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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 35

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 5, 2020

## Developing a culture of planning

We get so consumed with "putting out fires" and just the normal day-to-day responsibilities that it is often difficult to find time for planning – long-range and ongoing. However, planning that is long-range and ongoing is essential, if we hope to develop parishes that are more vibrant than they are now and that better meet the needs of all parishioners throughout the diocese.

The Living Stones Planning Committee has been working with parishes to identify needs and develop plans to meet those needs. Learn more about those efforts in this edition.

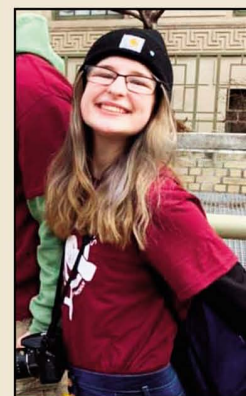
FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## REUNITING AT THE MARCH



Bishop Douglas J. Lucia gathered with Brenda Baker Zumwalt, originally from Ogdensburg and now a resident of Oswego, and Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the March for Life in Washington, DC.

## MARCHING FOR LIFE



Emma Heiland, 18, a parishioner of St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake, attended the March for Life with the diocesan Youth Buses for Life. She and Madonna Champagne, a Malone native and junior at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music recounted their March experiences.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Pope: People need 'prophets' to warn them of sins

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – If a saint like King David could have been capable of so much sin, what are regular people doing to make sure they can always be attentive and aware of where they are going wrong? Pope Francis asked.

"Am I alert? Do I always need someone who tells me the truth, or not? Do I think I don't?" he said Jan. 31 in his homily at morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

The pope focused his homily on the day's first

reading (2 Sm 11:1-17) about David's sin, which included committing adultery and giving orders to arrange for the death of the woman's husband.

How could David, who had done so many good things and loved God, be capable of this and feel no remorse? the pope asked.

Everyone is vulnerable to spur-of-the-moment sins, like anger, but usually that is followed by a sense of guilt or regret, he said.

Instead, what happened to David was a slow "slide"

into a condition that completely lacked any awareness of sin, he said.

Pope Pius XII warned of such a situation years ago, when he described the evil of the modern era as being the loss of the sense of sin and the assumption that people can do anything.

Many people today are like David, Pope Francis said.

They seem like good people, "go to Mass every Sunday, call themselves Christian," but they are oblivious to their own sins

or behave as if those sins were normal. One example, he said, is pretending it is normal to not pay maids or workers their due.

Many times, it takes something in life to deliver a hard "slap" to make the person get off that slippery slope of sin, he said.

Or, just as God sent Nathan to set David straight, people need a similar "prophet" who makes them see the error of their ways, he added.

"Do I listen to the re-

proach of a friend, a confessor, a husband, a wife or children, which helps me a little?" he asked.

If a saint like David could fall into such evil, "are we being careful, brothers and sisters, that it won't happen to us, too?"

He asked people pray that God always would "send us a prophet – it can be a neighbor, a son or daughter, a mother or father – who slaps us a little when we are slipping into this world where it seems everything is licit."

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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

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622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

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catholic.org

## Entered at the

## Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 and  
additional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

## Subscription:

For one year:  
In-Diocese Rate: \$27  
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press

Association.

## POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## “That’s God’s country”

Professor Masterson taught British Literature, Chaucer and Shakespeare at the college I attended in the Buffalo area. An older man, he had served as a paratrooper in World War II.

I was required to take Chaucer to complete my English major, but with two majors and two minors, my schedule was tight. He agreed to teach the class to me as an independent study. I would meet with Professor Masterson every week or so and read with him in Middle English, and we would discuss

the works of Geoffrey Chaucer.

In one of our meetings, Professor Masterson asked me about my hometown. When I told him I hailed from the Adirondack region of New York, he quickly told me, “that’s God’s country.”

Darcy L.  
Fargo

I thought of Professor Masterson’s description of our area this week. On Tuesday, I took my son to an appointment in Glens Falls.

As we travelled through the Adirondack Park, we saw snow-covered mountains disappearing into

clouds. We saw ice formations that had developed on the rock walls edging the road, some tinted a light blue. We saw water surrounded by ice on a number of ponds, lakes and creeks.

Then, on Wednesday, as I drove along the St. Lawrence River as part of my commute to work, I saw trees laden with ice, ice created from the fog coming off the river. Looking out my office window later that day, I saw that glittery, sparkly style of snow falling lightly.

While I’m not a huge fan of winter, I was reminded that we do, in fact, live in God’s country. God has gifted us with beautiful surroundings

that remind us of the beauty of His creation. It often leaves me filled with awe.

I’d also refer to this as God’s country for another reason. As I travel around the diocese, both for work and personal reasons, I meet person after person who reflects God’s love. I hear the stories of how people are responding to God working in their lives. I experience the kindness of you, the readers of this paper, who write or call thanking me and the NCC staff for our work sharing the good news of God’s love and how it’s manifesting in the North Country.

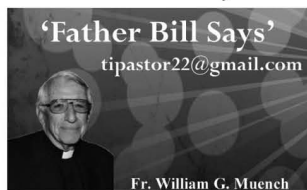
I’m thankful I live in God’s country.

## Finding silence, surrendering to God

There many weeks when I am at a loss as to what to write to you. However, I believe God is always ready to slip a few ideas into my busy day. The Lord knows what I personally need. And then I get a notion of just what may be something good to share with you.

This week has been busy with many things, not the most important things, but the days have been busy. Today, I stumbled upon a book of poetry by Jessica Powers. I imagine I have told you about her before. Jessica Powers was a Carmelite sister and a poet. Her poetry was published under her given name of Jessica Powers. She died in 1988 in her 80s. I was introduced to her poems at a conference presented by Bishop Robert Morneau, the auxiliary bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Thumbing through Jessica Powers’ poems, I came upon one that caught my attention. It was entitled, “The House at Rest.” She begins



this poem by asking a question, “How does one hush one’s house?” I could not help but think, “Exactly, my question today.” There are many days when my house is so busy during the day and even during the night. There are too many thoughts and concerns jangling around in my brain.

Bishop Morneau, in writing about this poem of Jessica Powers, writes about three important conditions for prayer – silence, solitude and surrender. I know only too well that I live in a very noisy world. Even when I am home alone, the television or radio compete for my attention. Sometimes it is the news. Although I complain about all that is going on, I still want to know what is happening. Of course, there

are the ball games and other such as well.

So, when I decide to try find God in a time of prayer, all that other stuff rushes into my mind. I find it rather difficult to “hush my house.” I need to find that blessed silence. My favorite solution is to get outside for a walk, to find a solitary moment of quiet, and usually it becomes a time alone with the Lord. Thank you for this, my God.

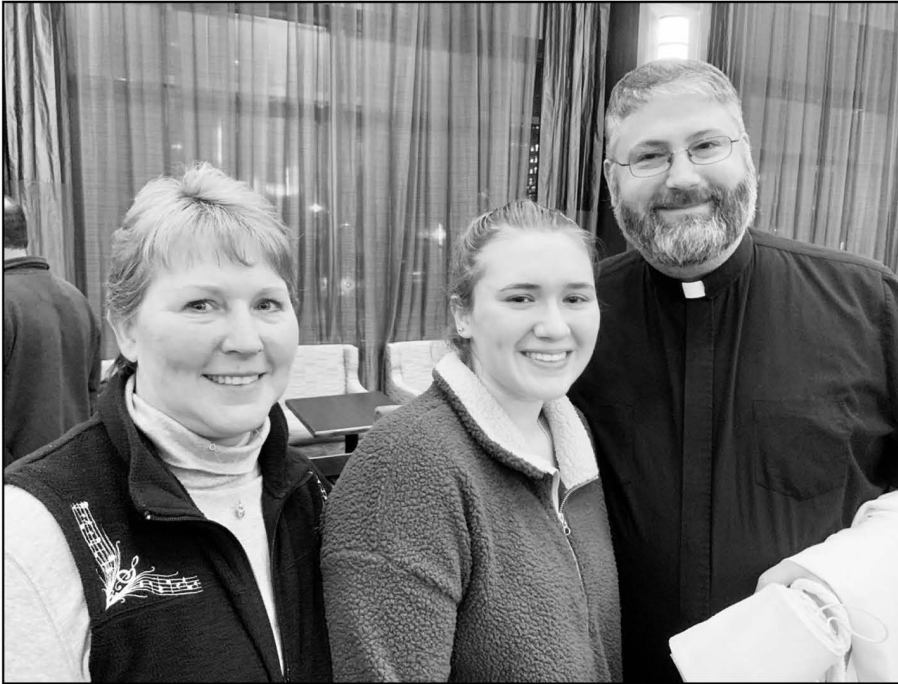
Personally, I bury myself in the rosary – the calm repetitive Our Fathers and Hail Marys – as I try to give my heart to the Lord’s presence for the day. There are the other times when I don’t need any words, and I just walk with the Lord quietly and alone.

