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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 39

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 4, 2020

It's time to renew or get a subscription

The annual subscription campaign for the *North Country Catholic* begins this weekend.

As Bishop Terry R. LaValley said, "In the pages of our *North Country Catholic*, we share the stories of how individuals, families, organizations, parishes and the diocese are following the Lord and sharing His love with others. In a diocese where many of us are separated by significant distances, sharing our stories and sharing our faith draws us closer together as the Body of Christ here in the North Country – many parts, but One unified Body."

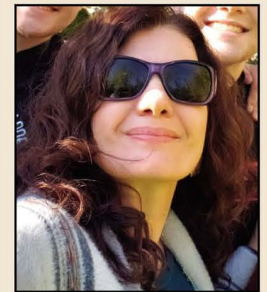
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

LUNCH WITH THE DOVS



Father Christopher C. Carrara, episcopal vicar for clergy and director of seminarians and vocations, chats with consecrated religious and members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) at the annual DOVS luncheon. See the full story on Page 7.

SHARING OUR STORIES



Candace O'Neill of Massena shares how she's living her faith and how God led her to make a major career change at age 49 as part of a new *North Country Catholic* series, "Sharing our Stories; Sharing our Faith." The series, which coincides with this year's NCC subscription campaign, will focus on how North Country Catholics are experiencing, living and sharing their faith.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Shut off cellphone, open Bible for Lent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Lent is a time to remove all distractions and bitterness from one's life in order to better hear God and those who suffer silently and need help, Pope Francis said.

"It is the right time to turn off the television and open the Bible. It is the time to disconnect from cellphones and connect ourselves to the Gospel," the pope said at his weekly general audience Feb. 26, Ash Wednesday

and the beginning of Lent for Latin-rite Catholics.

"It's a time to give up useless words, idle chatter, rumors, gossip" and speak intimately with the Lord, he said.

It was the first general audience of the year held outside in St. Peter's Square given the mild temperatures.

However, given increased concern in Italy about the spread of the coronavirus, the pope reduced his contact with

people in the square, shaking hands with only a few people before beginning his talk. In the pope-mobile, the pope circled the square, waving and blessing people from afar, and the driver and the pope's security detail did not stop to pick up any children as is customary.

In fact, at the end of his audience, the pope assured all those affected by the virus of his closeness and prayers. He said his prayers were also with the

health care professionals and public officials who were working hard to help patients and stop the spread of the disease.

In his main audience talk, the pope explained "the spiritual significance" of the desert, where Jesus spent 40 days praying and fasting to prepare for his public ministry.

Jesus often headed off to "deserted" places to pray, "teaching us how to seek the Father who speaks to us in silence,"

the pope said.

"The desert is a place to get away from the racket that surrounds us. It is the absence of words in order to make room for another word, the Word of God, who like a light breeze, caresses the heart," he said.

Just as Jesus spent time in the desert, he said Catholics must spend Lent creating similarly sparse surroundings and a "healthy environment of the heart."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Connecting through our stories

We were complete strangers when we sat down together at a bookstore to discuss the woman's long-time participation in ministry.

As I interviewed the woman for a story for a previous edition of the *North Country Catholic*, she shared with me why her faith is important to her and how she's lived it out and continues to live it out here in the North Country.

Parts of her story resonated with me.

Parts reminded me of my

own faith journey. Other parts inspired me and showed me ways I could strengthen my relationship with the Lord.



Darcy L.
Fargo

She also asked me questions about my faith journey. We shared our stories.

At the end of that hour-long conversation, this woman I interviewed had become a friend. Strangers an hour before, we shared a hug as we ended the conversation.

Embarking on our

North Country Catholic sub-

scription campaign, we're focusing on "Sharing our Stories; Sharing our Faith." As part of that focus, we're launching a new series of the same name (see the first installment on *Page 4*). In that series, we plan to share the stories of regular people – lay Catholics – developing and living their relationships with the Lord.

Sharing our stories helps connect us. It shows us how we're similar. It shows us how we can draw inspiration from one another. In a diocese that covers more than 12,000 square miles, it can help draw us – people separated by sig-

nificant geography – together.

But for this all to work, we need your help. We encourage all diocesan families to subscribe to the *NCC* and get these stories sent to their homes or email addresses.

We also need your story ideas. While we have contributing writers spread around the diocese, we don't hit every area. We don't hear every story worth sharing. We count on you, our readers, to let us know when you hear a great story that should be shared.

