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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 38

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 26, 2020

Catholic schools earn accreditation

After two years of working toward the goal, the Catholic Schools system of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has received accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Norwest Accreditation Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. "This accreditation means we have demonstrated we are a system engaged in ongoing improvement," said Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of Catholic schools. "It's an internationally recognized accreditation."

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

HEARTS FOR HAITI



Students at St. Mary's School in Canton made valentines during Catholic Schools Week to send to a school in Haiti as a mission activity. This activity was part of "Teacher Switch Day." Marianne Augenstein, the school's fifth/sixth grade teacher, went on a missions trip to Haiti in 2017. Augenstein told the students about the mission trip and asked the students if they would help make valentines for the kids there. The students pictured are in grades pre-k through six.

WELCOME, 'FATHER JAY'



The Diocese of Ogdensburg and Bishop Terry R. LaValley welcome Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" De La Rosa to the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander (Morrisonville) and St. Joseph (Dannemora), St. James Church (Cadyville) and Church of the Assumption (Redford). Father De La Rosa is a priest from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines and will be serving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for five years.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope: Being meek does not mean being a pushover

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who are meek are patient, gentle and merciful, drawing people together and salvaging relationships, Pope Francis said.

Meekness entails tenaciously holding onto one's trust in and relationship with God and protectively guarding his gifts of peace, mercy and fraternity, the pope said Feb. 19 during his weekly general audience in the Paul VI

hall.

The pope continued a series of talks on the Eight Beatitudes by reflecting on the third beatitude, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land."

It seems strange that meekness and inheriting land are somehow related, the pope said.

But, he said, it is rooted in Psalm 37:3-11, which tells believers to trust in the Lord, refrain from

anger, be patient and "make your righteousness shine" for then shall they "inherit the earth" and "delight in great prosperity."

The "land" the psalm refers to is something greater than some earthly territory, which is so often a source of conflict, war and aggression, the pope said.

"That land is a promise and a gift for the people of God," he said. It is heaven

— that "new earth" that God has made for his children.

"Therefore, the meek are those who 'inherit' the most sublime of territories," Pope Francis said. "They are not cowards, weak, looking for some fallback moral principle in order to steer clear of trouble. Far from it!"

Whether a person is meek is seen during moments of conflict, crisis or pressure, he said, since

it's easy to seem meek when life goes smoothly.

"You see it in how they react to a hostile situation," when they are attacked or offended, he said.

Meekness is what Jesus displayed during his passion since, according to St. Peter, Jesus returned no insult, did not threaten and instead, "handed himself over to the one who judges justly."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

May we all be 'ready to edit'

When I worked in the secular newspaper industry, I always used to say, "someday I'll write a sitcom about a small-town newsroom, and it'll be called 'Ready to Edit.'"

"Ready to edit" was a designation in the writing software commonly used in newsrooms in the early 2000s. When a reporter started drafting a story, the story's status in the system would be "original." Once the reporter felt the story was complete, he or she would change the story's status to "ready to edit," and the editor(s) on the news desk that night would see a flashing alert indicating a story had

been filed.

In terms of filing stories, the "ready to edit" designation meant a reporter thought the story was good, but the reporter was ready for someone else to make it even better by fixing any grammatical or spelling mistakes, asking for clarifications where an idea wasn't fully developed/explained, writing a stronger lead (the first sentence/paragraph of the article)...

For my sitcom idea, I thought the title applied well to the small-town newsrooms I experienced in both Malone and Punxsutawney.

When I worked in the field

(and this may still be true today), the secular newspaper industry tended to employ what I'd call "interesting" people. These were people who stayed up all hours of the night, drank way too much coffee, smoked way too many cigarettes, joked with gallows humor and prided themselves on getting under the skin of public officials. These were also very intelligent people. Small-town reporters need to develop at least a basic understanding of a wide variety of topics, including municipal processes, educational standards, agricultural practices, criminal law and court systems, budgets..., so the reporter can explain the topics intelligently in their reporting.

These newsrooms employed outstanding (and fun) people, but these people, me included, also had areas where they could be improved.

I was thinking about "ready to edit" as I prepared for Lent. While I'm trying to live out my faith and follow the Lord, I recognize that there are things I do very well, but there are also lots of areas in which I could improve.

I recognize I need God's grace, and I need to cooperate with that grace to overcome my sinfulness, my attachment to my will and my pride.

I pray we all approach this Lenten season open to God's grace and willing to cooperate with it. I pray we're all "ready to edit."

**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Lent is a chance to wake up to reality

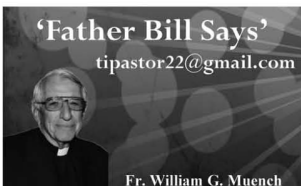
Lent is about waking up. I must thank Father Richard Rohr for giving me this expression. As followers of Jesus, you and I need frequent opportunities to impress ourselves with Jesus' message – "Who is God? Who are we?"

For me, the best expression for this experience to wake up as a Christian.

Jesus teaches us and demonstrates to us the great and passionate love that God has for us. We, Christians, are a loved people. Each year, Lent gives us an important opportunity to wake up to the reality that "God loves us."

Lent is a time to back off from the cares, concerns and pleasures of ordinary life. Lent is a time to open our hearts more than ever before to God's overflowing love.

Lent is the time to wake up to the changes we must make to transform our lives to become more alive and to live well in God's great love.

**Fr. William G. Muench**

Changes are good. Lent is about changes, the changes in life that we need as growing and alive Christians, followers of Jesus. We do something during Lent so we can better become aware of just what needs to be important in our Christian lives. As followers of Jesus, we dedicate ourselves to avoiding sin. This truly put us on the road for becoming a saint. We trust Jesus, who has promised to guide us and love us and forgive us. So, the sacrament of penance is an important part of Lent.

However, Lent is about more than this. Jesus reminds us all in the Gospel message that we must do something if we are truly to be a disciple of the Lord. We

are a loved people. The challenge for us is to live like loved people. We must wake up to the fact that each and every day, our God fills our lives with unique opportunities to make our lives more fulfilling and to make our world a better place. By living in God's love and peace and joy, we may draw ourselves and others closer to God. We can lead other to do good things by our example.

These opportunities cannot be planned. Usually they are God's surprises. However, because we are faith filled with God's great love, we must be ready and open to meet God's surprises, to God's opportunities. Lent is about doing something.

God knows how to reach us. Lent wakes us up and opens us up in love. I believe God knows how to fill us with the love and power of the Holy Spirit. So, with our Lenten activities – quiet prayer, Bible reading, frequent attendance at Mass,

doing something special as a Lenten mortification – there is a perfect connection of our heart and mind. The Lord becomes our Savior and our friend, walking with us and becoming more a part of our life.

We begin Lent with the most dramatic ritual of our Catholic faith. We smudge some ashes on our forehead to remind ourselves and everyone we see on Ash Wednesday that I am going to do something in preparation for Easter. Why ashes? I used to tell the small children from school that it is because they are dirty. We need something powerfully bold as our Lenten reminder. We are alive. Let us live well the days that are given to us. "Remember, you are dust and unto dust you shall return."

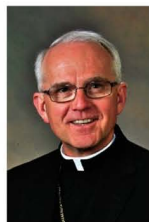
Yes, our time is limited, and we have so much to do, so we need Lent, a time to prepare us to use our days well.