Bishop Morneau also calls for surrender. I must admit to you that over all these years, the difficult effort has been surrender. My life has often been filled with hopes and dreams. I have constantly looked for opportunities for accomplishing

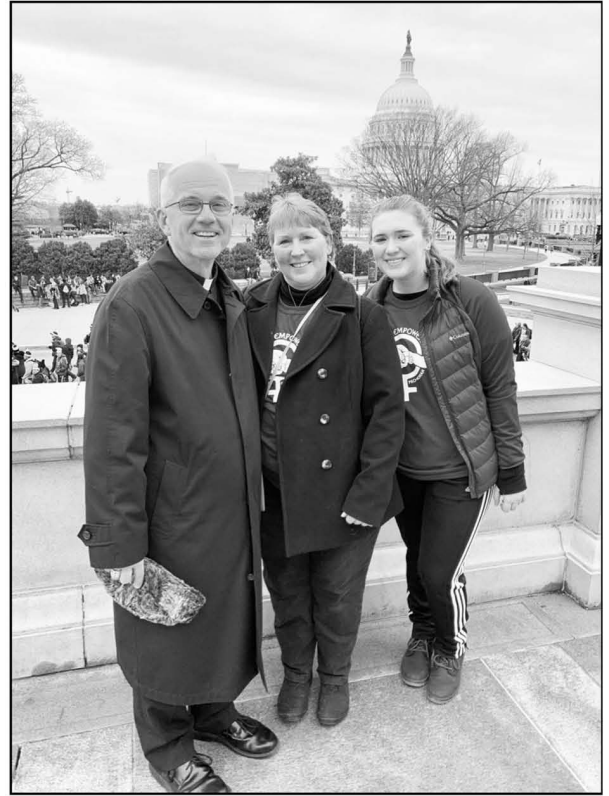
something. There have been many challenges – to write a wonderful homily, to prepare a perfect class, to write a great book, or some such thing as that. All are my personal efforts, but never is the effort one of just letting go and allowing God to act in my life as I simply surrender to the Lord.

I am beginning to learn that the call of prayer does involve surrender – surrender to God’s action in my life. I must learn to simply give myself over my God. A simple morning prayer, “What do you have in store for me today, Lord?” I am also learning that surrender in prayer demands love. I must learn to love God so much that I get out of God’s way. Actually, I remember a wise priest speaking to us back in the seminary, urging us to be good priests, to celebrate Mass well, to be a good preacher, by simply getting out of God’s way and by allowing the Lord to guide us and show us the way.





(Above) Cindy and Emily Healy of Fort Covington pose with Father Martin Cline, their former pastor, during the Youth Buses for Life trip to the March for Life. (Right) The Healys took a photo with Bishop Terry R. LaValley in front of the Capitol after the March. Cindy Healy, who last attended the March when she was 16, returned to the event with her daughter, Emily, who is now 16.



## Mother, daughter March for Life together

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

The last time Cindy Healy attended the March for Life in Washington, DC, she was 16 years old. This year, the Fort Covington resident returned to the March, this time accompanying her 16-year-old daughter, Emily, and the Youth Buses for Life.

"The last time I went, it was 1985, and I went with a young women's group, Sodality, from Verona, New York," Cindy Healy said.

Emily Healy, a high school junior, has attended the March more frequently.

"This was my fourth time, but my first time with my mother," she said.

"It's something my husband and I believe in very strongly," Cindy Healy

said. "We've encouraged Emily to go in the past. This year, I wanted to share that experience with her."

Cindy Healy said the March has evolved since she last attended.

"It was very different from the last time," she said. "There were so many more thousands of people at this March, and it was so much more organized. When I attended in the past, we took a school bus for a school trip. There was no overnight stay. There were no conferences. This was much larger scale."

It was that scale that continues to impress young Emily Healy.

"When we reached the top of the hill, I turned around and saw thousands of people behind me," she said. "It's just... wow."

Emily Healy said it was also amazing to experience the March with her mother.

"It meant more this time," she said. "I spent almost the entire time with my mom. Spending that time with her made it more emotional. She had gone before, but it had been so long. I liked seeing her reaction to how much it had grown. I'm 16 now, and the last time she went, she was 16. It was just a good experience."

It was also a meaningful experience for her mother.

"It reconfirmed my belief and made me realize so many people out there have the same beliefs I do," Cindy Healy said. "It was nice to have that affirmation. And it was surreal to experience it with Emily."

She also noted that she

had an outstanding experience traveling with the youth of our diocese.

"The kids were fantastic," Cindy Healy said. "We had Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley and Father Scott Belina on our bus, which was wonderful. The kids were singing, praying and socializing."

Both the Healy women said they were also happy to hear President Trump, the first sitting president to speak at the March for Life.

"It was fantastic having the president speak to us, knowing he's the first sitting president to ever speak at March for Life," Cindy Healy said. "And Vice-President Pence's daughter, Charlotte, spoke. She was very uplifting and very knowledgeable."

"We got in just in time to see President Trump

speak," added Emily Healy. "It was very impactful to see someone with so much power and with so much to say. It was mind blowing."

Both women say they hope to participate in next year's March, as well.

"I know my daughter felt it was the best March she's ever been to," Cindy Healy said. "Listening to the other students, it sounded like they felt the same way. It grows every year. It reaffirms their beliefs. They get to see that so many others share their beliefs, even though you might not see that every day. They learned to talk to people about those beliefs. It was well worth it. I'd love to go again."

"I plan on going again next year," added Emily Healy. "It stands for something bigger than myself. It's a great experience."

# Young women say March was 'empowering'

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

For two young women who attended the March for Life, the event was "beautiful" and "empowering."

Madonna Champagne, a junior at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music and, attended the March for Life with the diocesan Campus Ministry program.

"I've wanted to go for a while, and I was finally able to do it this year," Champagne, a Malone native, said. "I think it's such a major issue, and people aren't well informed about it. These children are people. They can't speak for themselves. Someone needs to speak for them."

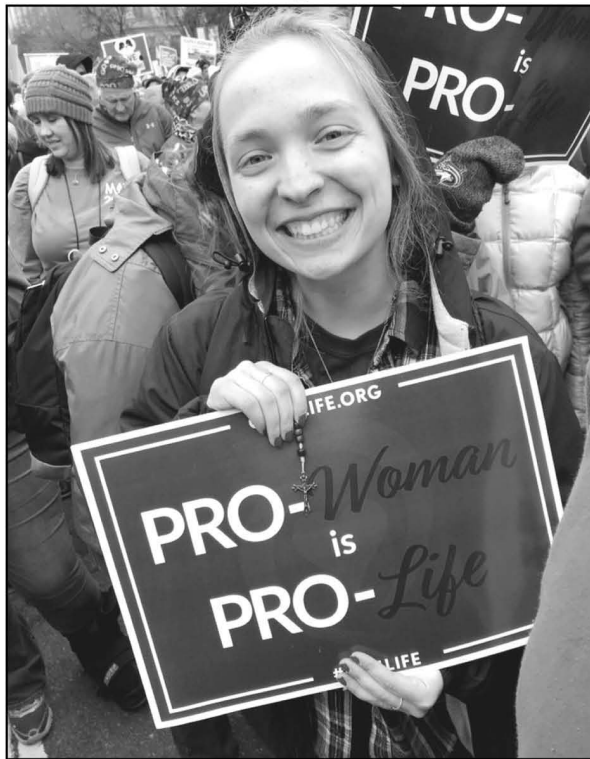
Champagne's sentiment was echoed by Emma Heiland, a high school senior from Star Lake, who attended the March with the diocesan Youth Buses for Life. It was Heiland's third trip to the nation's capital for the March.

"For me, it's important to give a voice to those who wouldn't necessarily have a voice if we didn't march for them," she said. "All life has value. I'm using my voice to spread that message."

Both young women said they had great experiences, starting with the transportation to the March.

"We had two vans," Champagne said. "I was in both at various points. It was so much fun. Everyone was so loving. There was a lot of laughing on the way down. We played a lot of car games. When we started, I at least knew everyone by name, but we all became a lot closer. It was a beautiful experience."

