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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 37

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 19, 2020

Training for parish nurses planned

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing for parish nursing.

The parish nurse offers assistance in obtaining community services, helps with understanding diagnoses, medications and diagnostic tests, provides blood pressure screening, health education programs and much more.

The program is open to registered nurses with a desire to help people live healthy, faith-filled lives.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

BLESSING THE CANDLES



On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas), St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington celebrated the feast day with a blessing of candles, followed by a procession of parishioners with lighted candles. Pictured are, from left, Deacon Brian Dwyer, Father Tom Kormmeyer, and Altar Servers Lucas Oakes, Lilly Sency, Anna Reardon, Kyle Reardon, Liam Reardon, Brennan Oakes and Ryan Oakes.

CALLED TO PRAYER



The Sisters of the Precious Blood, a contemplative community with a monastery in Watertown, live lives centered around prayer, following God's call and spreading the devotion to the Precious Blood. The sisters run a small store that sells devotional items and other items meant to aid others in their faith, and also sell items online.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Faith is lived in community, not isolation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Lay men and women live out their Christian calling by sharing the gifts they received from God with others and not keeping them for themselves, Pope Francis said.

In a message to participants at a conference for lay Catholics in Madrid Feb. 14, the pope said that Christians are called "to live the faith, not individually or in isolation but in community, as a people loved and willed by God."

"To do this, it is essential to be aware that we are part of a Christian commu-

nity. We are not just another group, nor an NGO, but the family of God gathered around the same Lord," he said.

The two-day conference, titled "The People of God Going Out," was sponsored by the Spanish bishop's conference. According to its website, the event's goal was "to energize the laity in Spain starting from the leadership and participation of the laity themselves."

The pope noted that the conference began on the feast day of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the patron

saints of Europe who "promoted a great evangelization in this continent, bringing the message of the Gospel to those who did not know it, making it understandable and close to the people of their time, with a new language and forms."

"With their ingenuity and their witness, they were able to bring the light and joy of the Gospel to a complex and hostile world," he said. "The fruit was seen in how many believed and adhered to the faith, forming a community."

He also said that while

deepening their faith through liturgy and prayer, lay men and women are called to "leave behind their comforts" and give others a reason to hope "not with prefabricated answers, but with incarnated and contextualized ones."

"The missionary mandate is always current and returns to us with the same strength as always, to make the ever-new voice of the Gospel resound in this world in which we live, particularly in this old Europe where the Good News is suffocated by so many voices of death and de-

spair," the pope said.

Pope Francis called on participants at the conference to preach the Gospel "with passion and joy through Christian witness" and urged them to "avoid at all costs the temptations" facing many laypeople.

Among those temptations, he said, were "clericalism, which is a plague and encloses you in the sacristy, as well as competitiveness and ecclesial careerism, rigidity and negativity, which suffocates what is specific to your call to holiness."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Going behind the walls

"I'm going to be in Watertown next week. I'm visiting the Precious Blood Monastery," I told my mother-in-law, who also lives in Watertown.

"You get to go behind the walls," she asked, with surprise in her voice.

I'll admit, I was more than a little excited to make the trip, despite the two-hour drive. As anyone who's ever met me can attest, I'm an extreme extrovert. I take a lot of joy from exploring the world, working with others, experiencing new people and places.

I was excited because I'd be introduced to new people and a new place. I was excited because I was ex-

tremely curious about life inside a contemplative community, a life that seems so contrary to who I am as a person and the life I lead. I was excited because it was an opportunity to do something I've never done before – go to a monastery.

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

It was an amazing experience. These are amazing women.

One of the first things I noticed during my visit was that the phone seemed to ring every few minutes. As I spoke with the sisters, I learned that many of the phone calls were people asking for prayers. These individuals share their struggles, their sadness, their hopes and their needs with the sisters. To me, that

would likely be a difficult part of their ministry. I thought it might be disheartening or depressing to spend so much time dealing with people who are hurting.

To the sisters, though, being trusted with the needs of others is a blessing.

They said they felt privileged to pray for those people. They said they take joy that so many people know prayer is important and impactful.

I sometimes struggle with prayer. I have a bad habit of overloading my schedule (though I've made a conscious effort to reduce my commitments recently), and I sometimes struggle to find a consistent time and place to pray. Yet these are women who build their days – build their lives, in fact – around prayer and growing closer to

the Lord.

While I sometimes fight my complacency and my laziness to force myself to attend Mass on Sunday, the sisters expressed how profoundly grateful they are to the priests who make it possible for them to celebrate Mass daily.

But what struck me most about the Sisters of the Precious Blood was their joy. Each sister's face lit up as she spoke about her vocation, about praying for others, about spreading the devotion to the Precious Blood.

They seemed so close to one another and so close to the Lord.

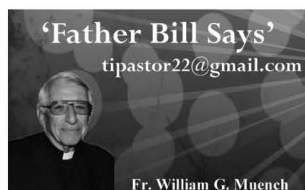
It amazed me that in my opportunity "to go behind the walls," I witnessed love and ministry that can't be contained by walls.

Called to be a light to the world

I like the imagery Jesus often uses of asking us to be light and salt. He challenges us to be the light of the world – may our light shine forth the love and joy of our God. May we be the salt that puts new life into all that we do.

When I think of light, I am reminded of so many wonderful people, family and friend and parishioners, who continually bring wisdom and understanding to me every day by being light to me and by bringing the light of the Lord to me.

You see, there are many days I am trapped in ignorance and darkness of not realizing that there are many who need me today, people who need my attention and who need my love. I notice that some days end up in darkness because there were so many things I should have done, opportunities missed for bringing God's love and



joy to someone. It's often someone I see every day, yet I failed to realize how much love and concern they need.

I have come to understand that Jesus knows how needy I am, and so the Lord brings light into my life, so that I can be light to others. Today I think of a high school student who knows how to be a light through little things – saying the right things and bothering to take a moment for friendly conversation. This young man is a gift from the Lord. By the way, I must tell you that he is blind, born blind, yet he knows how to be a light and how to bring light to many, like me.

He is not a once in a lifetime example. Every day something happens, or someone comes along who brings light into my world – becoming a light from Jesus for so many others. Have you ever had a one-year-old child smile at you? I did today. I suspect you can add many such examples of lights to your life.

So, Jesus constantly asks us to be a light to our world, a light for others. I have noticed that it is all about the little things. As we strive to do the simple, little things as well as we can, we transform ourselves to become a light to our world. Someone once told me that a saint is someone who does ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Here is one more example for you: When I think of being a light for the world, I think of Pope Francis. Pope Francis remembers each one

of us in his wonderful homilies and writings. He always knows what we need. He realizes the challenges that face his people throughout the world. Thank you, Lord, for sending Pope Francis to us.