Called to be salt of the earth, light of the world

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Pope Francis concludes his Lenten Message this year with a challenge for you and me: "...to become what Christ asks His disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world" (cf. Mt. 5:13-14). Lent is always a graced time for reflection on our growth in discipleship. The Holy Father urges us to fix our eyes on the Paschal Mystery and be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with Jesus as the means to zealous discipleship.

This is an especially urgent call



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

given the troubled times in which we live. At the Chrism Mass back in 2014, the Diocese set out to do precisely this. We fixed our eyes on the Church of the North Country and presented a Pastoral Vision that is Christ-led, Christed and Hope-filled. Our Envisioning Process helped us establish Diocesan Priorities and Goals. Now, six years later, with 20/20 Pastoral Vision, we continue to keep our eyes and hearts focused on: following Jesus as disciples in mission; nourishing our lives through the Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist; and instilling hope for the future through pastoral planning.

For generations, the Church has taught the value of fasting, almsgiving and prayer in helping us be the salt of the earth and the light for the world. They are important means for us to stay focused on our Diocesan Priorities of: Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones.

As we begin this Holy Season of Lent, we persevere in our mission as local Church to be passionate disciples of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to continue to be active participants in the faith life of your parish. Be a source of loving support for your priests.

My prayer is that these next forty days, as disciples in mission, we might pray fervently for

peace in our world and for healing and the purification of our Church.

We pray for the courage and humility to be the salt of the earth and light of the world.

May our prayer "penetrate deep within us and chip away at our hardness of heart in order to convert us ever more fully to God and His will."

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Terry R. LaValley

**Most Reverend
Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

Diocese welcomes Father De La Rosa

The Diocese of Ogdensburg and Bishop Terry R. LaValley welcome Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" De La Rosa to the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander (Morrisonville) and St. Joseph (Danemora), St. James Church (Cadyville) and Church of the Assumption (Redford).

Father De La Rosa is a priest from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines and will be serving in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for five years.

Born in Tibgao, Canaman, in the Camarines Sur Province of the Philippines, Father Jay, 42, received his bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Holy Rosary Minor Seminary in 1999 and completed his graduate coursework in Theology at Holy Rosary Major Seminary in 2003. He was ordained June 10, 2004 in the Archdiocese of Caceres. Both seminaries were located in Naga City, Philippines.

His first assignment was

as parochial vicar for St. John the Evangelist Metropolitan Cathedral, also in Naga City.

In 2006, he was appointed as a professor and formator at Holy Rosary Preparatory Seminary. He was next assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish as a parish priest (2011).

In 2014, he was appointed to the Presbyteral

Council of Caceres. He also served as an assistant spiritual director at Divine Mercy Apostolate before taking on his last assignment before coming to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, parish priest at Divine Mercy Parish in Paolbo, Calabanga, Camarines Sur. He assumed that role in June 2018.

Father De La Rosa ar-

rived in the diocese in mid-February. He will serve as a parochial vicar for St. Alexander's, St.

James, St. Joseph's and Assumption churches and Father Scott R. Seymour, pastor of the churches.



Father Pedro Edgardo "Jay" De La Rosa



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Catholic school system earns accreditation

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

After two years of working toward the goal, the Catholic Schools system of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has received accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Norwest Accreditation Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. Accreditation action was approved by the Cognia Global Commission at its meeting on Jan. 23, 2020.

"This accreditation means we have demonstrated we are a system engaged in ongoing improvement," said Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of Catholic schools. "It's an interna-

"Focus group interviews with the leadership, students, parents, and teachers detailed a commitment to the Department of Education's mission statement to 'promote and proclaim the Gospel message in the context of the Tradition and official teachings of the Catholic Church. Rooted in the humanities and sciences, they exhibit academic excellence and identify the uniqueness of their students.'"

tionally recognized accreditation."

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Catholic school system is comprised of nine schools. According to an overview submitted as part of the accreditation process, "seven (diocesan Catholic schools) are elementary schools with 724 students and 2 are Pre-K-12 schools with 564 students. The total school population is 1,293."

Sister Ellen Rose said the diocesan Catholic schools prepared for the accreditation process for two years before an "engagement team" of five repre-

sentatives of Cognia, then Advance-Ed, visited the diocese and the schools, observing classes, interviewing stakeholders and reviewing records.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

The report created by Cognia as part of the accreditation process lauds the diocesan Catholic schools and the diocese for "their faith and the holistic development of their students."

"The Diocese has several beliefs, practices, and programs that define the system's Catholic culture," the report states. "Focus group interviews with the leadership, students, parents, and teachers detailed a commitment to the Department of Education's mission statement to 'promote and proclaim the Gospel message in the context of the Tradition and official teachings of the Catholic Church. Rooted in the humanities and sciences, they exhibit academic excellence and identify the uniqueness of their students. They foster a vision and desire in the students to develop as individuals and members of families and to continue life-long growth as

— Accreditation report compiled by Cognia

Catholics and believers influencing society and the world."

Cognia evaluates school systems around "three Domains: Leadership Capacity, Learning Capacity and Resource Capacity," the report notes. For each criteria included in the three domains, the Catholic school system was rated as "Insufficient," areas the system could demonstrate little or no improvement; "Initiating," areas where improvement efforts could be extended or enhanced; "Improving," quality practices that continue to improve while meeting the standard; and "Impacting," areas that produce results that positively impact the system.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic school system received "Impacting" or "Improving," the two top ratings, for every aspect of "Leadership Capacity Standards," which reviews "the capacity of leadership to ensure an institution's progress toward its stated objectives."

Criteria reviewed included, "leaders engage stakeholders to support the achievement of the

system's purpose and direction," and "the system provides experiences that cultivate and improve leadership effectiveness."

"The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have been blessed with visionary and supportive leaders, starting with a bishop whose support for Catholic schools is unwavering, a superintendent with the will and vision to lead the charting of a bold new course for the schools, a vicar of education, and assistant superintendent, as well as other school leaders who support and develop strong programs to meet the diverse needs of their learners," the report says.

The diocesan school system also received high marks in the "Learning Capacity Domain," which look at "the impact of teaching and learning on student achievement and success." That domain looked at such criteria as, "the system implements processes to identify and address the specialized needs of learners" and "educators implement a curriculum that is based on high expectations and prepares learners for their next level."

High ratings were also awarded for, "Resource Capacity Standards," the domain that looked at criteria that to ensure "use and distribution of resources support the stated mission of the institution," including such criteria as, "the system plans and delivers professional learning to improve the learning environment, learner achievement, and the system effectiveness," "the system provides access to information resources and materials to support the curriculum, programs and needs of

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

— PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father,
we lift up to you these
and all the priests of the world.
Sanctify them.
Heal and guide them.
Mold them into the likeness and
holiness of your Son, Jesus,
the Eternal High Priest.
May their lives be pleasing to
you. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen
(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Or whatever the Lord
inspires you to offer Him

March
St. Joseph

MARCH
2020

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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8 OUR PASTOR	9 REV. ROBERT L. DECKER	10 REV. RAYMOND DEISBOURG MSC	11 REV. DAVID DELUCA MSC	12 REV. GARVIN J. DEMARAIS	13 REV. RICHARD D. DEMERS	14 REV. JOHN M. DEMO
15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERTUS	17 MSGR. LAWRENCE M. DENO	18 REV. JOHN L. DOWNS	19 MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY VF	20 REV. GUY F. EDWARDS	21 REV. JOSEPH W. ELLIOTT
22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. ALFRED H. FISH	24 REV. FRANCIS J. FAYN	25 REV. VINCENT FREEH MSC	26 REV. J. MICHAEL GAFFNEY	27 REV. ADRIAN GALLAGHER	28 REV. GARRY B. GROUX
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Schools earn accreditation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

students, staff and the system.”

