi (voice of Alfre Woodard), benevolently rule.

The rejoicing, though, is not universal: Simba's evil Uncle Scar (voice of Chiwetel Ejiofor) broods over the fact that the new arrival has displaced him as heir

to the throne. Biding his time, Scar schemes against his growing nephew and, after enlisting the help of a pack of malignant hyenas, led by Shenzi (voice of Florence Kasumba), he succeeds in sending the emotionally vulnerable lad into self-imposed exile.

Two friends with whom Simba takes up during his absence, meerkat Timon (voice of Billy Eichner) and warthog Pumbaa (voice of Seth Rogen), urge him to pursue a carefree existence. But Nala (voice of Beyonce Knowles-Carter), Simba's best pal from childhood – with whom he ultimately shares a deeper bond – remains resolute that he should fulfill his weighty responsibilities.

The two opposing outlooks on life presented in

Jeff Nathanson's script – and encapsulated in a duo of songs by Elton John and Tim Rice, the interconnectedness-themed "Circle of Life" and the worry-chewing ditty "Hakuna Matata" – are strictly secular. Yet it is at least the more ethically respectable worldview that prevails.

The struggle to achieve a happy ending, though, involves animal combat that would likely prove upsetting to small kids. And some parents may not care much for the momentary gastrointestinal humor in which Nathanson dabbles.

There's also a bit of extra-biblical mysticism on display via the activities of simian shaman Rafiki (voice of John Kani). But this aspect of the nar-

rative is too fleeting and undeveloped to pose much of a spiritual threat.

Is this iteration of the blockbuster franchise really necessary? Probably not. Still, while it's unlikely to make a lasting impression, "The Lion King" does offer a pleasant enough pastime for all but the most sensitive tykes.

The film contains considerable stylized violence among animals, characters in peril, nonscriptural rituals and fleeting scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Wimbledon champ carried confirmation gift

RALEIGH, N.C. (CNS) – Abbey Forbes, the 18-year-old winner of the junior girls doubles championship at Wimbledon, has kept an inspirational book in her tennis bag at recent competitions and for all seven Wimbledon matches.

The book, from her confirmation sponsor, Joan Monti, is a daily devotional called "Jesus Calling."

The best-seller was well-known to Monti and her friends. But it was completely new to Forbes, who was baptized Catholic as a baby and was just confirmed and received her first Communion April 20 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh.

"I decided that I was going to keep that book in my tennis bag," Forbes said. "Every match. Every practice. I open it and I read the daily reading or confession. And I pray on

it. It just keeps me connected to my faith while I am playing sports," she told NC Catholics, magazine of the Diocese of Raleigh.

The book was with her at the French Open in late May and in July at Wimbledon.

"I was so nervous ... excited. I really wanted to win," Forbes said about her feelings just before the final Wimbledon match with partner Savannah Broadus. "I was asking God for strength and grace and all of those things to be brought with me out onto the court ... and I asked him to be with me. That book is just my reminder."

A year ago, she was focused on tennis training six hours a day, doing high school coursework online and acting as big sister to her two brothers. And then she decided to add some-

thing else to her life -- spirituality.

That's when she met Monti, 80, a retired nurse, widow and grandmother of seven.

The pair met at an introductory gathering in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program for adults wanting to become full members of the Catholic Church.

As people socialized, Forbes mentioned the U.S. Open, which she had just competed in as a junior. Monti, who played tennis and brought her tennis-playing daughter to tournaments, had recently returned from watching the U.S. Open with her son.

"Something just drew me to Joan. I like to say now that it was the spirit," Forbes said. "I told our leader ... 'Hey, can Joan be my sponsor?' I found it really nice of her that she

was able to talk to me about my sport, something I love so much."

During the course, Forbes played in 10 tennis tournaments and sometimes joined the group through the FaceTime app on her phone when she couldn't be there in person.

Through faith and sport, Forbes has learned to focus on prayer, which she said is something she first picked up by watching her mom.

Like many athletes, she notices how her performance may improve or suffer based on what's happening in her life. As she attended RCIA and grew even closer to her grandfather who took the classes with her, she noticed her happiness and how that translated to success on the court.

She calls it "playing free."

When her brother Luke, who has autism, was diagnosed with leukemia in May, she noticed that her fear about his diagnosis caused her tennis to struggle.

"Luke is my rock. I relied on God there because I wasn't able to be home. I had to be in Paris that next week (after his diagnosis) and I felt like the only person I could trust was God. I really leaned on him. I still do because it's still happening and it's going to be a long process for him to get better," Forbes said.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Reflecting on attachments to possessions

The readings this week send a powerful message to all those people who are so attached to possessions. They're addressed especially to all those who closets are bulging with clothes they haven't used in years, and gadgets that have long outlived their usefulness...and to people who haven't the courage to either give them



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

away, donate them to a worthy cause, or just get rid of them. Possessions can choke our souls to death!