St. Paul writes to the Ephesians, "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord." Jesus says to us, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Sisters of the Precious Blood: Called to prayer

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

WATERTOWN— At the end of a short, dead-end street sits a large light-colored building with a cross on the wall. It's the Precious Blood Monastery, currently home to four Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood.

"We've been in Watertown since 1963, and we moved into this building in 1976," said Sister Marilyn McGillan, superior of the monastery. "The foundresses were all from Manchester, New Hampshire. They left a monastery there and founded this house."

Sister Marilyn said the Sisters of the Precious Blood were introduced to the region through the works of Msgr. Robert McCarthy, who had a great devotion to the Precious Blood and to prayer.

"He wanted a monastery established here," she said. "He went to the bishop in 1963 and received permission to proceed. When the first sisters arrived, they lived in what is now the (D.L.) Calarco Funeral Home."

Currently, the monastery is home to Sister Marilyn, Sister Rose Rossi, assistant superior, and Sister Linh Therese Nguyen and Sister Mary Catherine Pham. Two other sisters, Sister Martha Emery and Sister Elizabeth Washburn, are members of the community but are currently living in other locations due to health reasons.

The sisters live an enclosed, contemplative life dedicated to prayer, and it was that prayer life that drew the four sisters to the community.

"I had a deep sense that God was calling me to this life," said Sister Mary Catherine. "I'm an intro-



The Sisters of the Precious Blood pose with Bishop Terry R. LaValley after Sister Mary Catherine Pham professed final vows in September 2018.

vert. Though I worked out in the world for many years, when I asked God where He wanted me to go for religious life, God called me to this."

"I guess my personality involves forming one-on-one relationships," said Sister Rose, who entered the community after retiring from a 35-year nursing career. "I find intimate prayer attractive."

After visiting another community in her discernment process, Sister Rose was introduced to the Sisters of the Precious Blood when she saw Sister Marilyn and another sister on EWTN.

"I lived alone," she said. "I put on the TV and put on Mother Angelica. She was interviewing two sisters. I heard the term 'Precious Blood.' I thought, oh my goodness! That's life! Blood is life! How much closer can you get to Jesus?"

Sister Linh Therese, who immigrated to the United States from Vietnam and says she is still developing English proficiency, said the sisters' prayer ministry impressed her when she first visited the monastery as part of her discernment process.

"I heard people calling

here asking the sisters to pray," she said, noting she also heard people call to say the sisters' prayers were answered. "They call in, 'my daughter or son now has a good job or received healing.' This house, it's a miracle."

"I entered at age 18," said Sister Marilyn. "It sounds ridiculous, but I actually had the feeling I was called when I was a baby. My mother used to put a blanket on the lawn, and my siblings and I would sit on it. I remember sitting and looking at the grass around the blanket, grass blowing in the breeze. Even at that age, I remember thinking, 'something is making it wave like that.' I wanted to think more about it, think about what made it grow. It made me know my life wasn't in my hands."

The phone at the monastery rings frequently, and most of the calls are from people requesting prayers from the sisters.

A day in the monastery

- 5:30 a.m. — Rising Bell
- 7 a.m. — Morning prayer in common followed by private prayer
- 8 a.m. — Mass
- 9-11:30 a.m. — Breakfast followed by various works within the monastery
- 11:30 a.m. — Midday Prayer followed by dinner
- 1-3:30 p.m. — Private prayer, exercise, rest, personal time
- 3 p.m. — Seven Offerings of the Precious Blood followed by spiritual reading. Sisters return to various works such as distribution of altar breads.
- 3:30-5 p.m. — Correspondence, mailing of religious articles, calligraphy, Mass card enrollments, etc.
- 5 p.m. — Evening Prayer followed by meditation
- 6:15 p.m. — Supper
- 7-8 p.m. — Recreation
- 8-9 p.m. — Hour of Reparation, Offices of Night Prayer and Readings

"It's heartbreaking some of the things people confide in us as they ask for prayer," said Sister Marilyn. "Sometimes it's someone whose husband left them. Sometimes it's someone with a sick child."

"Sometimes, I don't know what to say when I hear their stories," said Sister Mary Catherine. "I just listen. I say, 'yes, I'll remember you in prayer.' We have a request wall. We put the prayer requests there as a reminder when we go into the chapel. These are prayers brought to us. It's a privilege to be called to this life."

"Sometimes, we pray for generations of families," said Sister Rose.

As part of their apostolate to spread devotion to the Precious Blood, the sisters also run a store that sells devotional items, including the Precious Blood shield, Precious Blood cords and rosaries with instructions to pray the Chaplet of the Precious Blood. They also offer confession guides.

The monastery has a

card shop on location, and also takes orders through a website, sisterspreciousblood.org.

The sisters also distribute hosts to parishes within our diocese and beyond.

"We serve as sort of a clearing house," Sister Marilyn said. "We order in bulk, package the hosts and distribute them to parishes. We've done that since day one here."

The sisters acknowledge that life in a contemplative monastery is not for everyone, but they say it is also a blessing.

"I appreciate this life," said Sister Mary Catherine. "Any life, there's always ups and downs. As long as we serve what God wills for us, any vocation is beautiful."

For more information about the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, visit sisterspreciousblood.org.

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CHEVROLET

Mercy Care plans training for Parish Nurses

Lake Placid – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, a mission sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing for Parish Nursing on March 27 (1 – 5 p.m.), March 28 (8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.), April 4 (8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.), April 18 (8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.), April 24 (1 – 5 p.m.), and April 25, (8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.).

All sessions are required. The course is offered to registered nurses of all faiths. Mercy Care provides the training at no cost to participants, but pre-registration is required.

Mercy Care's Faith Community Nurse Program is a volunteer program. If you are a registered nurse with a desire to help people live a healthy, faith-filled life, you may wish to serve your own faith community or others in the community as a volunteer parish nurse.

The parish nurse offers assistance in obtaining community services, helps with understanding diagnoses, medications



Some of the existing Faith Community Nurses gathered for the Parish Nurse Retreat 2019. Mercy Care for the Adirondacks has scheduled classes to train more Faith Community Nurses.

and diagnostic tests, provides blood pressure screening, health education programs and much more.

The parish nurse does not do hands-on nursing or duplicate what is available through the public

health nurse, but does bring his or her nursing experience and faith to the service of others.

In an evaluation survey Mercy Care Parish Nurses were asked, "What do you like most about being a parish nurse?" One of our

nurses replied, "I like the fact that I am able to help the aging population through a very credible organization which gives me the support and encouragement that I need as a volunteer. I also like the available continuing education that is offered by Mercy Care and the camaraderie, new ideas and support of other Parish Nurses."

Catherine Cummings, Ed.D., R.N., a Sister of Mercy, is qualified as a Parish Nurse Educator and will lead the training course. The course entitled "Foundations of Faith

Community Nursing" requires 38 contact hours.

To register for the course or request more information, please contact Sister Catherine Cummings at 518-523-5582 or ccummings@adkmercy.org.