"One of the things that



Madonna Champagne, a junior at SUNY Potsdam's Crane School of Music, attended the March for Life with the diocesan Campus Ministry program. The Malone native described the event as "beautiful."

stuck out for me was in a video we watched on the bus ride down," Heiland said. "It was about a mom who went to an abortion clinic. She was told her baby had 10 fingers and 10 toes, and it made a difference to her. She gave her child up for adoption."

Heiland said she knew many of the youth marchers from other diocesan functions and Camp Guggenheim.

"We were all singing worship songs together," she said. "And we were all there supporting each other and supporting a cause that's important to us. While I knew most of the people there, I met a few new people. It's always a blessing to meet new people."

In fact, Heiland helped spread the word about

the Youth Buses for Life and recruited participants.

At the March, Champagne said she was struck by the size of the crowd and the peaceful and prayerful nature of the event.

"As we were walking, you'd hear a group praying the Rosary," she said. "Then you'd hear another group praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. It was so beautiful to see. There were so many people holding rosaries. It was something magical. You could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. And just the pure number of people at the March itself is overwhelming, but in a good way. Every person was full of joy, even though we were all sad that we still have to march for this cause."

Heiland said she was also excited to hear President Trump address the March.

"It's amazing to have a president who is behind our movement and us," she said.

Both Heiland and Champagne said they were also impressed by the Pro-Life Summit the groups attended.

"The Pro-Life Summit was the best part of the weekend," Heiland said. "It was great being surrounded by like-minded youth, and there were so many amazing speakers. They weren't sugar coating anything. They were encouraging us to use our own voices."

"At the Pro-Life Summit, there was a speaker who told us about a time she was in a debate," Champagne said. "She said the woman she was debating suggested there were circumstances in which a woman should have an abortion. The speaker told her, 'let me lay out a scenario for you. There was a woman who sometimes has to get between her husband and her kids because he could be violent. They live in poverty. She has four kids and is pregnant with a fifth. It's a mixed-race child. What should she do? Abort that child? That child was me.' People think circumstances change what's right. They don't. That was a beautiful example. That woman has spoken in front of presidents and royalty. She highlighted that it's not our right to say who should live."

Champagne said she also felt blessed to be able to celebrate Mass every day during the trip.

"Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley said Mass in the hotel lobby one day," she noted. "It was so cool!

People were walking in and out. It might have been their first experience of Mass. It was a good reminder that the Church isn't the buildings, even though there are some really beautiful churches. The Church is the people."

Both young women said the event moved them.

"It's really empowering," said Heiland. "It was amazing being with like-minded youth and seeing all the support. I really want to thank (diocesan Respect Life Coordinator) Colleen Miner and all the chaperones for making this possible and making the weekend so special."

"It's one of the most peaceful and beautiful experiences you can have," Champagne said. "I feel like I don't even have the right words for it. The cause is so great. I think people want to just sweep things under the rug, but nothing changes unless we put ourselves out there. That's what God wants us to do."

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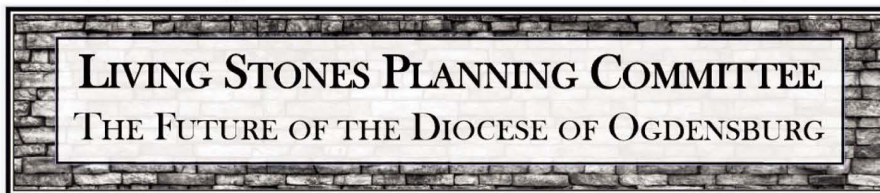




# Developing a culture of planning

By William J. Amoriell  
Chair, Living Stones  
Planning Committee

We get so consumed with "putting out fires" and just the normal day-to-day responsibilities that it is often difficult to find time for planning – long-range and ongoing. However, planning that is long-range and ongoing is essential, if we hope to develop parishes that are more vibrant than they are now and that better meet the needs of all parishioners throughout the diocese. When parishes completed their "pastoral plan" self-assessment in response to the Living Stones Planning Committee (LSPC) document, *Living Stones Planning Committee: Report and Plan*, they all identified areas where they needed additional support personnel and/or programming. This was made clear in the information presented in a previous article that appeared in the *North Country Catholic (NCC)*. As you may recall, the chart identified the strengths and areas of need for further development identified by those who responded to the LSPC survey self-assessment completed as part of Phase One of the LSPC process. The LSPC survey listed a number of the areas that can contribute to the vibrancy of a parish and help determine how well we are meeting the pastoral needs of all parishioners within their territorial boundaries. The sections of the survey that relate most directly to vibrancy and the health of a parish cover two major categories: (1) Faith Formation Support Personnel and (2) Faith/Community Formation Programming.



<u>Phase One:</u> <u>Living Stones Planning Committee Process</u>	
<u>Faith Formation Support Personnel</u>	<u>Percentage of Parishes Needing Additional Personnel</u>
Adult Formation	35.5%
Youth Minister	77.4%
Music Minister	51.6%
Vocation Team	71%
Catechists	64.5%
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)	51.6%
Outreach to Poor	48.4%
Outreach to Unchurched	87.1%
<u>Faith/Community Formation Programming</u>	<u>Percentage of Parishes Needing Additional Programming</u>
Adult Formation Programming	41.9%
Youth Ministry Programming	77.4%
Music Ministry	58.1%
Vocations-Related Programming	80.6%
Family Life Programming	41.9%
Bereavement Ministry	25.8%
Hospital Ministry	51.6%
Home Visitation	64.5%
Outreach to Poor	58.1%
Food Pantry	25.8%
Outreach to Unchurched	83.9%
Prison Ministry	32.3%

The table included in the last NCC that listed specific faith-formation support personnel, as well as faith-formation programming, contained the responses from 29 of the 36 parish groupings who responded to the LSPC survey. The following table is repeated here but

will vary slightly from what was included in the last NCC, as we now have 31 responses, instead of the 29 reported earlier. Following each faith-formation support personnel, as well as the faith-formation programming areas identified, are the percentages of parish

groupings that indicated a need for additional support personnel and/or faith-formation programming in each area: As mentioned in the last NCC Living Stones Planning Committee article series, the above results reveal a daunting task. The summary data, which

the parish groupings identified themselves, clearly suggest the areas that parish groupings need to focus on, in order to become more vibrant and to better meet the pastoral needs of all parishioners.

- Phase Two:**  
**Living Stones Planning Committee Process**
- During this second phase, the Living Stones Planning Committee is asking parishes throughout the diocese to establish committees representing the different parishes within their grouping and to prioritize the needs they have already identified. The LSPC suggested the following target dates to help guide the planning process:
- For Parishes with Submitted "Pastoral Plans"
  - 1. By November 15, 2019:** Establish a Planning Committee and begin the long-range planning process.
  - 2. December 14, 2019:** Prioritize needs and (1) select the top three needs, (2) form subcommittees or a group to develop a plan and recommendations for addressing the assigned need/s.
  - 3. By February 15, 2020:** Review and finalize plan and recommendations for top 3 needs.
  - 4. By March 11, 2020:** Repeat long-range planning process for the next three needs originally identified. Follow-up dates and modifications will be determined based on what was learned in completing the process for the top three needs.
- There are a few parishes who were not able to complete the LSPC self-assessment survey, so their "target dates" and process have been adjusted to accommodate that fact and to bring all parishes to-

## Environmental Stewardship

## Why be concerned about microplastics?

In science, it is only after much extensive study and experimentation that an idea can be given any credence, despite the seemingly common-sense nature of the proposal. Such is the case with plastics; as it seems only logical that the abundance of these man-made compounds would lead to problems in the environment.

It has only been in the past few years that researchers are noting the presence of invisible fragments of plastics, referred to as microplastics, in samples of air. The concentration of these airborne particles seems to be widespread and not limited to areas around population centers. One study undertaken this past spring notes the presence of microplastics within the human digestive system of everyone examined in this unique research project. While the results of these few studies are troubling, it must be emphasized that more comprehensive work must be undertaken before drawing conclusions.

The presence of such small fragments of plastics appearing in samples of our air and within our bodies has raised speculation that even smaller remnants of plastics, called nanoplastics, might be present in our environment. Scientists, however, have noted that currently there are no means of detecting such ultra-tiny pieces of plastics, and our capability of identifying such objects remains years away.

It seems to make sense that allowing plastics to enter the environment in the vast quantities that they currently do is only creating a hazard for future generations. Some individuals claim that microplastics, or nanoplastics if they exist, may not be of any harm to human health, or detrimental to the well being of any form of life on the planet.