In today's Gospel, Jesus gets a request from a person in the crowd whose relative won't share an inheritance. He wants the Master to intervene! Jesus, reading the man's heart, utters a great teaching: "Avoid greed in all its

August 4

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2-21-23

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Luke 12:13-21

forms." Then he tells a great story about the foolish rich man who is a real "pack rat." Rather than give his excess wealth away to worthy causes, he decides to build a huge storage barn to hold it all. He never pauses to ask

himself what God might have to say about all his wealth. He just decides to hoard it all. And God says to him, "You fool! You're going to die this very night! And who will inherit all this wealth of yours?"

The first reading from that great Wisdom book, Ecclesiastes, puts it in words that are so familiar to us: "Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity!" In other words, what a waste is a lifetime spent in accumulating wealth, if we don't share it with those who

have less? It's empty "whistling down the wind!"

The second reading from St. Paul to the Colossians tells us how to avoid all this foolish preoccupation with riches. "Seek the things that are above, where Christ is... Set your minds on what is above, not on things that are one earth." In other words, just keep your eyes, your thoughts, and your heart attached to me, and you'll never lose sleep at night over all those bulging closets.

Being a seminarian in the 'post-McCarrick' era

By Douglas Schirmer

Seminarian for Diocese of Ogdensburg

In the 'post-McCarrick' era, it seems as if Catholics are living in perpetual fear and embarrassment. It's an understandable reaction to the horrifying revelations of abuse that we thought had been exhausted fifteen years ago. There has been great work done to create a culture of safe environments for the vulnerable, and that work will continue, but in the face of new scandals in the church it is easy to lose heart and simply resign oneself to shame.

I would like to offer, in response to that despondency, the perspective of a seminarian. I can only relate my own experiences and impressions, but I pray that they will provide hope for the members of the church in these dark times.

First of all, I cannot overstate how impressed I am with the men in seminary right now. I don't just mean those men from our diocese, who are remarkable in their own right: I

mean the guys from all over the country who are still in seminary after all the muck and mire of recent scandals.

The average guy in seminary is incredible, not just because he stays, but because of the intent with which he pursues formation for priestly ministry. When I joined the diocese, we went from 4 to 6 seminarians. Now we have 13, with two on the books for ordination to the diaconate this year and two next year.

The men I have come to know over the past three years are truly amazing for this intentional living. One might think that the McCarrick scandals, and those related cases, would shatter seminaries and the communities within. Not so: my brother seminarians immediately began organizing weekly acts of penance and reparation by the whole community, spiritual fraternities, groups that gathered to study scripture in lectio divina, Marian retreats/consecrations/devotions, and small group initiatives to support

brothers who were struggling with the state of the church.

These men weren't asked to do any of this. They did it because it was right, and because they know the need for fraternal support in this time of trial for the church.

We cannot heal these injuries by our own power alone: we depend on the grace of God to help confront and overcome these difficulties. The seminarians I know are dedicated to becoming men who can, through living out their belief in that grace, help bring healing and zeal to a church that is deeply wounded. Their own joy and zeal is infectious: I am proud to call them brothers, and to share in the process of priestly formation with them.

Despite the darkness, the light always triumphs. Yes, the church needs renewal and conversion, as it always has: this was the driving force behind Vatican II, the Catholic reformation that answered the concerns of the Protestant reformers, and the re-

evangelization instituted by religious orders in the middle ages when corruption had spread throughout the church of Europe (Bishop Barron's 'Letter to a Suffering Church' addresses these times of difficulty in greater detail; I highly recommend it).

No matter how awfully broken people mess up, the Holy Spirit remains with the Church. We are assured of Christ's victory over and again in the Scriptures.

That certainty is what I have seen driving the majority of seminarians I have known in recent years.

These men are preparing to teach the truths of the faith in a world that seems poised to hate those truths, and those who speak them. Seminarians are fully aware that one day they will be targets, hated because they are priests who represent the Church and the truth. But, really, aren't we all representatives?

This time of difficulty is, I think, a purifying of the church, renewing and restoring her in the face of

evil and corruption. For this process to bear great fruit, we must be willing to live as people of prayer, dedicated to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the teachings of the Church, and confident in the victory of our Blessed Lord. It is not going to be easy; we still have the shame and stigmas associated with scandal attached to us.

But if we are to bear witness, we must be willing to accept that burden as a cross, to be borne for the sake of Christ's work in the world.

Let us, brothers and sisters, live boldly, proud of being Catholic and followers of Jesus Christ! He is risen, and his victory is already one.

Now is the time to stand and fight, to bring healing to the injured and comfort to the sorrowful, and to seek for an ever greater holiness in each of our lives so that we may become the living witness needed to win the world over to the name of

Jesus. May our Blessed Mother pray for us as we re-embark upon this great adventure!



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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A busy summer for missionaries

July and August are busy times in the Mission Office. The summer months bring two missionary events each year: Missionary Coop experience and the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg's second collection to raise funds for projects deemed appropriate and worthy. The COOP program brings forth 15 different mission aid societies to the Western deaneries. In the Eastern deaneries, our parishioners will hear the appeal for help for both ongoing efforts in Mollendo, Peru and, this year, a special focus on the Diocese of Latakia in Syria.