Nurses who are interested in learning about Faith Community Nursing but are not yet ready to take the course may audit one or more of the topics.

Mercy Care has trained more than 50 parish nurses throughout the North County, eight of whom are serving in the Tri-Lakes area. Mercy Care for the Adirondacks facilitates networking with other nurses in the program and provides the support and equipment to its Faith Community Nurse Volunteers. The program offers the nurse an opportunity to choose the number of hours she/he is able to give to providing care that is holistic and wellness-focused in the community.

Faith Community Nursing or Parish Nursing, as it is often called, is one of the fastest growing specialties in nursing. It has spread rapidly throughout the country. Care is given in accordance with each individual's values and spiritual beliefs.

Mercy Care's mission is to enhance in every dimension the fullness of life of elders living in their community. It carries out its work through a Friendship Volunteer Program, a Parish Nurse Program, a Caregiver Friend Program, and an Education and Advocacy Program.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is located at 185 Old Military Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946. For more information, please visit Mercy Care's website at adkmercy.org.

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*Support And Pray
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IHC Mystery Players ready to tour with Lenten program

WATERTOWN—The Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) Mystery Players are getting ready to kick off the group's 2020 Lenten tour.

Founded in 1981, the Mystery Players bring the stories of Jesus' birth and death on the cross to parishes around the diocese and around the Northeast.

This year's Mystery Players group is comprised of 14 students, mostly IHC seniors.

"It's not a show; it's a prayer," group Director Terry Burgess said, in a December interview.

The group cycles through six versions of its Lenten program. Participants assume different roles every time the program is presented.

The Mystery Players' 2020 schedule includes the following dates and locations:

- March 1 – Summit Village, Watertown at 2 p.m.
- March 7 – Notre Dame, Malone at 7:30 p.m.
- March 8 – St. Lucy's, Syracuse at 7:30 p.m.
- March 15 – St. James Major, Lake Pleasant at 7 p.m.
- March 19 – Christ the

King, Albany at 7:30 p.m.

- March 20 – Holy Family, Deer Field, Massachusetts at 6 p.m.
 - March 21 – Christ Our Light, Loudonville at 7:30 p.m.
 - March 27 – Holy Family, Little Falls at 7:30 p.m.
 - March 29 – St. Peter's, Lowville at 7:30 p.m.
 - April 4 – St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake at 7:30 p.m.
 - April 10 – St. Patrick's, Watertown at 7:30 p.m.
- For more information about the Mystery Players, visit ihcschool.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

News Briefs

School donations doubled

St. James School in Gouverneur will kick off of its annual matched collection the weekend of March 1. The collection runs through March 15. Any donations made to St. James School during that two-week period will be matched by a generous parishioner.

To donate, log onto stjamesk-6.org, locate the "DONATE NOW" button and make your donation directly to the school. All monies go directly to offsetting school expenses.

The school is hoping to reach a fundraising goal of \$25,000.

Catholic Charities, soup kitchen, clothing store are open

Catholic Charities is now offering services at St. Joseph's Outreach Center, part of the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph. Located at 1349 Military Turnpike, services will be available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. There, Catholic Charities is offering a wide range of services, including help with food, clothing and shelter. For more information, call 518-300-0272.

Also at the Military Turnpike location, St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen is open every Thursday (except for holidays) serving hot meal from 4:30 until 5:30 p.m. Doors open at 4:15 p.m.

The clothing store is adjacent and open during these hours. St. Joseph's Clothing Store offers items priced \$5 and under. Currently winter clothing is available, including coats, hats, mittens, gloves. Monday-Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the store, call 518-563-6301.

Volunteers are needed for all the above ministries! You need not be a parish member to assist. Call St. Alexander's Parish Office 518-561-5039 for more information.

Rest in Peace

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

- Feb. 19** – Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954
- Feb. 20** – Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897
- Feb. 21** – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944
- Feb. 22** – Rev. Edward Tortel, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H. J. Ryan, 1930
- Feb. 23** – Rev. Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., 1908; Rev. Edward Blanchard, 1922; Rev. André Payette, O.M.I., 1976
- Feb. 24** – Rev. George Belanger, 1932; Rev. William J. Murphy, C.S.C.O., 1959
- Feb. 25** – Rev. William Howard, 1888; Rev. P.J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1895; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912; Msgr. L. Kevin Connors, 1971

Bishop's Public Schedule

- Feb. 19** – 11 a.m. – Council of Priests Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch
- Feb. 20** – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch
- Feb. 21** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Feb. 22** – 2:30 p.m. – Visit and Tour of Bishop's Residence with the Plattsburgh Newman Association followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Feb. 23** – 8 a.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Feb. 24** – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Feb. 25** – 11:30 a.m. – DOVS Mardi Gras Celebration at St. Patrick's Parish Center in Colton
- Feb. 26** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

- Feb. 19** – 6 p.m., Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont, Cape Vincent

Environmental Stewardship

Faith & Ecology Lenten suggestions

Lent is the time when we try to change our habits and lives in some small ways in an attempt to better imitate Jesus. While much of what we think, do, and say throughout the day may seem beneficial to ourselves, neighbors, and community, we often fail to consider how our words and actions impact those that we do not know or care about.

As individuals that study nature, we realize that all life and matter is integrally connected. All components of the environment, regardless of how small or seemingly insignificant, have a role to play in God's magnificent universe. Neglecting one or harming another can adversely impact in an indirect way ourselves and loved ones. This is why Jesus stressed that we must love our neighbor and forgive everyone, including our enemies. Hatred, anger and revenge toward anyone or anything is wrong from a Christian perspective and from an ecological viewpoint, as it diminishes the harmony needed for a healthy spiritual life and a vibrant ecology.

What might happen if everyone tries to act in a welcoming manner toward those we do not like or view in a negative light? Our society is increasingly becoming more polarized in politics, in religious circles, in racial attitudes, in patriotic views and in many more matters. This is why it is imperative to always greet everyone with a smile or speak a kind word or two to anyone.

One place to begin to heal our planet is to repair the damage that we unintentionally inflict upon others. This impacts the peace and harmony in our society and our common home. Working to create a more compassionate, forgiving and loving world is essential to restoring the balance in nature and start to return a healthy climate to our "common home."