As with climate change, it seems wrong to wait until science can definitely state that this form of trash is a hazard to life on the planet. It seems to make sense that, as a society and as good Christian stewards we need to reduce and try to eliminate as much plastic from entering the environment as possible. The challenge is before us NOW.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Jan. 29** – Deacon John White, 2019

**Feb. 5** – Msgr. Thomas E. Walsh, 1901; Msgr. F. Gordon Coseo, 1997; Rev. John J. Fallon, 2005

**Feb. 6** – Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009

**Feb. 8** – Msgr. Patrick Bernard Riley, 1981

**Feb. 9** – Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

**Feb. 10** – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

**Feb. 11** – Deacon David P. Wells, 2017

**Feb. 12** – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

## To Report Abuse

**If you have a complaint** of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-  
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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

- Join the conversation!

## Culture of planning

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

gether by May 2020. It is clear that individual parish timelines and activities vary, so parishes have been asked to adjust the timeline suggested above to address and conform to their specific situation.

To repeat what was printed in an earlier NCC article, it is critical that parishes begin to develop a plan (both ongoing and long-range), if not begun already, that is tied directly to the needs they have already identified.

It is also clear that parishes will not be able to address all areas of need all at once. That is why the areas identified need to be prioritized and then work needs to begin on addressing the top priorities over the next year or two. Once the first set of priorities has been ad-

ressed, the next set from the list needs to be addressed over the next year or two, and so on. We are not talking about a quick fix, as there isn't one. This is something that will demand our attention, commitment, patience, and creativity over the next several years, but the benefits that can be reaped from this process can be enormous. It might be valuable to recall the Hemmingway quote mentioned in the NCC article series already published:

Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be.

But what will happen in all the other days that ever come can depend on what 'we' do today.

– Ernest Hemmingway-  
*For Whom the Bells Tolls*

Also, as previously cited, there is another quote worth including here that continues to be relevant to our situation. It is a quote taken from



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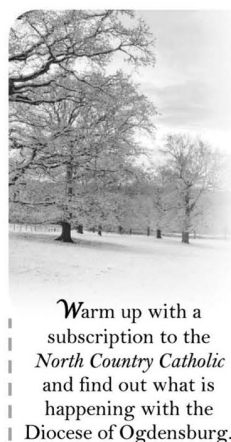
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# Youth Ministry looks to create hubs of activity

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

In an effort to offer more opportunities for youth to engage with each other and their faith, the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry is working with youth ministers to create regional "youth hubs."

"The regional youth hubs would be a cooperation between the Office of Youth Ministry and youth ministers in a particular region," said Thomas Semeraro, diocesan director of Youth Ministry. "We would work together to create opportunities for young people to engage with each other in faith-based events."

Currently, the hubs are centered in Plattsburgh, Massena, Ticonderoga, Tupper Lake and Watertown.

"We're starting with five, but we could expand to more," Semeraro said. "Our goal is to have each hub offer youth programming that is easily accessible to youth in those regions, and to unify youth in those regions."

The locations were chosen with the goal that all diocesan youth would live within 45 minutes of a hub center and have relatively quick access to events.

As the "hub" model is new, Semeraro said the initial goal is to have each hub offer one event per year.

"The events will be dependent upon the team leaders and what they create," he said. "Our goal is to have every event combine faith and fun, similar to the diocesan programming with Guggenheim and Youth Rally."

Currently, the Office of Youth Ministry is working with youth ministers across the diocese to recruit volunteers to support the effort.

"I'm going to meet with the youth ministers in each hub and try to form leadership teams," Semeraro said. "Our office will serve as a resource to the hubs, coordinating and facilitating, ensuring all Safe Environment and other procedures are followed, and we'll help the hubs in any way we can."

For more information about the hub model or any youth ministry programming, contact Thomas Semeraro, director of Youth Ministry, at 315-393-2920 or tsemmeraro@rcdony.org.

## CELEBRATING MASS, CELEBRATING SETON



Seton Catholic launched the celebration of Catholic School Week on Jan. 26 with a special Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church. The students participated enthusiastically carrying in the Seton banner, proclaiming the readings, bringing up the Offertory gifts, and leading the congregation in music. Pictured are members of the students choir and handbell choir, front row, Nicholas Santoro Oliver Sears, second row, Sister Helen Hermann, Sister Brian Marie, Sister Cecilia Marie, Samantha Darrah, Isaac Kird, Sara Meschinelli, and Isaac Devine, third row, Maddy Santoro, Sue Kocsis, Chloe Lawliss, and Pat Jenkins.

**YOUTH RALLY 2020**  
GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE  
**APRIL 25, 2020**

**A DAY OF FAITH AND CARNIVAL, FUN FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 7 TO 12**

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Office  
Presents  
**UNDER THE BIG TOP**  
HIGH PEAKS RESORT  
2384 Saranac Ave \* Lake Placid NY \* 12946  
Check in at 10 am \* Events begin at 10:30 am

The Youth office is excited to bring young people together for a celebratory day filled with "God's All Encompassing Love". The theme of "Under The Big Top" sets the tone for a carnival style event with fun games, entertainment, great food, a wonderful resort location, a dynamic speaker and a closing mass offered by Bishop Terry LaValley.

**This is an all, inclusive event and is made available at the low ticket price of \$30.00 per youth through the generous support of the Bishop Fund Appeal and Donor organizations.**

This year our Keynote speaker will be, Doug Tooke. Doug Tooke is a dynamic and energetic speaker with more than 20 years in Ministry. Utilizing cinematic storytelling, Doug's presentations inspire and motivate people to seek a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Also appearing will be the Gratto Fellows Circus Performers showcasing their interactive juggling, unicycling, rope walking, and other feats of daring, bravery 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.

To register go to [www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally](http://www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally)  
or email Tom Semeraro, [tsemmeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemmeraro@rcdony.org) or call 315-393-2920 Ext. 1415

### North Country Catholic has Green option

Our E-paper is now easier to read online. You can receive your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to:

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# MARCHING FOR LIFE

Diocese of Ogdensburg represented at March for Life in Washington, DC



Travelers with the Campus Ministry trip to March for Life pose outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where they attended Mass the day after the March for Life.



Diocese of Ogdensburg Seminarians Kevin McCullough (above) and Nicholas Olley prayed the Rosary while participating in March for Life.



St. André Bessette Parish in Malone had the biggest group of youth participating in the Youth Buses for Life.





# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Administration imposes travel restrictions on six countries

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The Trump administration announced late Jan. 31 it will impose travel restrictions on six new countries in Africa and Asia, a decision that was roundly criticized by faith-based groups and immigration advocates. The countries are Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, Eritrea, Sudan and Myanmar, also known as Burma; the new restrictions go into effect Feb. 22. Since 2018, under a policy upheld by the Supreme Court, the administration has restricted entry from seven countries to varying degrees: Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, along with Venezuela and North Korea. "This policy has been devastating to thousands of men, women and children whose only beacon of hope is the safety and prosperity that America can offer," said Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. LIRS is one of the largest refugee resettlement agencies in the nation. "How can we look at ourselves in the mirror knowing that we are doing less and less, especially when an unprecedented global refugee crisis calls for swift, bold action from the world's humanitarian leader?" she added.

## Diocese of Buffalo considering bankruptcy filing

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Citing consequences from the abuse scandal, a financial statement from the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, lists a \$5 million loss for fiscal year 2019 and in an interview with the diocese's newspaper, the apostolic administrator says a decision will be made soon about whether to file for bankruptcy and reorganize under Chapter 11. "We will soon decide whether or not we take that tool that Chapter 11 provides," said Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany, N.Y., who was named by Pope Francis to temporarily lead the diocese Dec. 4 after accepting the resignation of Buffalo Bishop Richard J. Malone as head of the diocese. "It's a legal tool when an organization is at a point in which they need some assistance to deal with challenging circumstances while remaining true to their mission," Bishop Scharfenberger said. "It's possible that pursuing a Chapter 11 reorganization process will be in the best interest of all, beginning with those who have been harmed and are intent on pursuing restorative justice."

## Attorneys ask for independent immigration court

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – Lawmakers heard about the lack of resources, including lack of working audio and video equipment, lack of access to language interpretation and overall the staggering backlog of 1 million cases and countless lives tied up in the nation's immigration courts. "For far too long, our immigration courts, housed under the (U.S.) Department of Justice, have not functioned as they should," said U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-California, chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, during a Jan. 29 hearing. Judges and immigration court attorneys around the country unloaded example after example on lawmakers, saying the disarray is leading to a lack of due process for asylum-seekers and others waiting for decisions that can profoundly affect their lives. They clamored for a separate immigration court system, one independent from the Department of Justice and from the politics of Democrats and Republicans. The backlog of 1 million cases has pushed the system to the brink and although the Trump administration claims that many of its policies have been intended to reduce the backlog "it appears that things are only getting worse," said Lofgren, who backed the idea of separating immigration court from the Justice Department.