In the 1930s, Auxiliary Bishop William Griffin of the Archdiocese of Newark came up with the idea of Missionary Cooperation Plan. His initial thought was to help mission aid societies to solicit funds for their efforts by giving them the opportunity to appeal for vocations and assistance at the local level. The plan was widely accepted by pastors, who received frequent visits from mission societies. The Plan took the burden off the pastors and enabled their people to hear of missionary experiences to help promote missionary spirit.

Every summer, the Missionary Cooperation Plan introduces parishioners to missionaries who represent far-away places. Meeting them makes their needs more real and personal, as the faithful become involved in learning about the missions and responding to their call. Please welcome them with open arms and open hearts, and contribute where you can! Below is a listing of the groups coming to visit us.

Diocese of Djibouti- Somalia	Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Diocese of Latakia- Syria	North Country Mission of Hope
Divine Word Missionaries	Salesian Missions
Archdiocese of Caceres -Philippines	Sisters of Chavanod of the Cross
Franciscan Sisters of Atonement	Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Lentily Project - Sr. Cindy Sullivan	Society of St. Peter Apostle
Maryknoll - Frs. & Bros.	Congregation of the Holy Spirit
	The Heralds of Good News

The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal will be taken up in the Western Deaneries on July 28. This appeal continues to fund support of our former mission in Mollendo, Peru, to help other projects throughout the world that the Diocese deems appropriate, including Latakia. Please consider contributing with your prayers and sacrifices.

So, as you can see, the Mission office is busy! Do consider giving this summer in your parish but know that it is helping those far away and in need. And if you're lucky, you will even meet a missionary!

OBITUARIES

Altona – Jane A. (Nephew) Sample, 61; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2019 at Holy Angels; burial in Union Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Boonville – William Jackson, 83; Funeral Services July 10, 2019 at Mills Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Port Leyden.

Brasher Falls – James L. Thompson, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 25, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Winthrop Cemetery.

Brownville – Jean M. (Wagner) Jewett, 95; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Rochester.

Brushton – Jeanne Mulvana (Savage) Parent, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Gladycy Mary Brenon Farney, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Croghan.

Carthage – Sharon (Vaadi) Fleming, 74; Funeral Services July 24, 2019 at Lundy Funeral Home & Cremations Service, Inc.

Carthage – Grace (Walsemann) Reed, 87; Funeral Services Aug. 14, 2019 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in Sunnyside Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Lawrence J. LaPoint, 50; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery, Ellenburg.

Chateaugay – Elizabeth (Boucher) Miles, 93; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Donald J. Barber, 79; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church.

Fort Covington – John Franklin Charland, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

Fort Covington – Rita E. (Dow)

Ghostlaw, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2019 at St. Mary's of the Fort; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Harrisville – Agnes Charlotte (Kane) Scanlon, 97; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2019 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

Keeseville – Milton S. Boule, 93; Memorial Services July 17, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church.

Lake Clear – Maurice A. Guerrette, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2019 at St. Johns in the Wilderness; burial in St. Anthony Cemetery, Glenville.

Lake Placid – Robert Joseph Call, 31; Funeral Services July 26, 2019 at M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

Lake Placid – Margaret Ella (Strack) Lewis, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

Malone – Lillian M. (Tessier) Vanier, 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Francis of Assis Cemetery, Constable.

Massena – David B. Clifford, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 24, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church.

Morrisonville – Reginald D. Dermody, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2019 at St. Alexander's Church.

North Bangor – Alvina "Dina" M. Trim, 50; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Agnes D. (Ramie) Boyer, 91; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Sandra Lee Mary (Corrice) Luchetti, 74; Mass of Christian Burial July 19, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Margaret L. (Edwards) Paradis, 82; Funeral Services July 16, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home;

burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Paul "Skip" D. Sweeney, 59; Funeral Services July 26, 2019 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Martha A. (Salinas) Ayala, 84; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – June V. King, 81; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Jane Devlin Lanigan; Mass of Christian Burial July 26, 2019 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Denise M. (Premore) Righi, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Port Henry – Marilyn (Waldron) Potter, 83; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Union Cemetery.

Potsdam – Gloria M. Sullivan, 79; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Massena.

Saranac Lake – Edward James Dukett, 87; Funeral Services July 22, 2019 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Ticonderoga – Evelyn (Pond) Gravelle, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2019 at St. Mary's Church.

Tupper Lake – Ryder Anthony White, 4; Mass of Christian Burial July 22, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Thomas E. Mart-incheck, 85; Funeral Services July 24, 2019 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Drums, PA.

Winthrop – Doris M. (Bush) Ferrerly, 67; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2019 at Hammill Funeral Home.

AT THE CONFERENCE



The Diocese of Ogdensburg was represented by a group of nearly 30 youth at the Steubenville Youth Conference from July 19-21 at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The theme of the event was "Belong."

AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Two Adirondack Chairs and a propane fire pit were given away at the strawberry social at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Port Leyden on June 23. The Adirondack chairs were made by the South Lewis FFA. Pictured is Chris Chafty, who won the chairs, and Steve Kraeger, who won the fire pit, with Father Lawrence Marullo, pastor.

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