Submitted by Tom Kalinowski, St. Bernard's Parish, Faith and Ecology Member

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, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY, 12955 terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920

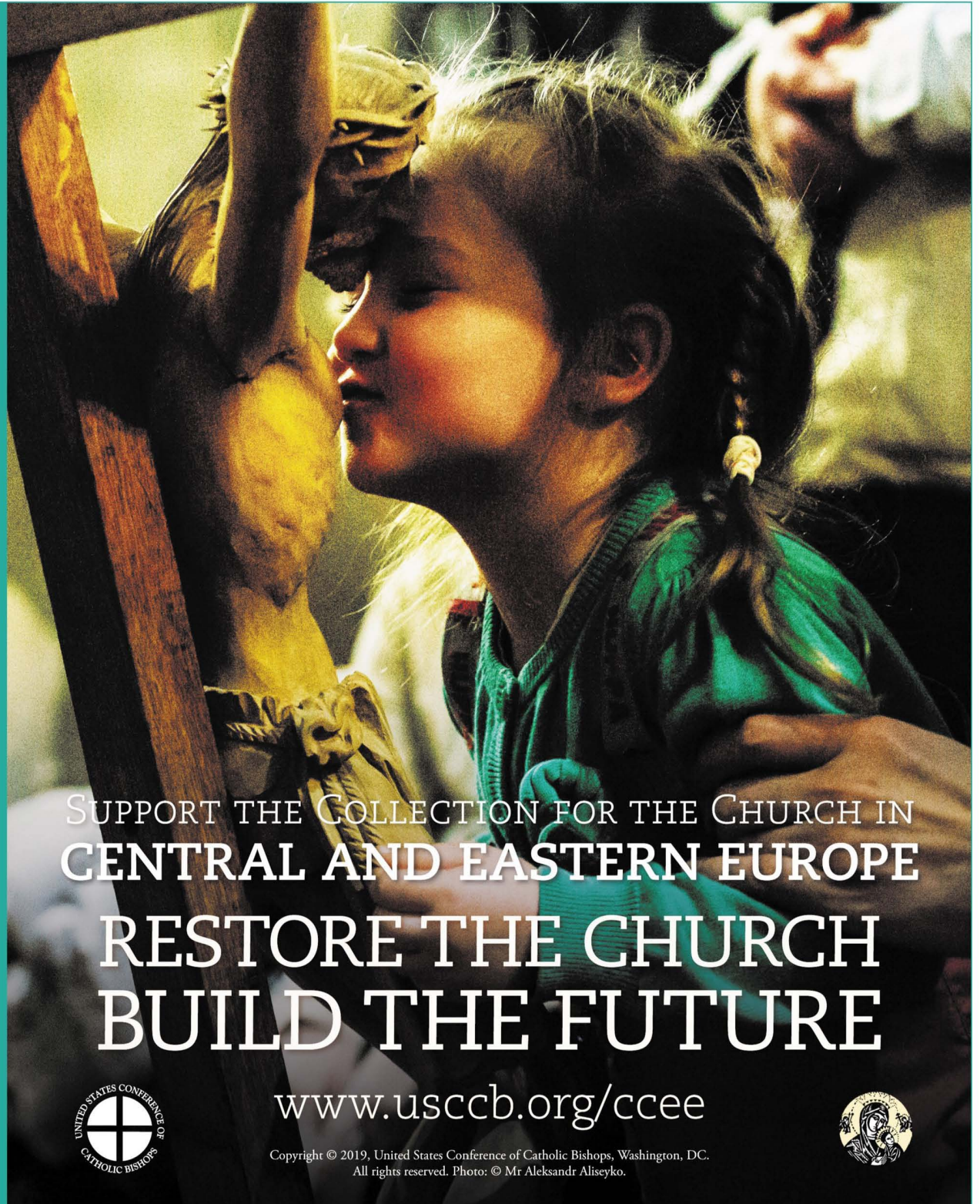
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We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

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CLINTON

FISH FRY

AuSable Forks – AuSable Forks Knights of Columbus to have their Ash Wednesday Fish Fry.

Date: Feb. 26, March 6 and 20

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

Place: Holy Name Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$6; take-outs available

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST

Altona – All you can eat breakfast to be held.

Date: March 1

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: Holy Angels Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs available

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: March 1 & April 5

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

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall

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

FISHERS CLUB

Plattsburgh – Priesthood discernment group to meet for those men hearing the call.

Date: March 1 & 29, April 19, May 3

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's upper room

Features: For High School Junior men & older. Meetings will have discernment, evening prayer & dinner. It's never too early to begin the discussion with your Pastor or another trusted priest.

Contact: Just drop in or contact Father Howard Venette:

pastorsmoll@stmariysti.org 518 585 7144 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org 315-375-6571

FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have its Annual Fish Fry.

Date: March 6

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

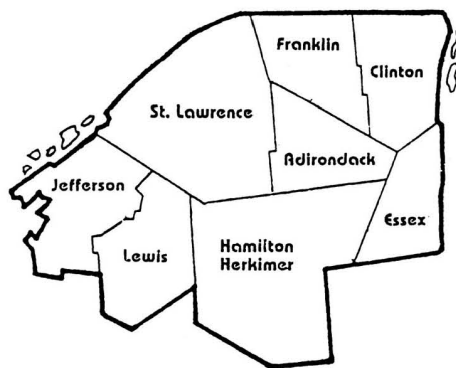
Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$12; Children 6-12, \$6; All take-outs, \$12

Contact: For more information call the rectory at 518-846-7650 or email sacredheart@westelcom.com

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Plattsburgh – Join us this Lent as we take 6 weeks to prepare ourselves for



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.

the coming of Christ!

Date: Tuesdays, Feb. 25 – March 31

Schedule: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at

St. John's Parish center classroom; 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the upper room at St. Peter's

Features: The Road to Redemption, Cycle A. A Catholic Scripture Study International Program by Mitch Pacwa, S.J. The six weeks leading up to Easter mark our own 40 days in the desert with Jesus. To prepare, each participant reads the Sunday readings along with the "Points to Ponder" commentary, answers the Study Questions & Questions for Reflection and "prays the scriptures." All material is provided in the study guide.

Contact: Please call The Rectory office at 518-563-1692 to register by Feb. 18. When you call please make arrangements to pick up your study guide prior to the session on Feb. 25 (We will be discussing the Week 1 Session - Temptation in the Desert at the 1st session).

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil.

Date: Feb. 26 – April 5

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

Place: Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood

Contact: If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or nan-

cys_56@hotmail.com

www.40daysforlife.com/Plattsburgh

ESSEX

ST. JOSEPH'S LENTEN STUDIES

Olmstedville – Lenten Studies on Miracles to be held.

Date: Wednesdays starting Feb. 26 to April 1

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish House

Features: Discussion to be had as well as soup and bread will be served.

FRANKLIN

ROSARY RALLY

St. Regis Falls – Rosary Rally to be held for world peace and the sanctity of families.

Date: Feb. 22, March 21

Time: 12 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Church

Contact: For more information call Elaine McGivney at 518-529-6133

JEFFERSON

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Watertown – Surviving Divorce program to be held.

Date: 12 Sessions for 6 weeks starting Jan. 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays

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

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Features: Separated and divorced adults, come find support and healing.

Contact: For more information, contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or (315) 393-2920.

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Watertown – Bishop Robert Barron's

"Catholicism" DVD presentation and discussion.