As part of the accreditation process, the Education Department was asked to highlight what it saw as the strengths of the system. That document lists support of the bishop and diocesan administration, the ability to secure grants, the implementation of computer-based testing for grades three through eight, pooling Title IIA funding across the system to offer system-wide professional development, the offering of leadership training for administrators, revisions to Principal Self-Assessments and the implementation of mentoring programs as system strengths.

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY

But the accreditation process wasn't undertaken just to tout achievements.

“It's a real snapshot of our strengths and weaknesses,” Sister Ellen Rose said.

The accreditation report notes that the system's digital learning environ-

ment – its use of technology in the classrooms – was not uniform across the system.

“In a few classrooms, the student engagement as it related to the use of technology was evident,” the report states. “In others, it was not seen at all.”

The report also noted the school system could also continue to develop “programs and services for learners' educational futures and career planning.”

As part of the accreditation process, diocesan and school staffs were asked to identify challenges facing the schools and the system. Challenges listed include a shortage of teachers, a need to plan leadership succession, diminished appreciation of faith-based education, declining enrollment, and a declining school-aged population.

The Catholic school system also identified its priorities for the future, including ensuring the system-wide sustainability of Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic schools, addressing the leadership

capacity in each school and integrating technology and digital tools as part of the classroom experience.

Using the information in the report, diocesan and school officials will develop plans to address the areas of improvement identified and “continue the improvement journey,” the report says.

The diocesan Education Department oversees St. Mary's School in Canton, Augustinian Academy in Carthage, St. James in Gouverneur, St. Agnes in Lake Placid, Trinity Catholic in Massena, St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, St. Mary's in Ticonderoga and Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown.

For more information about the Catholic schools, visit rcdony.org/catholic-schools.

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 26 – Rev. Francis X. LaChance, 1916; Rev. John F. Wiley, 1984

Feb. 27 – Rev. Ferdinand Grenier, O.M.I., 1872

Feb. 28 – Rev. J. H. Tabaret, O.M.I., 1886

March 1 – Msgr. Alexander P. Landry, 1955; Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brazana, 1997

March 2 – Rev. Edward A. Dailey, O.S.A., 1901; Msgr. John J. Bent, 1949; Rev. Joseph E. Tessier, O.M.I., 1952

March 3 – Rev. Francis McCranor, O.S.A., 1914; Rev. John G. Fitzgerald, 1925; Rev. Cyril Stevens, 1963; Deacon David N. Hennigan, 2009

March 4 – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1889; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

Bishop's Public Schedule

Feb. 26 – Noon – Mass at St.

Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 27 – Noon – Mass at St.

Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 28 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St.

Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Feb. 29 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St.

Mary's Cathedral

4 p.m. – Mass at St.

Mary's Cathedral

March 1 – 8 a.m. – Mass at St.

Mary's Cathedral

2:30 p.m. – Diocesan

Rite of Election at St. Mary's

Cathedral followed by a Reception

in Brzana Hall

March 2 – 7:15 p.m. – Novena

followed by Mass at St. Mary's

Cathedral

March 3 – 10:30 a.m. – Meeting

with all Priests in Brzana Hall at St.

Mary's Cathedral

March 4 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal

Council Meeting at Bishop's Resi-

idence followed by lunch

Environmental Stewardship

Why do we fast?

Fasting is a practice that dates back well before the time of Moses, as it is seen as a means of redirecting one's energy and efforts from satisfying physical needs and comforts to improving spiritual well-being.

We see Jesus after being baptized by John led by the Spirit to the desert to fast for 40 days. In imitation of Jesus, our observance of Lent includes fasting from foods, etc. during these 40 days. In addition to fasting from food, however, Jesus connects this practice of self-denial with almsgiving in the Ash Wednesday reading from Matthew 6.

Our Lent fast needs to include also the well-being of others. My fast from habits that cause harm to my health and the health of the planet can be a powerful way of expressing my care for others.

One habit that we have embraced over the past 50 years is the use of single-use plastics. They are both a blessing and a curse.

While we thoroughly enjoy the convenience of these items, recently we have become acutely aware of the harmful effects of these plastics on our environment, especially on the oceans. (The Pacific Garbage Patch) endangering the life of sea creatures and our own local wildlife as well as for our landfills. Even though we know all this, habits are hard to break!

The ban on single used plastic bags in stores happens to coincide with the first week of Lent. This new regulation can be a real inconvenience for most of us.

Few of us like to be told what to do! When something become a law, we may not be free to change the law, but we can always choose our attitude towards it.

While our initial reaction to this inconvenience may be one of anger or frustration, what would happen if we choose this practice as a form of “fasting from” something harmful to embracing a self-discipline that we may “feast on” a healthier world of all of us?

Why not accompany this practice with a prayer of love and gratitude?

To Report Abuse

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

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

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

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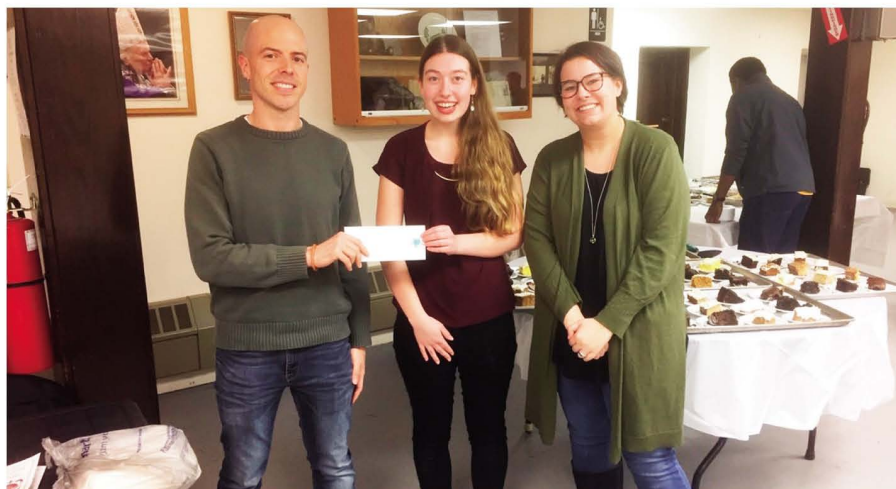
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FACES OF FAITH



On Feb. 18, the Parishes of St. Peter's, St. Mary's and St. Hedwig's held a "Turkey and Biscuit Benefit Dinner" to support the newly established office of Catholic Charities located at the former rectory of St. Mary's in Glenfield. Along with the regular programs and services offered by Catholic Charities, the parishes wanted to support their outreach to migrants and their families. Over \$2,500 was raised, which included a donation from the current confirmation class. Shown in the photo from left to right are Sean Donahue, Director of the Glenfield Office, Anabella LaPuma, representing the confirmation class, and Madi Holman, Case Manager in Glenfield.



Students Jace Warden and Bethany Vaisiy count the hats, mittens, gloves and scarves from the mitten tree at St. Patrick's Church, Colton. Every year, the parish's Altar & Rosary allow the parish faith formation program to put up the tree for the Neighborhood Center for Christmas boxes. Students anticipate the project every year and look forward to doing it.