# Knights unveil new, public initiation ceremony

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS)** – After 142 years, the Knights of Columbus is pulling down a veil of secrecy that has surrounded its initiation ceremonies in an effort to better showcase the order's core principles and its drive to help Catholic men become disciples.

Since its founding in 1882, the initiation ceremonies for the first three degrees of Knights membership – focused on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity – have been separate and open to members only. The fourth degree, dedicated to the principal of patriotism, was added later and this initiation also is secret and for members only.

But starting this year, the Knights have adopted a new ceremony. Called the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, it combines the initiation for the first three degrees into a single ceremony that will be open to family, friends and fellow parishioners.

"There is nothing we do that is secret or needs to be secret," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson told the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Nashville. "We decided this is a way to let other parishioners know, family members know, what the Knights of Columbus is all about. We think that's a good thing."

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men that was founded by Father Michael McGivney, a young priest serving at St. Mary Church in New Haven, Connecticut. Father McGivney is a candidate for sainthood and has the title "Venerable."

Today, the order has more than 2 million mem-

bers worldwide who are involved in charitable and service works.

Although membership as a whole is growing, not all areas are showing increases, Anderson said.

"I think the Catholic Church is growing more quickly in some areas than in other areas. Those trends affect us as well," he said. "When you see dioceses with parishes closing, that has to affect all the Catholic organizations in those dioceses."

At the Knights' Supreme Convention last summer, a resolution from the Illinois delegation calling for combining the first-, second- and third-degree ceremonies into one and removing the condition of secrecy was approved. Anderson directed a review of the ceremonies "with an eye toward staying true to our roots while at the same time presenting our principles of charity, unity and fraternity in a more clear and convincing way."

Anderson unveiled the new ceremony in November at the midyear meeting for the order's state deputies, who are the highest official in each jurisdiction. He said the ceremony "stays true to our traditions while addressing the needs of our times."

The fourth-degree ceremony will remain unchanged and will continue to be open to members only.

"Secrecy has to be understood in the context of the 19th century," Anderson said. "There was incredible bigotry against Catholics," with the anti-Catholic Know-Nothings in control politically in New England at the time, and the Ku Klux Klan later became a powerful political force

across the country, he said. "There was some appeal to secrecy."

Also at the time, the idea of progressing through the degrees as a journey toward Knighthood was popular.

But today, those features have proved to be an impediment to men joining, particularly young men, Anderson said.

The new single ceremony takes about 30 minutes, Anderson said.

By opening the ceremony to the public, "families and friends can see what we're all about and hopefully decide I or my brother or my husband should join," Anderson said.

The new degree ceremony pulls from the three previous ceremonies to pass along the organization's history and the importance of the principles rooted in the organization.

"We need to impress on the members the importance of charity, unity, fraternity, how they are linked, and how in Father McGivney's vision of Christian discipleship ... charity, unity and fraternity become a path of discipleship for the Catholic man," Anderson said.

A ceremony that focuses on the three principles enhances the Knights involvement in the church's work of evangelization, Anderson explained.

"I think its central," he said. The order's principles "are really at the core of Catholic life, and (the new ceremony) makes it clear we have a responsibility and the responsibility extends into the whole person, the spiritual dimension, the fraternal dimension, and the financial dimension."

# Facilitating nuclear arms reduction talks

## Vatican works to get United States, Russia in discussion

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Holy See is working through nongovernmental channels to bring U.S. and Russian negotiators together to discuss new reductions in the countries' nuclear weapons arsenals, an official with the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development said during a visit to The Catholic University of America.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi explained Jan. 30 during a program at the school that the effort involves "a small group of Russian and American experts."

"There is the backing of the church, the Vatican. It is promoted on the organizational level by (the nongovernmental organization) Global Priorities," the archbishop said. "We are trying quietly to promote dialogue to create the argument that the two governments should talk and, say, by next year we eliminated another 500 warheads on both sides in a verifiable manner, and then to continue the process until all the bombs are eliminated."

Washington-based Global Priorities is an international interreligious organization working to change national and global budget priorities by shifting spending to programs that can alleviate poverty and support human development.

After the program, Archbishop Tomasi confirmed that such an effort was underway.

"It's a professional group of experts, but with people who are very close to the two administrations and this issue of atomic weapons," he told Catholic News Service. "This group

works to prepare the possibility of the official government delegations to talk among themselves and arrive at taking a step further."

Two meetings of the experts occurred in Rome during 2019 and another is planned for Moscow in April, Archbishop Tomasi said.

The effort includes outreach to Russian Orthodox Church officials, he said.

"We want to create an environment of dialogue and trust that leads to eliminate more warheads," he said. "It's a progressive movement. It's an incremental approach."

Arnold Kohen, international coordinator of Global Priorities, confirmed to CNS Jan. 31 that the organization is exploring with the Holy See ways to bring the two nations that possess more than 90% of the world's nuclear weapons to the negotiating table.

"The essence is that we've been working for about three to four years to do this behind the scenes with the Vatican and the Russians. The net result at this point is that it's positive," Kohen said, confirming the Moscow meeting in April.

The meetings have included U.S. and Russian experts, "people who had previous government experience but are not currently in the government," he said.

The back channel comes as disarmament proponents have undertaken a campaign to bolster support for a five-year extension of the New Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, which is set to expire Feb. 5, 2021.

The 10-year-old pact,

known as New START, set the number of deployed nuclear weapons by the U.S. and Russia at 1,550 each, governed by strict inspection and verification protocols. Both countries are adhering to the treaty's requirements.

Without the extension, there would be no nuclear arms control agreements between the U.S. and Russia in place for the first time since 1972.

There has been little movement to extend the treaty. Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he is willing to sign an extension with no conditions attached. U.S. President Donald Trump has not indicated a willingness to do so, suggesting instead that he would like to see a broader pact that would include China.

Several members of Congress and Pentagon officials support the extension.

Archbishop Tomasi was in Washington for programs at two Catholic universities focusing on Pope Francis' vision of nuclear disarmament, human development and just peace.

In a morning session at The Catholic University of America, he joined a conversation with Maryann Cusimano Love, associate professor of international politics at the school. He later delivered a lecture at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs.

The earlier discussion focused largely on the support of the pope and the Holy See for full-scale nuclear disarmament.

Archbishop Tomasi said Pope Francis' view that the use and even the possession of nuclear weapons was an affront to human dignity emerged when he asked the pope to provide a statement to a 2014 con-

ference in Vienna about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear war.

Conference delegates at first expressed "some hesitation" about the pope's strong call, but their view changed quickly, the Vatican official said.

"The assembly over three days changed their tune and arrived at accepting the message of the pope and formed a committee to develop a treaty to ban all bombs form everybody," he said.

The committee worked to draft the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and in 2017 it was passed at the United Nations. The final tally saw 122 nations voting for the ban. Netherlands voted no and Singapore abstained in the final count. The nuclear weapon states of the United States, Russia, China, France, United Kingdom, Pakistan and India as well as numerous countries falling under the nuclear umbrella were not present during the vote. The U.N. has 195 member states.

Archbishop Tomasi said that hearing from hibakusha, the Japanese survivors of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, as the ban treaty was being discussed at the United Nations galvanized nations to approve the agreement.

"We need to keep promoting the knowledge of this group of survivors because they are disappearing very fast," he said. "This will give us direct evidence that no matter the reason a government may have to use this weapon, it makes it impossible to make them acceptable for use."

Unilateral disarmament would lead to catastrophe, however, the onetime papal nuncio to three East

Africa nations said.

"If the U.S. destroys all its nuclear weapons tonight and Russia and China does not, we destabilize the world. That can lead to complete destruction. So we need to work toward disarmament and hopefully arrive where we can destroy all the bombs," he said.

Although nuclear weapons have not been used in conflict since 1945, the consequences of testing such weapons in the 1950s and 1960s have been felt by indigenous people around the world, particularly in the Pacific island nations, the archbishop said.

Elsewhere, he said, resources have been expropriated by developed countries at the expense of developing nations. Such practices helped influence the majority of nations to adopt the ban treaty, he said.

The archbishop echoed the pope's call for an "inclusive economy" whereby new business practices are needed to shrink the gap between developed and developing countries so all can share in the earth's resources.

"From our Catholic position, we say that the human family is one. There is one that is created," the archbishop said. "We have a moral sense to make sure that people who are a member of the family are not bad off."