Date: Feb. 20 (Part 6, "Heaven & Hell")

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Dostie Hall at Sacred Heart Church

Features: Explore the faith through stories, biographies, & images; like a world tour of persons, places, & cathedrals. No need to have viewed previous presentations. All believers welcome. Refreshments.

Contact: Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

FISHERS CLUB

Watertown – Priesthood discernment group to meet for those men hearing the call.

Date: Feb. 23, March 22, April 26, May 31

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's Church, Sechi Hall

Features: For High School Junior men & older. Meetings will have discernment, evening prayer & dinner. It's never too early to begin the discussion with your Pastor or another trusted priest.

Contact: Just drop in or contact Father Chris Looby at fatherlooby@gmail.com 315-782-1190 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org 315-375-6571

THE MASS SERIES

Watertown – Bishop Robert Barron's "The Mass" DVD presentation and discussion

Schedule: (1) March 5 "Encounter; Called Out of World"; (2) March 12 "God Speaks; We Respond"; (3) March 19 "Preparing the Sacrifice; Creating Communion"; (4) March 26 "Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence"

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Dostie Hall at Sacred Heart Church

Features: Whether new to the Mass or not, you will learn from Bishop Barron's presentation. All believers welcome. Refreshments.

Contact: Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

LENTEN PRAYER GROUP

Adams – Join us on our Lenten journey as we meet in a small group setting to pray and reflect on the Sunday readings.

Date: Sundays for 6 weeks March 1 to April 5

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Place: St. Cecilia's Parish

Features: We will be using the Lenten Longings series to embrace the teachings of Christ, open ourselves to the Spirit of God, grow in our faith and in our relationship with God and one another.

Contact: To register please call the Parish office at (315) 232-3292 or Denise Wallace at (315) 523-1623

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown – St. Anthony's church to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

Date: March 26

Time: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., dinner 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Cost: Adults, \$8; Half portions for children or adults, \$4.50; children 3 and under, Free; Sauce, \$5 quart (bring a pot); extra meatballs are .75 cents each.

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: March 1

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260 for more information.

BIBLICAL TALK

Croghan – Five-week study to be had about "No Greater Love: Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion"

Date: Beginning March 4 and continuing every Wednesday for 5 weeks

Time: Two Sessions, 1:30 p.m. & 6:45 p.m.

Place: St. Stephen's Church

Cost: \$24.95 for the Book and Workbook

Features: You will also need to use your Bible. Couples could purchase one set and share.

Contact: call Tom at 315-523-5890 or via email tkalamas@twcny.rr.com.

Parish Office at 315-346-6958

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Schedule: March 8, Theme: "Seek first the Kingdom of God"; March 9, Theme: "Jesus Frees Us From Stress & Worry"; March 10, Theme: "Experiencing Jesus & Family"

Place: St. Peter's Church

Time: 7 p.m.

Features: The mission will be led by Father Fran Pompei OFM. Father Pompei is the original author and director of the Mystery Players from IHC which have been presented at local churches across the United States. He has done extensive retreat work with adults and young people.

Contact: if you have any questions Please contact the parish office at stpeters@centralny.twcbc.com Or call 315-376-6662

ST. LAWRENCE

BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY

Massena – Eight-week series to be held unlocking the mystery of the bible.

Date: Tuesdays, Feb. 4 – March 31

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 & 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: Free-will offering

Contact: 315-769-2469 or smarion@massenacatholics.com; masse-nacatholics.com

TRUST TRUTH SERIES

Canton – A series of speakers will be presenting the Trust Truth: Cabin Fever Edition – "Living in Christ."

Schedule: Feb. 19 will feature Father Stephen Rocker discussing, "Some Good Reasons to Leave the Catholic Church" from 7 to 8 p.m.; Feb. 23 will feature Andrew Lauria discussing, "Catholic, Gay & Doing OK" from 6 to 7 p.m.

Place: Above the Stadium Sports Bar in Canton

Features: Parking is available on the street or in the public lot behind the venue

STEAK OR HADDOCK DINNER

Ogdensburg – Knights of Columbus to have a Steak/Haddock Dinner.

Date: Feb. 21

Time: 4:30 p.m. until gone

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Pre-sale, Adults, \$12; Seniors and children, \$11; Day of the dinner \$1 more

Contact: Order tickets and Take-out by calling 315-393-7990 by 4:15 to be

delivered to the towers.

LENTEN FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a Lenten Fish & Shrimp Fry.

Date: Friday's during Lent starting Feb. 28

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

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

Contact: Deliveries and take-outs available by calling 315-287-0130

FISHERS CLUB

Potsdam – Priesthood discernment group to meet for those men hearing the call.

Date: March 1, April 5

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Rectory

Features: For High School Junior men & older. Meetings will have discernment, evening prayer & dinner. It's never too early to begin the discussion with your Pastor or another trusted priest.

Contact: Just drop in or contact Father Stephen Rocker at srocker164@yahoo.com or 315-265-9680 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org 315-375-6571

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Ogdensburg – Bible series on salvation to be held.

Date: March 4 and runs for 10 weeks.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral, Brzana Hall

Cost: \$10 for the workbook, the parish will supply the book.

Features: At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from heaven "... for us men and for our salvation". But what does salvation mean? In this remarkable 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical, answer.

Contact: You need to register at St. Mary's Cathedral website at www.Ogdensburgcatholics.org. Scroll down and in the right column find "Lectio-Salvation," and then find the "Go Here" button to register. If you have any questions you can email Deacon Bill O'Brien at billob315@gmail.com.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – CLM's and FFM Candi-

dates invited to attend a morning of reflection.

Date: March 7

Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral Brzana Hall

Features: Let's slow things down and truly see God around us. The theme is "Joyful Steps: Walk – No Running Allowed." The presenters will be Mary Sovie and Clare Murdock. Event will be free and snacks will be provided.

Contact: Early registration appreciated to ensure enough materials. Register at www.rcdony.org/clm-event or contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 Ext. 1413 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

Potsdam – Are you a young adult Catholic between the ages of 20 -35? Join us for our first Frassati Fellowship Young Adult Dinner!

Date: Feb. 25

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Begin with Adoration; dinner and games; talk on "Who is Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati" by Conner Cummings; discussion of the future and potential of this group! All who attend are entered in a special raffle!

Contact: For more information please like our Facebook page or contact our coordinator at campusministrys@gmail.com or 315-783-5477

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

Lenten retreats to be held for young people in grades 7 to 12

Schedule: Feb. 29 at St. Patrick's, Watertown; March 7 at St. Mary's, Champlain

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Features: There is no fee to attend. Each retreat will focus on three aspects to aid us in centering ourselves on Jesus Christ and strengthening our relationship with our loving God. Each afternoon retreat will be fun, heart and mind opening and spiritually rejuvenating.