Youth at Church of the Holy Family in Watertown celebrated Epiphany by designing and wearing crowns. The youth are pictured with Father John M. "Mickey" Demo.

Campus ministry group reflects on March

By Deacon Richard Burns

Diocesan Campus Ministry director

A group of 10 college students from four colleges in the diocese made a pilgrimage to Washington, DC for the 2020 March for Life in January, and I was privileged to accompany them on the trip, together with Father Bryan Stitt from St Mary's in Canton and Conner Cummings, campus minister in Potsdam.

This was my second trip for the Campus Ministry March, which was made possible by very generous support from the Diocesan Respect Life and Young Adult Ministry offices, as well as Knights of Columbus Councils in Canton, Plattsburgh and Potsdam. Without this generous support, the trip would not be affordable on a college student's budget.

On behalf of all who participated, thank you all for your support!

The group began the trip early Thursday morning, Jan. 23, with Mass at St Anthony's in Watertown, then made the long drive to Washington, DC. We joined the Youth Buses for Life for dinner and a speaker from Students for Life on Thursday night, then on Friday we attended Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, followed by the "big event," the rally on



College students and campus ministers from around the diocese made the journey to Washington, DC for the March for Life.

the Mall (attended by President Donald Trump) and March for Life.

After the March, we visited the National Botanic Gardens, enjoyed a dinner together, and many went back to the national mall to see the monuments at night.

Saturday, we rejoined the Youth Buses group for the National Pro-Life Summit, then left for an overnight near Camp David in the Maryland hills, where we celebrated Mass and Evening prayer in the intimate surroundings.

Rising early Sunday morning, we made it to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for Mass at the Cathedral of St. Patrick, followed by a great pancake breakfast hosted by the Cathedral Council of the Knights of Columbus, fueling up for the ride back home.

All the attendees were especially glad that this year's trip wasn't cut short by weather like last year.

I asked participants to share their thoughts about this year's pilgrimage, in their own words:

1. What was your favorite part of the pilgrimage?

"I liked visiting the basilica the most because every single time I go, I discover new places or new details I hadn't seen before."

"There were so many informative and inspiring talks – something for everyone – at the Pro-Life Summit."

"It was so incredible to

spend these four days with fellow students who share not only our faith, but the common desire to defend the right to life."

"I think that I liked the march the most. It was really awesome to be at an event with a couple hundred thousand people all fighting for the same cause. As well as seeing the view of all of the people when walking up Capitol Hill."

"I liked the March for Life the most. Being surrounded by and witnessing that many pro-lifers and peacefully praying and marching alongside not only other Catholic people but also with people of different backgrounds really gave me hope."

"I liked the pro-life summit the most."

2. What memory will you hold onto from this year's pilgrimage?

"Having Mass (and ice

cream) and playing cards in the living room of our AirBNB (in Maryland)."

"I think I'm always going to remember celebrating mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Pennsylvania and then having breakfast made by the Knights of Columbus. Just being welcomed in that way was very nice and remarkable."

"I am going to hold onto the memory of mass at the basilica, it was the first time I had been to a mass of such caliber."

"Seeing so many people I knew at the Basilica and on the March, having Mass in our living room and awkwardly trying to figure out the music, praying night prayer together, little realizations of the great love God has for us"

"I'm going to remember the near miss abortion testimonies at the Conference. These people were fetuses."

"I'm going to hold onto the memory of successfully escorting two first-timers through a crowd of several hundred thousand."

3. What's next? What are you going to do to promote the message of Life?

Several students from SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University are planning to organize a Students for Life chapter at SUNY Potsdam.

"I'm going to pray for life more and write my representative about upcoming pro-life legislation."

4. Just for fun, what tagline would you use for this year's Campus Ministry pilgrimage?

- #7yearsandcounting
- #formerfetus
- #pennsylvaniahills
- #imposingedifice
- #savethebabyhumans
- #shuffleforlife
- #protruth

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FOR LENT FOR LIFE

PARA LA **CUARESMA**
POR LA **VIDA**

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CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

About Catholic Relief Services:

Catholic Relief Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization;
Donations to CRS are tax-deductible to the full extent allowable under the law.



Catholic Relief Services eases suffering and provides assistance to people in need in more than 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality.

We are the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of Caritas Internationalis and the National Catholic Development Conference.

All of the information here can be found at: www.crsricebowl.org

Photos are of © Catholic Relief Services

**For questions and inquires please
contact Diocese of Ogdensburg
Catholic Charities:**

Deacon Patrick Donahue
Director
pdonahue@cathcharities.org
315-393-2255



CRS Rice Bowls helps us to encounter Lent
God invites us to reach out beyond ourselves and
encounter the needs of all. This Lent, CRS Rice Bowl—
Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action
program—invites us to reflect on the Gospel story of
Jesus feeding the 5,000 with just a few loaves and fishes
and to consider the needs of the hungry around the
world.

Journey with CRS to Honduras, Kenya and Vietnam to
meet three girls and their families who are thriving with
the support of CRS and faith communities like yours.
Through stories, videos and lesson plans, your
community will learn about the global issue of hunger
and malnutrition and our Gospel call to feed the hungry.

Join more than 14,000 faith communities in 180
dioceses across the U.S. in prayer, fasting and
almsgiving this Lent. Together, we will serve our
brothers and sisters most in need around the world
while forming families and faith communities to be
missionary disciples.

We will be reminded through the Gospel story of Jesus
feeding the 5,000 that if we commit to sharing what we
have with those in need, trusting in God's abundance,
there is more than enough to feed everyone. Through
our Lenten prayers, fasting and almsgiving, we can
respond to the call to ensure that all our brothers and
sisters are fed good, nutritious food that gives them
what they need to fulfill their God-given potential.

THIS LENT, COMMIT TO OUR GLOBAL HUMAN FAMILY THROUGH

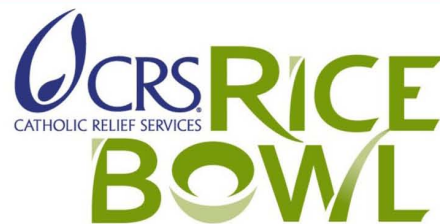
- ◆ DAILY PRAYER
 - ◆ WEEKLY FASTING
 - ◆ ALMSGIVING THAT CHANGES LIVES
- JESUS ASKS THAT WE SHARE WHAT WE HAVE
WITH THOSE IN NEED. WITH CRS RICE BOWL
AS OUR GUIDE, WE CAN RESPOND TO THAT
GOSPEL CALL.**

LENTEN ALMS CHANGE LIVES

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program
of Catholic Relief Services, the
official relief and development
agency of the United States
Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Through CRS Rice Bowl, faith
communities in every diocese throughout the United
States put their faith into action through prayer, fasting
and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice
Bowl support the work of CRS in roughly 45 different
countries each year. 25% of all donations to CRS Rice
Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and
poverty alleviation efforts. Since its inception in 1975,
CRS Rice Bowl has raised nearly \$300 million.



**25% of all donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in our local
diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation
efforts.**



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

What is Lent?

Lent is our time of preparation. A 40-day journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Lent is a journey that spans Ash Wednesday through Holy Week, culminating in the great celebration of Easter. As Catholics, the spiritual pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving guide us in daily reflection on our own lives as we strive to deepen our relationship with God and neighbor—no matter where in the world that neighbor may live.