The conversation circled back to nuclear weapons the importance of taking steps to eventually eliminate them altogether.

"We need to reflect and to build up concrete steps. We agree on the goal. No question that the goal of eliminating all the bombs is correct. But how we get there is incomplete. That's my concern, my preoccupation and fear."



## CLINTON

## 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

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 15  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30  
**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 6 – 12, \$4; under 5, Free  
**Features:** Take-outs are available. Proceeds benefit local programs serving youth and people in need.

## FISHERS CLUB

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

**Date:** Feb. 16, March 1 & 29, April 19, May 3 & 10  
**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: pastormoll@stmarysti.org 518 585 7144 or Father Christopher Carrara at ccarrara@rcdony.org 315-375-6571

## FISH FRY

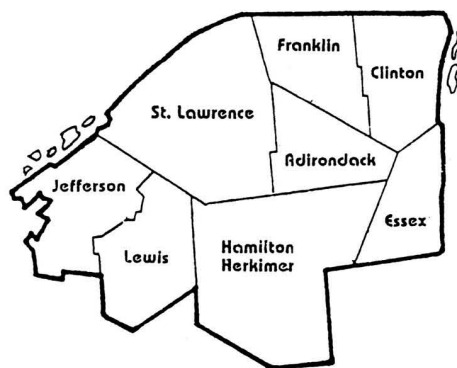
Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have its Annual Fish Fry.

**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

## BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

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



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
 North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;  
 e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

## 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 nancys\_56@hotmail.com  
[www.40daysforlife.com/Plattsburgh](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Plattsburgh)

## 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:** Noon  
**Place:** St. Ann's Church  
**Contact:** For more information call Elaine McGivney at 518-529-6133

## JEFFERSON

## CATHOLICISM SERIES

Watertown – Bishop Robert Barron's "Catholicism" DVD presentation and discussion to be held.

**Schedule:** #5 – Feb. 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. All believers welcome. Refreshments.  
**Contact:** Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

## 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@rc-

dony.org or (315) 393-2920.

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Indian River Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 8  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$5; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free  
**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

## PARISH MISSION

Watertown – "Dare to be Holy," a parish mission to be hosted by the parishes of St. Anthony, St. Patrick, Holy Family and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

**Schedule:** Feb 9 at Holy Family Church; Feb. 10 at St. Patrick's Church; Feb. 11 at St. Anthony's Church; Feb. 12 at Sacred Heart Church  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. all days & extra special session after 12 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Church Feb. 10-12  
**Features:** Bill Wegner will be joining us to preach our Parish Mission. Everyone welcome. Offering will be taken. Refreshments will be served.  
**Contact:** For more information call 315-782-1190

## 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

## 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

## 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

## ST. LAWRENCE

## BIBLE TIME LINE 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  
**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall  
**Cost:** Free-will offering  
**Contact:** 315-769-2469 or smarion@massenacatholics.com; massenacatholics.com

## ST. JAMES SCHOOL GALA

Gouverneur – St. James School Gala with the theme of "God Bless the USA" to be held.

**Date:** Feb. 8  
**Time:** Doors open at 5:45 p.m.; Treasure Chest Keys go on sale at 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. James School  
**Cost:** \$60 per person; \$45 special ticket price for active and retired military, law enforcement, and emergency responders.

**Features:** Tickets are available at the parish office or log onto stjamesk6.org, hit the donate button and purchase your tickets. Ticket includes: Admission to our auctions, raffles, appetizers, full course dinner, dessert bar, drinks and dancing. Must be 21 years of age. Formal attire is optional. Join us as we ignite the pride in every American heart and celebrate our Hometown Heroes.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Canton – Knights of Columbus to sponsor a pancake breakfast.

**Date:** Feb. 9

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

# Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's School Gym  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 5-10, \$5; Under 5, Free; Families, \$30

## HEALING MASS

Massena – St. Mary's Church to have a Healing Mass.

**Date:** Feb. 11  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Church  
**Contact:** Parish office at 315-769-2469 for more information.

## 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.

## 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

## 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](http://www.rcdony.org/clm-event) or contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 Ext. 1413 or [jgrizzuto@rcdony.org](mailto:jgrizzuto@rcdony.org)

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### 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](http://www.rcdony.org/youthlenten/lenten-retreat.html) or contact Virginia Demers, at: [vdemers@rcdony.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** Young people will gather together for a celebratory day filled with "God's All-Encompassing Love." The theme of "Under The Big Top" sets the tone for a carnival style event with fun games, entertainment, great food, a wonderful resort location, a dynamic speaker and a closing Mass offered by Bishop Terry LaValley. This year, the keynote speaker is Doug Tooke, a dynamic speaker with more than 20 years in Ministry who uses media in his presentation. Also appearing will be the Gratto Fellows Circus Performers showcasing juggling, unicycling, rope walking, and other feats of daring and entertainment. The event will feature carnival-style games, and a carnival-themed 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](http://www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally)

# Pope: Church must recognize gifts of older Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Old age "is not a disease, it's a privilege," and Catholic dioceses and parishes miss a huge and growing resource if they ignore their senior members, Pope Francis said.

"We must change our pastoral routines to respond to the presence of so many older people in our families and communities," the pope told Catholic seniors and pastoral workers from around the world.

Pope Francis addressed the group Jan. 31 near the end of a three-day conference on the pastoral care of the elderly sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life.

The Catholic Church at every level, he said, must respond to the longer life expectancies and changing demographics evident around the world.

While some people see retirement as marking the time when productivity and strength decline, the 83-year-old pope said, for others it is a time when they are still physically fit and mentally sharp but have much more freedom than they had when they were working and raising a family.

In both situations, he said, the church must be there to offer a helping hand if needed, benefit from the gifts of the elderly and work to counter social attitudes that see the old as useless burdens on a community.

When speaking with and about older Catholics, the church cannot act as if their lives only had a past, "a musty archive," he said. "No. The Lord also can and wants to write new pages with them, pages of holiness, service and prayer."

"Today I want to tell you that the elderly are the present and tomorrow of the church," he said. "Yes, they are also the future of a church, which, together with young people, prophesies and dreams. That is why it is so important that the old and the young talk to each other. It is so important."

"In the Bible, longevity is a blessing," the pope noted. It is a time to face one's fragility and to recognize how reciprocal love and care within a family really are.

"Giving long life, God the father gives time to deepen one's awareness of him and to deepen intimacy with him, to draw closer to his heart and abandon oneself to him," the pope said. "It is a time to prepare to consign our spirit into his hands, definitively, with the trust of children. But it also is a time of renewed fruitfulness."

In fact, the Vatican conference, "The Richness of Many Years of Life," spent almost as much time discussing the gifts older Catholics bring to the church as it did talking about their special needs.

The conference discussion, the pope said, cannot be an "isolated initiative" but must continue at the national, diocesan and parish levels.

The church, he said, is supposed to be the place "where the different generations are called to share God's loving plan."



# Dorothy Day film tops Amazon documentary chart

**PBS to broadcast movie  
on March 6**

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Dorothy Day, whose life was a series of seeming contradictions, might be bemused at this one: The DVD version of a documentary about her life has, more than a month before the film reaches the PBS airwaves, made it to the top spot on the Amazon documentary sales chart.

Of course, to make it to the top spot, people have to buy "Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story," which means they have the disposable income to buy it. That would seem to go against Day's own embrace of voluntary poverty as the co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, which dominated her life for nearly a half-century.

Martin Doblmeier, who made the film, is fully aware of the many contradictions in Day's life and legacy, having spent two years assembling the documentary.

"She's a very traditional Catholic. She's not a religious leftist, as (Sojourners founder) Jim Wallis says in the film, but is comfortable with that. But she has to be called a political and social radical. That's a dangerous combination," Doblmeier said in a Jan. 28 phone interview with Catholic News Service.

Doblmeier noted one of the most famous quotations of St. Augustine: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O Lord."

"Dorothy Day is a classic example of that," he said. "It's amazing how restless she was, and latched on to the Catholic story line in her late 20s,

and once she connects to that, she does not stray."

Day herself uttered her own famous quote: "Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed that easily." Yet, 40 years after her death in 1980, there is a Dorothy Day Guild in New York advocating for her canonization – another contradiction.

Doblmeier said there are arguments against making her a saint, which include her abortion and her two suicide attempts. But "the vault of Catholic stories is filled with stories of those who were lost but then were found," he noted, St. Augustine and St. Francis of Assisi among them.