Contact: To register go to www.rcdony.org/youthlenten/lenten-retreat.html or contact Virginia Demers, at: vdemers@rcdony.org - 315-393-2920 ext. 1401

LEAD EVENT

Lake Placid – Diocesan LEAD event to

be held.

Date: March 9-10

Place: Crowne Plaza

Cost: One LEAD member is free, Additional members cost \$50. If you have a team of 3 the cost is \$120. Non-LEAD parishes cost \$75 per person.

Features: The theme will be "The Catechumen's Journey: The Initiation process. Creating Holy Moments for New Disciples." Participants are responsible for their own hotel accommodations and expense. Mention the event when registering with the hotel.

Contact: Jessica Hargrave by email: jhargrave@rcdony.org or by phone: (315)393-2920

EVENT FOR WOMEN

Lake Placid – The Catholic Daughters to sponsor an event for women.

Date: March 15

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Agnes Church

Features: Marika Donders, Director of the Office of New Evangelization of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, to present "The Audacious Woman: A Story of Encounter, Challenge and Discipleship." This event is open to all women.

DAY OF REFLECTION

LEAD event to be held in the Eastern and Western region of the diocese.

Date: March 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: Eastern Region, St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh. Speaker will be Deacon Mark Bennett. Western Region, Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg. Speaker will be Deacon Jim Crowley.

Cost: One LEAD member is free. Additional Lead member and non-members fee is \$20

Contact: Jessica Hargrave at jhargrave@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the church.

Schedule: March 28, St. Augustine's Church, Peru from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; March 29, at Sacred Heart Church, Watertown from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per student (meal included)

Contact: These are a first come, first served basis. Register by March 18 by emailing crussell@rcdony.org or by calling 315-393-2920

YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid – Diocesan Youth Rally to be held for grades 7-12.

Date: April 25

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: High Peaks Resort

Cost: \$30, All inclusive

Features: Young people will gather together for a day filled with "God's All-Encompassing Love." The theme, "Under The Big Top," sets the tone for a carnival style event with fun games, entertainment, food, a dynamic speaker and a closing Mass offered by Bishop Terry LaValley. Keynote speaker will be, Doug Tooke, a dynamic and energetic speaker with more than 20 years in Ministry. Also appearing will be the Gratto Fellows Circus Performers. There will be Carnival Games and great music! Lunch will be provided.

Contact: Tom Semeraro at 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 or register at www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally

EARLY CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE TRAINING

Watertown – A workshop how to create a joy filled home with Jesus at the center to be held.

Date: May 16

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

Place: St. Patrick's Church, Pastoral Center

Presenters: Alan and Joanne Foley, the creators of the Early Catholic Family Life Program.

Features: Lunch will be provided
Contact: To register contact Jessica Hargrave by email: jhargrave@rcdony.org, or by phone: 315-393-2920

2020 COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS RETREAT

Ogdensburg – It's not too early to start planning for the 2020 CLM Retreat being held in June.

Date: June 12 – 15

Place: Wadhams Hall

Speaker: Our presenter is Father Louis Sogliuzzo, SJ of Syracuse

Cost: \$10 for Registration and then rooms will cost: Double: \$180 per person; Single: \$240; Suite: (Single) \$375; Suite (Married/Double) \$459; Com-muter \$90

Contact: Registrations/Payments can be made online at: <https://www.rcdony.org/clmwadhams>

AT THE MOVIES
LES MISERABLES

NEW YORK (CNS) – "Les Misérables" (Amazon) has no connection to Victor Hugo's classic novel of the same name other than its setting – the rundown Paris suburb of Montfermeil, where the poor still struggle and continue to distrust authority figures.

The film addresses, straight on, the observation made by John Steinbeck in "The Grapes of Wrath" when he wrote of "the little screaming fact that sounds through all history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed."

This time, the poor are Muslim immigrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa. They are packed into high-rise housing in a desolate, treeless end of town and have not assimilated into French national life and culture – other than sharing in the mania surrounding championship soccer games.

Director Ladj Ly, who co-wrote the screenplay with Giordano Gederlini and Alexis Manenti, uses the outline of a police procedural – the film mostly takes place over a single day in the work of a three-officer street crime unit – to form a powerful message about bigotry, suspicion and the abuse of power.

Although the script veers into polemics, Ly also goes to some effort to break all of the principal characters out of easy stereotypes and gives them room for reflection, since all are struggling to make moral decisions.

The most threatening figure in the story, Salah (Almamy Kanoute) – a career criminal who runs a cramped eatery – gets the most thoughtful line: "What if expressing anger is the only way to be



CNS PHOTO/AMAZON STUDIOS

Damien Bonnard, Alexis Manenti, and Djebri Zonga star in a scene from the movie "Les Misérables."

heard?"

It's the first day on the squad for Stephane (Damien Bonnard). He joins Gwada (Djebri Zonga), who still lives in the neighborhood, and the tough-talking Chris (Manenti), who is overbearing to children but considers himself a dealmaker with adults.

As is usually the case with abusive types, his bluster masks his fear.

When Stephane, shocked after Chris bullies some teen girls at a bus stop, asks, "Can't we be polite?" Chris snaps, "Then work as a butler in a palace!"

The story centers on a miscreant boy, Issa (Issa Perica), who has a talent for theft and has stolen a lion cub from a small circus.

In the search for the cub and Issa, the boy is injured from a misfired flash-ball gun the police use to dispel crowds.

Complicating matters further, another boy, Buzz (Ly's son, Al-Hassan) has captured the shooting with his camera drone, which means that the police have to find a way of getting Issa out of sight while attempting to retrieve the camera's memory card. Otherwise, both

sides fear a return of the rioting that once nearly destroyed the community.

The youths don't pay much attention to the Muslim leadership, and the police can't control their own impulses. Nothing gets solved.

Ly is not out to provide the audience with comfort. He clearly shows that racism is at the core of the neighborhood's isolation.

But he stops short of lecturing. He wants instead to make viewers look and reflect.

In French. English subtitles.

The film contains some physical violence, frequent racist and sexual slurs, as well as pervasive rough and fleeting crass language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted.

Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Going for the gold with God

Young people need challenges in order to grow. "Go for the gold" is not just for Olympic contenders. It's for all of us. All three of Sunday's readings shout out to us that challenge. God, speaking through Moses, says to the whole house of Israel, "Be holy, for I the Lord, your God, am holy." It's a call to love one's neighbor as oneself, and not to hold any kind of grudge, or ever to seek revenge.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that He has



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

not come to destroy the Law that His Father laid down centuries before, but that He came on earth to fulfill that law. His new law and covenant will go even further. As we resume hearing the Sermon on the Mount this week, Jesus goes into detail. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" kept the Jews to exact justice in righting a wrong. If a neighbor knocked out one of your teeth, you could only knock out one of his teeth in retribution! If a Roman

February 23

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

soldier commanded you to carry his baggage for a mile, which was allowed by law, then Jesus' followers were to go with the soldier for two miles. We have all admired people who "go the extra mile" for someone.