Encounter Lent as a Family

During this holy season, it is important to come together as a family and reflect on the cross of hunger and lack of proper nutrition, that so many of our brothers and sisters both near and far are forced to carry. In so doing, we pledge to stand alongside these members of our human family, supporting them as the Gospel calls us to do. Please consider these suggestions in your family's Lenten plan:

- Use your CRS Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Read the Stories of Hope and daily reflections to inspire your Lenten journey—and guide your Lenten almsgiving.
- Prepare simple, meatless meals on the Fridays of Lent to eat in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org) to watch videos of the people and communities you support through your Lenten gifts to CRS Rice Bowl.

Visit <http://www.crsricebowl.org/families> to learn more about the activities below.

Stories of Hope

Our almsgiving has the power to transform the world. During Lent, CRS Rice Bowl invites you to reflect on some of the lives that are changed through Lenten almsgiving. Read stories of hope from Vietnam, Kenya, and Honduras each week.

Want more Lenten reflections?

Sign up for our weekly emails at: www.crsricebowl.org/about/how-to-practice-lent

LOOKING FOR MEATLESS MEALS TO PREPARE THIS LENT?

The Catechism invites Catholics to abstain from meat during the Fridays in Lent. Preparing meatless meals—like the ones we collect from countries around the world—is a great Lenten activity for families, offering an experience of global solidarity without ever needing to leave the kitchen! In addition to meatless Fridays, Catholics are also invited to offer daily sacrifices. By giving up little things—coffee, candies and more—we make room for God to act in our lives in new ways, and have the opportunity to give the money we save to those most in need.

Try the recipe below and go to www.crsricebowl.org/recipe to find more meatless recipes.

Pilau (Spiced Rice) - Kenya

Makes 6-8 servings

- 1 t ground cumin
- 1 ½ t all spice
- ½ t black pepper
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons ginger, minced
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 large potato, peeled and cut into 1 inch chunks
- 4 c water
- 2 c basmati rice

In a medium bowl, combine the cumin, all spice, and black pepper. Set aside. Heat a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the oil and red onion and sauté for 10-15 minutes, until dark brown. Add the garlic, ginger, cinnamon stick, and spice mix. Cook for 1-2 minutes. Add the potatoes and the water. Bring to a boil and cook for 10 minutes. Add the rice, stir, and cover. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook for 20 minutes, until the rice is cooked, and the liquid is absorbed.



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

FISH FRY

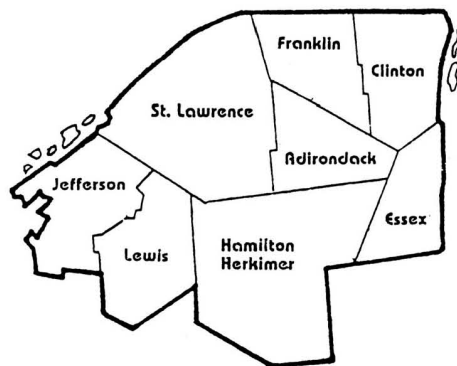
Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have its Annual Fish Fry.

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

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Plattsburgh – Join us this Lent as we take six 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, 1-866-314-7296;
 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

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

JEFFERSON

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
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 & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus to have a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: March 14
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free
Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

CHILD TRAFFICKING TALK

Watertown – "Closing the Gap: What you need to know to protect against Child Trafficking," a presentation, to be held.

Date: March 15
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Hearthside Center at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown

Features: Ann Marie Crescent, Community Coalition coordinator, Alliance for Better Communities, will speak. Light refreshments will be served. There is no cost to attend.

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.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

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

LENLEN PARISH MISSION

Lowville – The Roman Catholic Communities of Lowville, Houseville and Glenfield will be hosting a Lenten Parish Mission about “Why Worry? Featuring Father Fran Pompei.

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 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.twcnc.com or call 315-376-6662

ST. LAWRENCE

BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY

Massena – 8 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 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Social Hall
Cost: Free-will offering

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

LENLEN 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

LENLEN 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 Candidates 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

YOUTH LENLEN 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 registration, so don’t be the last and miss the chance to attend. Register by March 18 by emailing crusell@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: The Youth office is excited to bring young people together for a celebratory day filled with “God’s All-Encompassing Love.” The theme, “Under The Big Top,” sets the tone for a carnival-style event with games, entertainment, food, a dynamic speaker and a closing Mass offered by Bishop Terry LaValley. Keynote speaker will be, Doug Tooke, an energetic speaker with more than 20 years in ministry. Also appearing will be the Gratto Fellows Circus

Performers showcasing their interactive juggling, unicycling, rope walking, and other feats of daring and comedic entertainment. You can also try your skill or luck at one of the Carnival Game tables and we will have great music all day long! Carnival style lunch will be provided by the High Peaks Resort.

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>

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'Laudato Si' at five: Project seeks to foster prayerful climate action

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment set the path five years ago and now a new effort by the Catholic Climate Covenant seeks to shape an intergenerational movement to respond through action and prayer to the challenges posed by climate change.

Called the Catholic Climate Project, the effort is set to build on what parishioners and organizations already are doing while inviting more people to deepen the Catholic commitment to protect creation.

"We're activating across the entire Catholic community, not just those who are already acting," Jose Aguto, associate director of the Catholic Climate Covenant, told Catholic News Service Feb. 18.

Aguto is coordinating the effort, which launched in mid-February, with a team of 13 people from ministries throughout the Catholic community including religious orders, dioceses and advocacy organizations.

As the project begins, Aguto noted that it stems from papal teaching on environmental concerns, extending from St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

"It's very distinctly in the center of the Catholic faith, based on bridge-building, on dialogue, on love of neighbor, love of enemy, love of creation," Aguto said. "It's centered in prayer, centered in our faith. It's that core which holds us together."

The project is poised to utilize the energy of young Catholics, many of whom are deeply concerned about the threats that climate change poses to the planet and, by extension, to human dignity.

Those concerns were widely noted during the 2018 Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment, and later acknowledged by Pope Francis in his postsynod apostolic exhortation "Christus Vivit" ("Christ Lives").

When added to the pope's message in his 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home, and the commemorations of the upcoming 50th anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, the project team is expecting Catholic action on the environment to gain momentum.

"Young people around the world today are being impacted by environmental issues in ways much more different than

it was for previous generations. If we want to be a church in support of our youth and young adults, we must be part of these conversations about matters that are significantly affecting them," Paul Jarzembowski, a team member who is assistant director for youth and young adult ministries at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Youth and young adults get it. They understand the integration of the natural world and their own lived experiences. And they are being affected by ecological tragedies," he said, pointing to mass migration around the world, some of which is being fueled by climate change.

Aguto suggested that the church can bring its "pastoral strength" to address the angst that young people have about the degrading environment as well as the political polarization surrounding climate change.

"We can go forth as lights, to be joyful in the midst of suffering so that we can inspire and strengthen, all of us together, in addressing what many consider to be an existential crisis," Aguto said. "The church has powerful tools in theology and ministry that we need to bring to bear and to bring about the healing of the nation."

That the U.S. is in the middle of presidential election year makes the work of the Catholic Climate Project all the more pertinent, said Aaron Salzman, a senior at Boston College who is the head organizer for the Catholic Divestment Network.