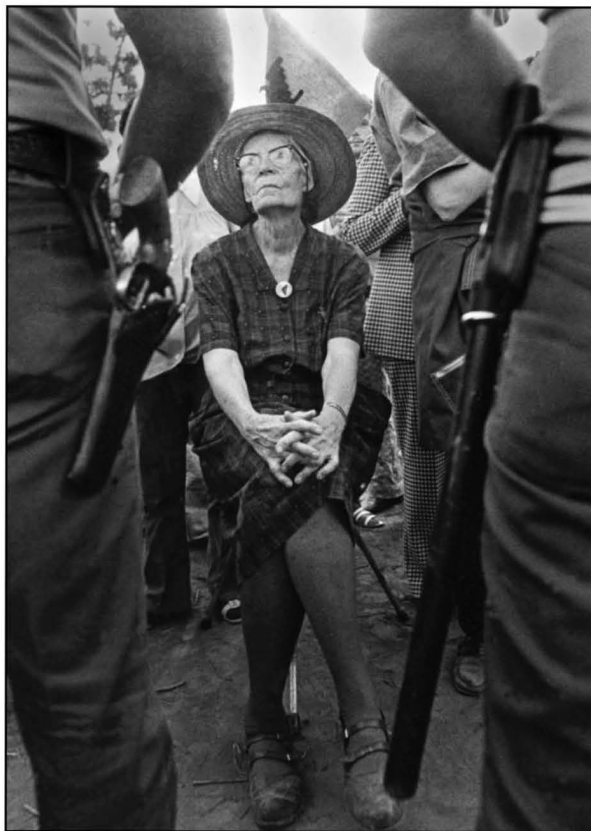
Others say "she received too much resistance from the church at the time she was alive. She often found herself in tension with the Catholic Church, and they don't want the church to claim her," Doblmeier said.

Others oppose sainthood because, to them, it would represent "some sort of domestication of Dorothy Day, as if the idea that you have her on a refrigerator magnet," he added.

His own take? "I think she should be canonized."

Doblmeier said Day first started coming to his attention when he was working, as he says, "as a cub reporter for the Providence Visitor," the statewide Rhode Island diocese's newspaper, since renamed the Rhode Island Catholic.

The first few minutes of "Revolution of the Heart" go at a breakneck clip. "We do make it move pretty quickly," he told



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY JOURNEY FILMS

This is a still from the "Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story," a film by Martin Doblmeier.

CNS. "Once we get out of the funder credits, then we can create a different kind of rhythm for the film. We, like everybody else, listen to the people at the network: You've got to grab them in the first three minutes, you've got to give them a good sense of where they're going for the next hour."

While Doblmeier got a good bit of his funding from the Lilly Foundation, its grant is contingent upon receiving matching funds elsewhere.

The U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign contributed a sizable chunk of matching grant funds. "I have to have total editorial control; I have to say the CCC was OK with that," he

said. "They know me, they were willing to help us out, to get this one film made."

Doblmeier's done 35 documentaries, several with the help of CCC grants, since leaving journalism and commercial broadcast television. "The ideas are there," he said. "The only shortage is the funding."

He may save some money by narrating his own films. But Doblmeier scored a coup by getting Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon to bring Day's words to life on the screen, most of them from Day's autobiography, "The Long Loneliness."

"I asked her," Doblmeier said of Sarandon. "I even

said this to her: 'This may sound like the prom, but you were my first choice. Not because your voice sounds so identical to the voice of Dorothy, but you're an actress and you can bring the drama to this.' She said yes, she was willing to do this. It took a while to get through all of her people," he chuckled. "We did it in a recording studio in New York City, and she was most agreeable."

The PBS release date is March 6, a Friday, but it's wise to check local listings for air dates and times.

"Public television is bit like herding cats," Doblmeier said. "They know we're promoting it for that (date). It will air repeatedly over the next many years. ... The multitude of times the film will air is what will bring the audience numbers up."

For those who can't wait, the DVD includes extras, like the effort behind Day's canonization cause, more interviews – interview subjects include two of Day's granddaughters, now both in their 60s; Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York; and actor Martin Sheen, who co-starred in a 1997 film treatment of Day's life – and a visit to a Catholic Worker home in Washington.

When Day died, there were 30 such Catholic worker homes. Now, they number close to 250.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Be 'light bearers' to our neighbors

One of the great concerns of Pope Francis since his election is that of hospitality, openness to other Christians, working for real Church unity. The theme of the Week for Christian Unity this year asked a question: "Has Christ been divided?"



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Our Holy Father has said with intense sincerity that our divisions must stop. They are not inevitable. With humility and trust, we must continue our journey together, exploring reasons for our differences.

Unity will not come for

merely human efforts. We must walk together in the Holy Spirit. It's a very special aspect of the New Evangelization. While we take joy and constant nourishment from our cherished forms of worship and devotions, we must be always aware that Christ established One Church, not many.

Jesus, in the Gospel today, says to those who had just heard His teaching on the Beatitudes, "You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world." In this passage, Jesus urges them not to "light a lamp, and then put it

February 9

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 58:7-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5  
Matthew 5:13-16

under a bushel basket."

No, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

We need always to look outward to those who are looking for light, as well as to those who have given up hope of ever finding it! Love isn't love until it is shared, not just to our own, but to all we meet in our streets and in the public square.

A special way to be light bearers is to look to the physical needs of our neighbor.

In our first reading today from "late" Isaiah, we hear the prophet giving God's word to those who had just returned from the Babylonian exile, a people who were eager to observe the rituals which had been denied them for many years.

At the beginning of this 58th chapter, the prophet is scolding them for their lack of concern for widows, orphans and aliens, despite their observance of many fasts. But then his tone abruptly changes. He tells them that if they look beyond their selfishness and take care of those in

need, "then your light shall break forth like the dawn...and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard."

If you correct your unjust behavior, "then you shall cry for help, and he [God] will say 'Here I am!'"

Very often, our long, cold winters can bring depression and darkness to our souls.

The best medicine for huddling inwardly in misery these days, is to look to the misery of our neighbors, whether spiritual or physical. Heeding the words of Pope Francis can lift our spirits and bring the warmth of Christ's light to our neighbor—and welcome him to the community of the Church.

## Advocates: Targeting poverty has shown results

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. focus on reducing misery around the world has paid off — a key reason for continuing aid at current levels if not stepping it up, according to an official with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Child mortality in Africa, for instance, was the highest in the world at 30% in 1950, according to Steve Hilbert, USCCB Africa and global development policy adviser. Africa still leads in the infant mortality rates — which means deaths before age 5 — but the rate is now 7%. "That's a huge drop," Hilbert said. "Imagine knowing in 1950 that one of your three children is going to die. ... For moms and dads, that's a big deal."

In 1970, the vast majority of men ages 15 and up with no education lived in Asia. "By 2020, it has dropped greatly, and is projected to drop even

more now," he said during a Jan. 27 policy presentation, "New Approaches in International Assistance," during the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington.

In Africa, the number of uneducated men has plateaued at about 100 million, and the number is expected to stay the same through 2050. "Millions of uneducated men with nothing to do — that's a grenade waiting to go off," Hilbert said. "They join militia groups, and they become fodder."

Different regions of the world had different death rates from HIV/AIDS, but nations in sub-Saharan Africa were worst off. Those rates have continued to drop since 1990. At that time, Hilbert said, "that was a death sentence. You're going to die very young. You're going to leave behind a wife and maybe a child. Your busi-

nesses are going to be decimated."

However, the eradication of HIV/AIDS, "more than any other, we can tie this to U.S. assistance," Hilbert said. President George W. Bush pledged \$15 billion in U.S. aid over five years for HIV prevention. "CRS (Catholic Relief Services) got a grant in 2004 or '05 from that initial pot of money: \$365 million for five years. That's an enormous grant," he said, citing dropping death rates in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Living in extreme poverty, pegged at income below \$1.90 a day, nose-dived from 40% in 1981 to 12% in 2015 — "a huge, huge, huge drop," Hilbert said. Projections have it that by 2030, sub-Saharan Africa will hold 479 million of world's 500 million in extreme

poverty.

Despite these successes, the Trump administration has — for its three budgets submitted to Congress — tried to impose a 30% across-the-board cut in international humanitarian aid. Each year, Congress has restored the funding.

But the three largest aid recipients each get more than \$1 billion in U.S. aid, and well more than half of that aid is military aid. Afghanistan topped the list at \$4.9 billion.

Two of the challenges faced in international aid is that fragile states will require long-term help, and that poor governance and corruption slow down, or outright stall, development progress.

"Poverty creates the conditions that can breed conflict — or worse, extremists," Hilbert said. "We need to concentrate on those states that are fragile." Poverty, governance,

corruption and trafficking make for "a real mix of things that creates fragile states." Terrorists will take note of recent activity, he added.