Jesus' listeners must have scoffed at Jesus when He told them not only to love your neighbor, but to love your ene-

mies as well! While that may have seemed absurd foolishness, we all know that keeping our distance and viewing our enemy as somehow sub-human doesn't get us anywhere. However, treating our enemy with compassion can often bring about a reconciliation and even turn our enemy into a friend.

How can we ever possibly get the grace and strength to follow all this advice? Today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us how. First, he tells us that we are stronger and holier than we think. "Do you not know that you are

the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Incredible! Talk about bolstering our confidence in ourselves to become perfect! Then St. Paul tells us not be worried if society thinks us fools for acting on Jesus' advice. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God..." When we act according to God's wisdom, then we belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God!"

If we go for God's gold, then we can't lose. Not only will we grow instead of stagnate in complacency, but we'll land ourselves right into the joy of God's heaven!

Pope shares frustration with reaction to synod text

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis told a group of U.S. bishops that, like them, he is accused of not being courageous or not listening to the Holy Spirit when he says or does something someone disagrees with – like not mentioning married priests in his document on the Amazon.

"You could see his consternation when he said that for some people it was all about celibacy and not about the Amazon," said Bishop William A. Wack of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

"He said some people say he is not courageous because he didn't listen to the Spirit," the bishop told Catholic News Service Feb. 13. "He said, 'So they're not mad at the Spirit. They're mad at me down here,'" as if they assume the Holy Spirit agreed with them.

Bishop Wack was one of 15 bishops from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina who spent close to three hours with Pope Francis Feb. 13

as part of their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. They were joined by two from Arizona – Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson and Auxiliary Bishop Eduardo A. Nevares of Phoenix – who had been unable to meet the pope with their group Feb. 10.

During the meeting, one bishop asked Pope Francis for three or four points he would like them to share with their people from the document "Querida Amazonia" (Beloved Amazonia), which was released the day before and offered the pope's reflections on the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon.

Auxiliary Bishop Joel M. Konzen of Atlanta told CNS that the pope said the most important message in the document for U.S. Catholics is to care for the planet, "that this is a grave matter."

Then, he said, the pope told the bishops that months or even years go into producing documents and what gets reported by

the media "is one line" or that "the pope didn't have the courage to change the rules of the church."

Bishop Wack said the pope told them the synod met "to talk about the issues of the church in the Amazon. Other people wanted me to talk about celibacy. They made that the issue. But that wasn't the issue of this synod."

Pope Francis told the bishops that they and their priests must teach and preach about care for the environment, Bishop Wack said. "He said even if people don't want to hear it. How can we deny that things are changing? How can we deny that we're hurting our future? And he said, if we don't talk about these things, well, shame on us. We have to preach the Gospel, and this is part of the Gospel."

Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami said Pope Francis also talked about what he means by "synodality" and members of the church listening to

each other, praying about issues and trying to discern a way forward together. The synod, he said, is not "a parliament in which people take majority votes on a whole bunch of issues."

Among the reactions concerning the exhortation that caught Pope Francis' eye, he said, was a commentary that said "the pope lacked courage" on the issue of ordaining married men.

"But the synod is not about the courage of the pope or the lack of the courage of the pope," Archbishop Wenski paraphrased the pope as telling them. "The synod is about the action of the Holy Spirit and discernment of the Holy Spirit. And if there is no Holy Spirit, there is no discernment."

If discernment and the action of the Holy Spirit are missing, then it is just "a meeting and it's people sharing opinions and maybe research, but it's

not necessarily a synod unless it's in some way governed by the Holy Spirit," Bishop Konzen said.

Bishop Wack said Pope Francis also explained that synodality and discernment are processes that continue even after a synod has met and a document has been published.

"He said, 'You can't just meet once and then say, 'Oh, we have all the answers,' but the conversation continues,'" the bishop said. "And so, he said, 'What we did is we raised these issues, and now we have to deal with them,'" continuing to invoke the Holy Spirit and discern the path for the future.

As with the 13 groups of U.S. bishops that preceded them, the bishops also spoke with the pope about the clerical sexual abuse crisis, immigration, youth and young adult ministry and what it means to be a bishop.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Lent is almost here

How God loves us! Yet, in times of worry and fear, trial and suffering, we may feel like crying out, as Jesus did on the Cross: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Still, during our darkness, we remember the gift of God's boundless love and we remember that God did not abandon His beloved Son but raised Him from death to glory.

God does not abandon us.

During Lent, you can extend this message of hope to those in great need around our world. You can answer the call of Pope Francis made during his visit to Africa, after visiting the poorest of the poor: "We must stretch out our hands, as Jesus does with us."

This Lent become the hands and heart of our Lord for our mission family, through your prayers and financial gifts.

By your sacrifice, you can stretch out your hands to Sisters in Madagascar who rescue little ones from human trafficking, providing them with an education; to lay missionary catechists in one of the largest slums in Kenya, who visit the sick, pray with the dying, and teach children of the mercy and hope of the Savior; to priests and Sisters in Ethiopia who reach out to children and families in danger of starvation, saving lives and revealing the Lord's compassion.

God reminds us that He is with us always.

This Lent, would you be a loving missionary with your support of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith?

Your help says to your brothers and sisters in the Missions: "God will never abandon you."

As we continue our Lenten journey, know my prayer is for special blessings on you and your loved ones. May you be consoled in your darkest times by the knowledge that the Lord never abandons us.

And may God bless you for your generosity to the Mission Church, especially at Easter!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.rcdony.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Bloomington – Eleanor (Atkins) McKillip, 105; Mass of Christian Burial May 15, 2020 at St. Paul's Oratory; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Canton – Ann Patricia (Hurley) Dalton, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 15, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery

Lake Placid – Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Quigley McKenna, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2020 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Louisville – Alma C. (Girard) Wilkins, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2020 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Robert Howard "Bob" Ross, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 14, 2020 at Isenecker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in West Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena – Henry F. Boyer, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 10, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Foxwood Mausoleum.

Massena – Helga M. (Frambach) Har- tie, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Cal-

vary Cemetery.

Mineville – Barbara M. (French) Urban, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2020 at All Saints Church; burial in Moriah Catholic Community Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Valida A. (Trombley) Bell, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Clifford John Lavigne, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 14, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Hector D. Martineau, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 13, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

North Lawrence – Joseph F. "Jody" Dissottle, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 11, 2020 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – George S. Adams, Sr., 63; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2020 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Robert E. Hollembaek, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 3,

2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Clara Theresa Hammett, 91; Mass of Christian Burial to be announced at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Thomas LaFave, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium.

Redford – Linda M. (Rascoe) Parker, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 11, 2020 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Independence Cemetery, Saranac.