"It's not political. Part of what Catholic social teaching is all about is that to live our faith out means getting engaged in the world of politics. And the U.S. bishops' conference has made it clear as well that climate has to be among the issues we're looking at," he said.

The project seeks to partner with parishes and organizations that want to begin addressing climate change. Resources have been developed to guide participants through prayer services and liturgies, service projects, intergenerational encounters, healing and bridge-building, public demonstrations, classroom lessons, and advocacy and conversation with church and political leaders.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Census counting on religious leaders to promote participation

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Realizing that many people are hesitant to fill out the upcoming census, the U.S. Census Bureau is calling on religious leaders to help promote it. "You are your community's most trusted voice," Steven Dillingham, Census Bureau director, told a group of interfaith leaders at the Washington National Cathedral Feb. 18, saying his agency depends on them to "to tell your people this is their census" and that an accurate count will provide them with critical public services. Census forms will be mailed in late March and the count officially begins April 1. Respondents can call, email or mail their responses. Dillingham was essentially preaching to the choir of panelists at the "2020 Census Interfaith Summit" in the cathedral's auditorium. Members of this diverse group emphasized individual dignity and also the need to be responsible neighbors looking out for their communities through taking part in the census. Sister Judith Ann Karam, a Sister of Charity of St. Augustine, said census participation reflected "that every person has the utmost dignity and respect" not just in Christianity but in other faith traditions. She said an accurate count is not only necessary for communities' federal and state funding and congressional representation, but it also will directly impact health care by determining Medicaid funds.

Full look at Vatican war role will take patience, archivists say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – When the Vatican's wartime archives open to researchers March 2, it will be just the start of what should be a long, slow process of studying, analyzing and publishing findings, said the Vatican's archivist and librarian. "We have to have the patience to wait and listen to the results" dozens of scholars are expected to produce over the coming years from what is known to be "inevitably slow and complex" work, Cardinal Jose Tolentino Calaca de Mendonca told reporters Feb. 20. Only by expecting and letting scholars take the time to do their job thoroughly can the examination and discussion of this controversial wartime period have "certain" and document-based evidence, he said. The true task of a historian, he said, is to understand and submit to the truth, untangling the reasons behind historical events. "

Priest serves villagers quarantined for coronavirus

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) – A Vietnamese priest who offers voluntary services to villagers quarantined for the coronavirus has called on people to respect and give medical supplies to them. Ucanews.com reported Father Joseph Hoang Trong Huu, 35, has provided pastoral and health services in Son Loi commune in Vinh Phuc province since Feb. 16. The government sealed off the 10,600-member commune for 20 days Feb. 13 due to fears over the spread of the COVID-19 strain. The rural commune, 27 miles from Hanoi, had five coronavirus patients as of Feb. 19. Father Francis Xavier Nguyen Duc Dai told ucanews.com that Father Huu, who was ordained last June, had taken soap, antiseptic lotion, face masks and medicine to villagers. Father Huu, who has health skills, said on Facebook that local people protect their families and community from the deadly virus by wearing masks and washing their hands. They still work on farms and keep their daily activities as normal. He said health workers offer health instructions, supplies and basic information on the virus to families. The priest said although everyone fears the coronavirus, people still visit churches and pray. "I plan to place the Eucharist on church altars so that people can adore and seek divine hope," he said.

AT THE MOVIES

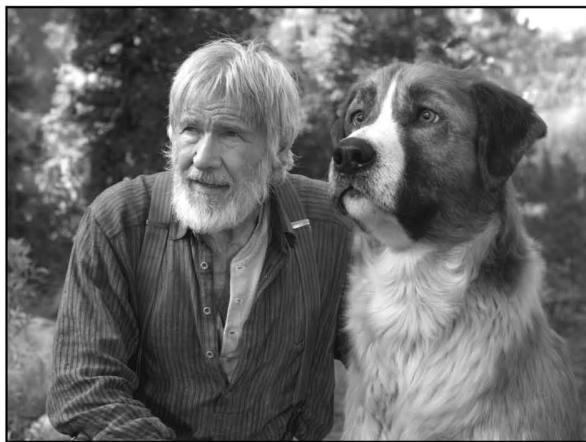
THE CALL OF THE WILD

NEW YORK (CNS) – "Never was there such a dog," says grizzled Yukon explorer John Thornton (Harrison Ford), admiring the antics of Buck, the canine star of "The Call of the Wild" (Twentieth Century).

Indeed not. For the Buck in this, the seventh film adaptation of Jack London's 1903 novel, is a computer-generated marvel, a big sloppy St. Bernard-Scotch Collie mix as lifelike and convincing as the creatures in recent CGI films like "The Jungle Book" and "The Lion King."

Therein lies both the charm, and the challenge, of the current version, snappily directed by Chris Sanders ("How to Train Your Dragon"). Fashioning Buck from thin air affords filmmakers the chance to add personality, even a gift for shtick, to their lead character, which lends a comedic tone to the story traditionalists will find discordant.

Furthermore, London's beloved novel, which has never been out of print, has been effectively de-



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Harrison Ford and a dog named Buck appear in the movie "The Call of the Wild."

fanged by screenwriter Michael Green and Hollywood's political correctness rinse cycle. Gone is the profound, searing tale of man's inhumanity to man and beast, not to mention the extreme violence of life on the frontier, the threat from blood-thirsty indigenous people and the emergence of Buck's killer instinct.

In its place is, admittedly, a highly entertaining

comedy-drama with solid messages about love, friendship and respect. While London purists will be disappointed, dog lovers everywhere will be delighted (although the smallest ones could be frightened by occasional bouts of mayhem).

A few of London's plot threads have survived. In the 1890s, Buck is a pet living a carefree existence at the California home of

Judge Miller (Bradley Whitford). Up north in the Yukon, gold fever is raging, and large dogs are in demand to pull the sleds of prospectors and vendors.

In the middle of the night, Buck is kidnapped, sold and shipped to Alaska. En route, he is beaten into submission by a man wielding a wooden club, the first of many encounters with human cruelty.

Buck's new owners are two mail carriers, the kind-hearted Perrault (Omar Sy) and the skeptical Francisco (Cara Gee, a gender switch from the novel). He joins their dogsled team and quickly learns the ropes, setting up a rivalry and showdown with Spitz, the wicked lead dog.

When the mail route is canceled, Buck and his pack are sold to nefarious gold prospector Hal (Dan Stevens, straying very far from his saintly Matthew Crawley persona in "Downton Abbey"). Hal's heartlessness catches the eye of passerby Thornton,

who admires Buck's tenacity and dignity. When Buck is savagely beaten, Thornton intervenes, rescues the canine and nurses him back to health.

"The Call of the Wild" strays far from the novel in expanding the role of Hal as a psychopath who pursues Thornton and Buck as they venture together deep into the wilderness. Thornton (who serves as narrator) also receives a backstory, explaining his quest for serenity and companionship.

All the while, Buck sheds his domesticated upbringing and hears that "call" to return to his primal roots. As soon as a comely white timber wolf emerges from the forest and catches Buck's eye, you know the die is cast.

The film contains mild violence and characters in peril. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG – parental guidance suggested.

Priest hopes concert spotlight can inspire good

WINDSOR, Ontario (CNS) – Everything about that Sunday night was a surprise for Father Patrick Setto, starting with his cousins surprising him with tickets to a Josh Groban concert in Windsor, across the border from Detroit, and ending with the world-famous tenor passing off his microphone to the priest.