"Having been inspired by what's going on in the Middle East," he said, "the government's not going to stop them, because they won't be able."

In addition to the failed bids to cut 30% in humanitarian assistance, "other characteristics of the Trump administration's foreign policy include reversion — the cutting off of aid — and "the kind of instrumentalization of different pieces of legislation to impact human trafficking," said Daniel Cronin, a CRS government relations specialist who works in Washington.

"We're seeing policies put into place that may not be connected to larger policy directives," Cronin said.





## 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

# Words of thanks from missionaries

Every summer, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, in conjunction with the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, hosts a wonderful and giving program called the Missionary Cooperative Plan. In short, the mission office invites missionaries who represent mission aide societies from both far and near to come to parishes, make the case for the need, shed light on conditions in their missionary lands and take up collections to help their causes. This is a process that has occurred in North America in the Catholic Church for decades and proves to be very helpful, almost vital, to the good of the Mission Lands. Last summer, the Diocese of Ogdensburg hosted 16 different mission aide societies to speak and share in the Western Deaneries of St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis.

Upon the completion of the program, the collections are then forwarded to the societies. They typically send in gracious letters of gratitude for their earnings. The Mission Office is proud to share with you a compilation of their words of gratitude. Here are some of the kind things said of the Diocese of Ogdensburg:

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur spoke in Watertown last July. Sister Leonore says, "These resources will provide sustenance and opportunity to many women and children in Nigeria and Congo. I am most grateful to you and the parishioners for their generosity." Father Halligan of the Working Boys Center says of Sister Cindy's time in our Diocese that "Dollars are empowering what God wants. Thanks be to you and to God." The Salesian Missions were in Carthage and say, "we feel privileged to be part of the Mission cooperative plan in the diocese of Ogdensburg. Kindly keep our missionaries in your prayers." The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers say, "The parishioners of Potsdam and Colton were so kind and generous...we appreciate the missionary spirit and cooperation of Ogdensburg diocese." Lastly the Spiritans, who were in Brownville and Dexter say, "We look upon these visits by the Spiritans as a ministry to the people of your local Church, to make more present and real to them the larger Church reality in which we all are privileged to share." They go on to say that "we are blessed by the giving spirit of the people of Ogdensburg!"

This is just a sampling of the joy we receive for the kindness and generosity bestowed on these Mission Aid Societies. Please know that your generosity, your time, treasure, prayers and blessings are making a difference in the developing lands. Thank you for making a place in your hearts every Summer for the Mission Coop. It continues to help the world go 'round.

## OBITUARIES

**Carthage** – Mary Costes Paradise, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2020 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home.

**Clayton** – M. Janette Wiswell, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2020 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Clayton Cemetery.

**Croghan** – Bernard E. Nortz, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2020 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Walter Peter Light, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2020 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Heuvelton** – Joan A. (Denny) Lumley, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2020 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Jeannine Marguerite Laliberte Butler, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 27, 2020 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Patricia Anne (Souva) Potter, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Mae F. (Doria) Chase, 95; Mass of Christian Burial May 15, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** – Harold J. LaDuke, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Theresa D. (Lemieux) Brockway 88; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** – Frances Mary Eaton Vermette, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 18,



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**Massena** – Opal S. Danko, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2020 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Genevieve D. (Corrow) Hayes, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Anna Marie (Kelly) Girard, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2020 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – David Raymond Baker, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2020 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Joan Manning FitzPatrick, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 1, 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Barbara Grace (Busch) Gregoire, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 28, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Doris E. (Lussier) Kelley, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Doris R. (Bouyea) King, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 30, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial parish cemetery.



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**Plattsburgh** – Col. Christopher J. Munn, Ret. 62; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at St. John's Church; burial in Norwich University Cemetery, Northfield, Vt.

**Port Henry** – Dylan R. Grey, 9; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 29, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Port Henry** – Donald C. Murdock, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 31, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

**St. Regis Falls** – Bertha Ruth (Perrin) Cox, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 21, 2020 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

**St. Regis Falls** – Jeannie M. (Susice) Waite, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 18, 2020 at St. Ann's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** – Muriel Jeanne (Reilly) Kendall, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 8, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Wellesley Island.

**Watertown** – Dale A. Kirch, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 29, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

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# New York priest needs living liver donor

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Father John Mack, a priest of the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, needs a liver transplant - from a living donor.

Living donors have been judged to be better donors than cadavers. The recipient receives a portion of the healthy donor's liver (more than half usually), and typically the organ will grow back to normal size in both the recipient and the donor within several weeks. Relatives make the best donors of all.

But Father Mack, being celibate, has no children. He also is an only child.

Research indicates the best donors are between the ages of 18 and 60. And all of the priest's cousins are older than he is - and he is 65.

Nobody knows, but Father Mack, who has been living with liver disease for the past five years - and whose manifestations really knocked him for a loop 18 months ago - could be one of the 20% to 25% of people waiting for a transplant who die before getting one.

Father Mack, in a Jan. 22 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Christ the King Seminary near Buffalo in East Aurora, New York, where he teaches, said his prayer



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY KEENAN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

**Father John P. Mack, a priest of the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., is seen in this undated photo. He was diagnosed with nonalcoholic cirrhosis of the liver five years ago and is in need of a transplant.**

life changed when his health worsened in mid-2018.

"Every time I would have an upper endoscopy and have conscious sedation, I would say an Our Father and kind of get myself calmed down," he said. "But in the midst of all of this, the prayer that seems for me that makes it OK is,

"This is God's will. This is God's will. This is going to happen."

Despite all of this seemingly bad news, "the miracles keep happening," he said. Even though Father Mack has no kin eligible to donate part of their liver, enough people have learned of his plight to call the University of Rochester Medical Center to see if they are a match for the priest that appointments were backed up into mid-February, he added.

"I'm not sick enough to get a cadaver donor," Father Mack said, adding, "There's never enough livers. So the living donor's liver is somebody who is, hopefully, generous and qualified."

He said, "If they go through some testing, and if they agree (to donate), they go through the surgery." It takes six to eight weeks for the donor to re-

cover fully; it's two months minimum for the typical transplant recipient, according to Father Mack, and there's far more frequent monitoring in case the body rejects the organ.

Father Mack has nonalcoholic cirrhosis of the liver. "Fatty liver disease is the second largest disease of people going in for transplants. I was never a drinker," he told CNS. "It's a lot more common than it used to be. Before it was only drinkers." It results, he said, from eating "fast foods, a lot of food."

"I would be around 220, 225 (pounds), but when I started gaining over the summer (of 2018), I didn't realize that I was beginning to look like a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon," Father Mack added.

Then his weight went from 240 to 165 in a hurry; he's now at 190 pounds. "People looked at me that Christmas and they were frightened," he said.

After the first symptoms surfaced, "I learned to live with the chronic illness, and I was pretty much back to normal in terms of working," he recalled. He would teach at the seminary, and help out at a nearby parish on weekends. "I used to be able to pack in 12-, 16-hour days. I can't do that anymore."

It got so drastic at one point that "there were a couple of months I couldn't do Mass in public at all. I couldn't be trusted. I ran out of steam," said Father Mack.

"I stepped away from the classroom, I stepped away from the parish. I missed that. In the seminary, I could barely walk down the hall. Just to walk to the chapel was nearly impossible. It was after Thanksgiving in 2018 that I could

walk down the chapel and vest and concelebrate (Mass) for the first time in months."

A priest since 1985, his pastoral ministry has included several tours as a military chaplain, with deployments to Colombia, Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, Pakistan and Qatar. He's also a book author and a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus.

Without discussing the particulars of Father Mack's case, Dr. Mark Levstik, medical director of transplant hepatology for the UR Medicine Transplant program at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, said: "The organ shortage is one of the biggest struggles we face. That's because liver transplantation has become so successful. More than 90% of people will survive liver transplantation and do well." At the University of Rochester, he added, their success rate is 93.8%.

"The fortunate thing is this is such a good procedure. The difficulty is finding very qualified surgical, medical multidisciplinary teams that can do it," Levstik said.

There are at least 6,500 Americans waiting for a liver transplant, and likely more, Levstik said and "no anonymous bank of willing donors sitting on the sideline."

Father Mack said, "I've been living with this so long, that I've almost forgotten what it's like to feel normal, but I'd like to get back to that feeling now. I really would. There's things I'd like to do. One of them is not being sick."

*Editor's Note: To learn more about Father Mack, visit his website, <https://www.liverformack.com>.*

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