Saranac Lake – Jacqueline (Trummer) Hahne, 67; Memorial Services Feb. 18, 2020 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Albert Fred Pelerin, Jr., 69; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 12, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Watertown – Peter S. Leone, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 13, 2020 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

New books for Lent, Easter

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Here are some new books that might be useful for your spiritual reading during Lent and the Easter season:

- "Sacred Space for Lent 2020" by the Irish Jesuits. Loyola Press (Chicago, 2020). 98 pp., \$3.95.

- "Jesus, Friend of My Soul: Reflections for the Lenten Journey" by Joyce Rupp. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2020). 128 pp., \$13.95.

- "Messages of Trust for Lent 2020" by Michael White and Tom Corcoran. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2019). 64 pp., \$1.95.

- "The Living Gospel: Daily Devotions for Lent 2020" by Greg Kandra. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame,

Indiana, 2019). 196 pp., \$2.25.

- "Living Memento Mori: My Journey Through the Stations of the Cross" by Emily M. DeArdo. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2020). 128 pp., \$13.95.

- "The Wind, the Fountain and the Fire: Scripture and the Renewal of the Christian Imagination, The 2020 Lent Book" by Mark Barrett. Bloomsbury Continuum (New York, 2020). 192 pp., \$15.

- "The Way of the Cross With St. John Paul II" by Father Herbert Niba. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2019). 96 pp., \$5.95.

- "Small Simple Ways: An Ignatian Daybook for Healthy Spiritual Living"

by Vinita Hampton Wright. Loyola Press (Chicago, 2019). 384 pp., \$14.95.

- "Drop Your Nets and Follow Jesus: How to Form Disciples for the New Evangelization" by Susan Muto. New City Press (Hyde Park, New York, 2019). 156 pp., \$16.95.

- "Abide in the Heart of Christ: A 10-Day Personal Retreat With St. Ignatius Loyola" by Joseph Laramie, SJ. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2019). 160 pp., \$14.95.

- "Holy Angels Prayer Book," from the Catholic Treasury Series, written and compiled by Mary Mark Wickenhiser, FSP. Pauline Books & Media (Boston, 2019). 176 pp., \$17.95.

Funeral Mass planned for Sister Donna Jean Tavernier

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Donna Jean Tavernier (formerly Sister Mary Jude) will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 22, 2020 in the Redeemer Sisters Chapel, 521 Moredon Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania.

Sister Donna, 85, died Thursday, February 13, 2020 at St. Joseph's Manor, Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, in the 67th year of her religious life.

A native of Ogdensburg, she was one of four children born to Francis and Ernestine O'Donoghue Tavernier. Donna Jean graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1953, the year she entered the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. She later received a bachelor's degree in Education from D'Youville College.

Sister served for 33 years in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, with assignments both in Potsdam and Ogdensburg. Additional places of service were in Jackson Heights and Buffalo, New York; Mahanoy City, King of Prussia, Paoli and Yardley, Pennsylvania; Lowell, Massachusetts; and Kodiak, Alaska.

While the majority of



Sister Donna Jean Tavernier

her 55 years of ministry were in the field of education, Sister's knowledge and skills were further channeled in health services to her Grey Nun Sisters as a Nurse's Aide in the Motherhouse Infirmary and later as Activities Aide/Clerical Worker at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg for 15 years.

In 2011 Sister retired to the Motherhouse and later to Holy Redeemer D'Youville Manor where she continued to provide In-

tracommunity service until 2014, when Sister moved to St. Joseph's Manor.

In addition to her religious community, she is survived by her sister, Diane Fitzgibbon, and nieces and nephews.

Sister is predeceased by her parents and two brothers. She is also predeceased by her aunt, Sister Rose O'Donoghue, GNSH (Sister Mary Evangelina).

A viewing will be held on prior to the Mass of Christian Burial on Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the Redeemer Sisters Chapel, followed by sharing of memories at 10:15. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery, Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Services have been arranged by Beck-Givnish Funeral Homes, Inc. Donations in Sister Donna's memory will be gratefully received by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 14500 Bustleton Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19116-1188 or at www.greynun.org.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Sasse bill provides care for abortion survivors, say supporters

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Former nurse Jill Stanek recalls 20 years ago holding "a precious child who had been abandoned to die alone in the hospital's soiled utility room after surviving an abortion." Today "we are still fighting for the basic care these little ones deserve," she said. Stanek, who is national campaign chair for the Susan B. Anthony List pro-life organization, made the comments ahead of her testimony at a Feb. 11 hearing on Capitol Hill sponsored by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebr., is the lead co-sponsor of the measure, which he reintroduced in mid-January. The bill would protect newborns who survive abortions by requiring appropriate care and admission to a hospital. "As extremists in New York, Virginia, Illinois and other states push to expand abortion on demand through the moment of birth," Stanek said, "abortion survivors desperately need Congress to pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, to provide them with legal and medical protections and not leave open the decision whether they live or die." Other pro-life witnesses who testified included Dr. Robin Pierucci, a clinical neonatologist and associate scholar with the Charlotte Lozier Institute, and Patriona Moseley, the director of life, culture and women's advocacy at the Family Research Council.

Former seminary professor charged with cyberstalking reporter

BUFFALO (CNS) – A former professor at the Diocese of Buffalo's seminary was charged with cyberstalking in connection with a series of harassing phone calls to a television reporter over a six-month period. Paul Lubienecki of Hamburg, New York, was arrested Feb. 12 on two felony cyberstalking charges. He appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder Jr. later in the day. He faces up to five years in prison if convicted. Federal prosecutors said in court documents that Lubienecki, who is on leave from his position as an adjunct professor at Christ the King Seminary, made several intimidating phone calls that included death threats to an unnamed reporter. WKBW-TV identified its reporter Charlie Specht as the person who received the calls. Specht had been investigating and extensively reporting on the diocese's sexual abuse scandal. Court documents said the reporter received five intimidating calls beginning in August and culminating in a voicemail message threatening death Feb. 4, the day the diocese announced that it planned to close the seminary at the end of the current academic year.

In Brazil, 'Querida Amazonia' elicits range of reactions

SAO PAULO (CNS) – Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the pan-Amazonian synod surprised many church workers who live in the region and elicited a range of reactions. Although no one interviewed by Catholic News Service overtly criticized the pope, religious in the Amazon said they were surprised and called Pope Francis' decision not to authorize the ordination of married men "excessively prudent." Several agreed, however, that Pope Francis has advanced discussion on the matter. "Querida Amazonia" (Beloved Amazonia) "fell short of our expectations. We expected the pope to take it a step further, and he didn't," Bishop Erwin Krautler, retired head of the Xingu prelate in Brazil's Amazon region, told Catholic News Service. The bishop, who participated in the October Synod of Bishops for the Amazon, told CNS he would not go so far as saying he was disappointed, but he was surprised by the avoidance of a clear decision on the matter of ordaining married permanent deacons.

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