As several videos from the Feb. 9 concert making the rounds online show, Groban bantered with the audience and asked them for song requests. At the urging of his cousin, Father Setto then shouted

out to Groban, telling him he would sing with him.

The rest became an instant viral internet sensation.

After Groban handed the priest the microphone, Father Setto began to sing "To Where You Are" and was met with immediate cheers and applause.

"He was taking a complete chance because I could have been a really bad singer," said Father Setto, assistant pastor of Mother of God Chaldean Catholic Church in Southfield, Michigan, in the Detroit Archdiocese.

"I have no idea how or why he allowed that, but it was very generous of him," the priest told Detroit Catholic, the digital news service of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

As Father Setto sang with his back turned to Groban, the singer began to jokingly mime singing and pretended to reach out in desperation for the mic.

"I think I sang a little longer than I should (have); maybe I got carried away with it, but I wasn't sure because there was clapping," Father Setto laughed. "It really was

playful and a lot of fun. He was a good sport."

Now 31, Father Setto first discovered Groban's music as a teenager.

"I've been singing all my life, and he has really always been my musical inspiration," the priest said. "It has always been a dream of mine to be able to sing with him or sing for him or just meet him because he has really helped to train and develop my own musical skills."

Father Setto doesn't think the interaction was an accident and attributes it to Marian intercession

and divine providence.

During the drive to the concert, Father Setto said nine "Memorares," praying that he would be able to meet Groban; the prayers seek Mary's intercession. His cousin laughed and made a video of him praying to meet the singer.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Lent: A time to find new directions

We all have many reasons for welcoming Lent this year. We have tremendous confusion and division in our political scene, worries about the clinging success of radical Islamic terrorism, fears from the flu and the coronavirus, to mention just a few.

No wonder we welcome Lent! It's a time to renew the spirit and find new directions in our lives.

Lent is an attractive opportunity to strengthen our weak knees, toughen our weary

hearts, and try all over again to bring order and discipline – with its resulting joy – into our lives.

We come again to hear of the Garden of Delights we lost through the original sin of Adam and Eve. How good things would still be if those foolish parents of ours hadn't listened to that lying serpent! So much damage

from one man and one woman! Still, from our own experience, we know how a single family member who has lost faith, or who lives in a drug or al-



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

March 1

First Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-8

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

cohol-induced fog, can wreak incredible damage on the rest of the family, whether it be adults or children..

The good news is that the damage of Adam and Eve was all repaired by one man, Jesus.

Lent is all about focusing on Jesus' formula for wholeness and happiness. It's all found in the Scriptures, in daily prayer, and Lenten prac-

tices.

Today's Gospel speaks of Jesus' desert experience as He is about to begin His Mission.

It's a kind of relief for us to know that even the Son of God was tempted to give in to the human, and just forget the whole thing. We all know the feeling!

The work of our redemption would have been seriously damaged if Jesus had given in to temptations of the flesh, or possessions, or power. Instead, he focused on the Father's Will, the reason for his Mission, and his great love for those living in darkness.

Jesus combated Satan

through humility, obedience and a loving spirit. And He taught His followers down to the present day to do the same when temptations come.

Let's make the same decisions that Jesus made as we begin our Lenten journey. To put

it differently, Lent is a time for us to share in the continual repair work of Jesus, our Redeemer. Let's dedicate the time to reparation for personal sins and the sins of our world,

However you put together your Lent, it's a wonderful forty days of decision, growth, and toughening for the insecure world in which we live.

Almsgiving: Lent's overlooked discipline

The following is an editorial titled: "Almsgiving: Lent's Overlooked Discipline," which was published in the Feb. 17 issue of America magazine, a weekly Jesuit publication.

Is there any question that almsgiving is the under-practiced, under-encouraged Lenten disci-

pline when compared with prayer and fasting? In this magazine's 110-year-old archives, a search for the terms prayer and fasting in the titles of published articles brought up thousands of examples.

A similar query for almsgiving yielded a meager two results.

Resources and encour-

agement abound for new and creative ways to immerse ourselves more deeply in prayer during this season of penance. And while it may be true that fasting requirements have been relaxed in both church law and daily practice in recent decades, one can still find pockets of resurgence of the ascetic practice (even amid a more secular world that is discovering the health and productivity benefits of intermittent fasting and Dry January).

Perhaps Catholics in the United States might redouble their efforts to give alms this Lent and to reflect in greater depth on the spiritual benefits the practice can bring.

Scripture is replete with instructions to give to the poor: "Almsgiving delivers from death and keeps one from entering into Darkness," Tobit tells us. Sirach commands: "Do not grieve the hungry, nor anger the needy. Do not aggravate a heart already angry, nor delay giving to the needy. A beggar's request do not reject; do not turn your face away from the poor."

"Give alms," Jesus tells us, and we will build up "inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy."

Charity and almsgiving should be part of regular Christian practice. But during Lent we are called to do more.

Many are willing to increase their charitable giving in December, presumably for tax benefits. Should not our annual call to conversion inspire at least as much of an increase?

All the better if the alms that we give come from money saved by giving up forms of amusement or self-gratification. Catholics might ask themselves: Is there a streaming service that I could do without for these 40 days? If meat is common in my diet, could I opt instead for less-expensive vegetable substitutes? Is there a concert, a movie or a sporting event that I could forgo?

In truth, many people in this country already go without these luxuries in order to provide for basic necessities.

A healthy stock market is little comfort to the 40% of Americans who do not have savings to cover a \$400 emergency expense. Lent is a time for Catholics not only to pray for those in need but also to give alms and help alleviate the suffering of the poor.

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LENT 2020: 40th Year!

Date	Place		Time
March 1	Summit Village	Watertown	2:00 p.m.
March 7	Notre Dame	Malone	7:30 p.m.
March 8	St. Lucy's	Syracuse	7:30 p.m.
March 15	St. James Major	Lake Pleasant	7:00 p.m.
March 19	Christ the King	Albany	7:30 p.m.
March 20	Holy Family	Deer Field, MA	6:00 p.m.
March 21	Christ Our Light	Loudonville	7:30 p.m.
March 27	Holy Family	Little Falls	7:30 p.m.
March 29	St. Peter's	Lowville	7:30 p.m.
April 4	St. Bernard's	Saranac Lake	7:30 p.m.
April 10	St. Patrick's	Watertown	7:30 p.m.

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





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

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Be a missionary this Lent

As the 2020 Season of Lent begins this week, we seek ways to draw closer to Jesus.

It is the opportune time to share our faith stories with our family, friends or with a parish or community faith sharing group. A suggestion would be to have a group that will listen to the word of God, learn about the Scriptures and apply the Scriptures to daily life.

Faith sharing groups provide parishioners with excellent opportunities to grow in holiness, to become more welcoming and to witness to Christ more consciously in the family, the neighborhood and the workplace.

Be a Lenten Missionary in sharing your faith stories so that other people may be encouraged to find God in their daily lives' experiences.

You may wish to be a Lenten Missionary in a special way in your home. Perhaps schedule family activities to promote Lent.

One family suggestion is to have your family gets a map or globe of the world and place it in the room where the family eats together. Find the following countries where starvation and hunger are major problems: Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Laos, India, Pakistan, Bosnia, Peru, Nigeria, and Dominican Republic. When you gather for a meal and after you have thanked God for your food, look at your map or globe and pray for the poor and hungry people of a city in one of the countries; today, let us pray for the poor and hungry people in Syria.

What country will you pray for during Lent that the love of missionaries will enable the love of Christ to be shown in the missions?

May God bless you as we enter this most holy season of Lent. Remember that sacrifice only makes you stronger.

Remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will. www.rcdony.org

OBITUARIES

Canton – William C. DeLavernge, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 19, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Maryjane (Collette) Lazare, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 17, 2020 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville – Ilya Ann "Joan" (Meagher) Corrigan, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Joseph James Siskavich Sr., 80; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Massena – Martha J. (Morrow) Connors, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 21, 2020 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena – Barbara (Smith) Dougherty, 97; Mass of Christian Burial in May at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Ann P. (McManus) Daye, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena – Alice I. (Payette) George, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Gerald "Jerry" Roberts Jr., 53; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 20, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Peru – Joan Fraughton Spear, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 22, 2020 at St. Augustine's Church.

Rouses Point – Patricia J. (Filion) Pepin, 79; Mass of Christian Burial in the spring.

Watertown – Dorothy L. (Kellogg) Hammond, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2020 at the Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Judge: Attorney can question retired Rochester bishop

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) – A federal bankruptcy judge has ruled that – with specific limitations – an attorney for victims of sexual abuse may question retired Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester under oath about his knowledge of sexual abuse during his years as head of the diocese.

The ruling was issued during a Feb. 11 hearing in the diocese's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case.

In January, victims' attorneys had filed a motion requesting the right to interrogate the 82-year-old prelate about the extent of his knowledge of abuse taking place during his 33-year tenure as Rochester's Catholic bishop, which concluded with his retirement in 2012.

Bishop Clark's attorney, Mary Jo S. Korona, argued during the hearing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court that the bishop is not competent to give a deposition, having been diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer's disease in July 2019. The bishop made his diagnosis public approximately one month

later.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Paul R. Warren ruled Bishop Clark could be questioned by an attorney representing the unsecured creditors' committee in the bankruptcy case.

Acknowledging the possibility that the bishop's medical condition could cause him to become forgetful or confused, Warren said the deposition must take place within 30 days of his ruling; be conducted in a single day; last no more than three hours and include breaks; and take place with only one attorney each representing the diocese and the unsecured creditors' committee, plus Bishop Clark's attorney. No attorneys representing insurers are allowed to take part.

Warren also said Bishop Clark may bring with him a medical authority who would have the right to ask for questioning to cease if the bishop were to become overwhelmed by the process. Although he stipulated that a transcript would eventually become available to the public,

Warren said no audio or video recording of the deposition would be permitted.

In addition, Warren ruled that Bishop Clark must produce any personal written information still in his possession – diaries, letters, etc. – that might contain information related to clergy sexual abuse.

Warren established Aug. 13, 2020, as the final date for victims to file claims against the diocese in the bankruptcy case. That date also will mark the conclusion of a one-year window established by New York state's Child Victims Act for the filing of sexual abuse claims that previously were barred by statutes of limitations.

He also approved a "proof of claim" form those wishing to make victim claims will be required to submit to the bankruptcy court. Attorneys representing the diocese, insurance companies and the unsecured creditors' committee had discussed drafts of the form during the Feb. 11 hearing.

Church reviews progress a year after abuse summit

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Since Pope Francis convened a historic summit at the Vatican one year ago to address clergy sex abuse and accountability, much has been done, but advocates say more is needed.

Dozens of experts, abuse survivors and their advocates came to Rome the same week as the summit's anniversary to emphatically reiterate the need to never let ignorance, complacency or denial ever take hold again and to make the church safe for everyone.

The advocacy groups held media events and worked on talking to as many Vatican officials and religious leaders as possible to highlight still unaddressed concerns such as abuse by women religious, transparency in past and current Vatican investigations of known abusers and the likelihood of ever seeing "zero tolerance" for known predators.

However, significant measures have been rolled out piecemeal over the year. Here is a rundown of the most major changes:

— Pope Francis approved a sweeping new law and set of safeguarding guidelines for Vatican City State and the Roman Curia in March, just a month after the Feb. 21-24 Vatican

summit.

The new law "On the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons," beefed up existing criminal laws for Vatican City State and mandates quick reporting of suspected or known abuse to the Vatican tribunal. It covers all forms of physical and emotional abuse — not just sexual violence through coercion — as well as serious forms of mistreatment, neglect, abandonment and exploitation against minors, who are below the age of 18, and vulnerable adults. Any Vatican employee around the world can be tried by the Vatican court for violations.

This new law on child protection was meant to better comply with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocol, since legal amendments made in 2013 brought Vatican law into detailed compliance with several international treaties the Vatican had signed over the past decades.

While Vatican City State is a tiny country with few residents, the move was also meant to be a role model for the rest of the church and those places or institutions still lacking concrete, clear guidelines and procedures.

— In May, Pope Francis issued "Vos estis lux mundi" ("You are the light of the world") for the universal church.

The papal mandate revised and clarified norms and procedures for holding bishops and religious superiors accountable in protecting minors as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse. It requires all priests and religious to report suspected abuse or cover-ups and encourages any layperson to report through a now-mandated reporting "system" or office that must be set up in each diocese by June of this year.

It insists leaders will be held accountable not only with suspected cases of committing abuse themselves, but also accusations of interfering with, covering up or failing to address abuse accusations of which they were aware.

No matter what local or national cultures or laws say, for the universal church, the document defined a minor as anyone under the age of 18 and included those who can be defined "a vulnerable person" and what is considered to be child pornography. It also established that bishops and re-

ligious superiors are accountable not just for protecting minors but also for protecting seminarians, novices and members of religious orders from violence and sexual abuse stemming from an abuse of power.

The document was a follow-up to Pope Francis' 2016 document, "As a Loving Mother," and together, the two documents are meant to correct what had been a lack of or unclear procedures for investigating the way a bishop, and now religious superiors, comply with already established norms against abuse and clearly expressing the consequences of noncompliance or cover-ups.

— The latest, most recent change was in December, when Pope Francis waived the obligation of secrecy for those who report having been sexually abused by a priest and for those who testify in a church trial or process having to do with clerical sexual abuse.

Abuse survivors had long called for lifting the obligation, saying it had been abused or used in ways to cover up misconduct and crimes.

Now, not only are victims and witnesses free to discuss their case, the amended law specifies that the still-in-effect obligation of Vatican officials to maintain confidentiality shall not prevent complying with civil laws, includ-

ing mandatory reporting and following legal court orders.

— The same day he released the instruction in December, the pope issued a number of amendments to "Sacramentorum Sanctitatis Tutela" ("Safeguarding the Sanctity of the Sacraments") from 2001.

Pope Francis changed the age defining a child from 14 to under 18 regarding what qualifies as "child pornography," and the procedural norms for how the tribunal of the doctrinal congregation is to be composed and conducted was spelled out.

He removed the requirement that the legal representative of the accused be a priest, allowing the role of "advocate or procurator" to be any qualified "member of the faithful" who has a doctorate in canon law and is approved by the presiding judge.

The pope has other big decisions and changes still coming, Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, told Vatican News Feb. 20.

"This journey is not over. Soon there will be other steps, seen and prepared over this year," he said.

The step-by-step process, he said, is meant to help the church develop "a culture of attention and prevention" that never ends.



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