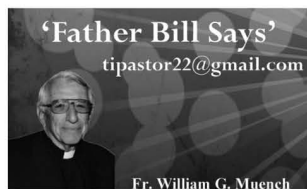
And we thank you for your continued support of the *North Country Catholic*.

Helpful ideas for the Lenten season

Today, I would like to share some things that help me during Lent. These are some ideas I shared with you a few weeks ago. I think it is a good pattern for some extra prayer during Lent – solitude, silence and surrender.

Lent is about allowing God some space. The best Lenten program will always be God's plan for us. I believe God knows us so well and loves us so much that only God knows exactly what we need today. So, in a noisy, busy world we have to make some space for our God.

So, set aside a little time each day to be alone. In a simple, beautiful way, the Lord knows how to settle into our hearts and our minds when God can reach us. I know that it is important to have time to say some words and to read Sacred Scripture. It is important to celebrate and worship our God at Mass. However, I want to encourage you to set aside a quiet several minutes to allow God some space.



Often, I am asked what will happen. I must admit to you, I don't know. I suspect sometimes nothing. Yet, our heart and our mind find such beautiful peace, a comforting, loving peace that is truly transformational. There are other times when something profound will touch us. More than once, I have been confused about what to write. Suddenly, in a time of solitude, the Lord fills my heart and my mind with all that I need.

Silence – Lent is a fine time to eliminate the senseless noise that touches us so many times a day. Silence can become a unique gift that relaxes this brain of ours. The purpose of Lenten silence is not to develop all sorts of ideas and thoughts to mull over, rather silence makes a space so that the

Lord can find us. Again, it will always be a time of surprises. I notice the wonderful peace of silence when I have forgotten all about being silent and the noise of the world takes over. I realize that it is like losing control, losing the presence of the Lord, losing the Lord's love.

Surrender – this is exactly what we are talking about when we allow silence and solitude a time into our lives. Jesus came to our world to demonstrate to us the passionate love that God has for us. The Gospels tell us of the times when Jesus went off by himself to find silence and to give himself an opportunity to place himself in the presence of the Father.

Surrender means that we give God His way, allowing ourselves to find God's will for ourselves. I believe and I have experienced the power of allowing God the space to lead me and guide me. This is always a time of peace for me.

I remember often the Transfiguration of Jesus. I

am certain you remember the story. Jesus invites Peter, James and John to walk up the mountain path, the path that I was allowed to walk up just a few years ago. At one point, the Gospel tells us that Jesus was transfigured before them, that somehow His appearance glowed before them. Everything about Jesus showed forth His divinity. He was seen by them to be talking with Moses and Elijah. We are then told that Peter did not want to leave this place. He wanted to stay there with the Lord always.

Our time of surrender to the Lord will not be as dramatic as for Peter, James and John, yet I believe in faith and confidence that the Lord truly is transfigured in our hearts and minds. Jesus becomes present to us when we make some space for the Lord.

So, it is Lent. I want to again remind you of our call this Lent to wake up. It's time to wake up to God's great Lord for us. To wake up to the fact that we are a loved people.

FOLLOW ME

United by our faith and by our stories

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Since its founding in 1946, the *North Country Catholic* has been spreading the Good News of our faith and keeping us connected as a Church family in this expansive diocese. From Wells to Waddington, Elizabethtown to Evans Mills, Croghan to Chazy, the *NCC is Sharing our Stories, Sharing Our Faith* by bringing us the stories of how our neighbors are living out their faith, information about events and programs, coverage of Church and world news, as well as reflections on scripture, prayer and current events.

Many of us remember listening to our parents or grandparents telling stories of their childhoods. Hearing their stories, we shared

in their experiences, and the sharing united us to them. Similarly, many of us remember sharing stories of our planned futures with our friends and classmates. Sharing our hopes and dreams creates understanding, and it, too, unites us.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

Sharing our stories of faith, sharing why we are disciples of Jesus Christ and how we live that out in our lives, is a great way to bring His love to others – by making it personal. It's also a way to unite us to each other, as we discover experiences we have in common or are inspired as we see the light of Christ radiating from each other.

In the pages of our *North Country Catholic*, we share the stories of how individuals, families, organizations, parishes and the dio-

cese are following the Lord and sharing His love with others. In a diocese where many of us are separated by significant distances, sharing our stories and sharing our faith draws us closer together as the Body of Christ here in the North Country – many parts, but One unified Body. Our stories help keep us connected.

Certainly, we are living in challenging times. The *NCC* has also been an effective way for me to communicate with Catholics around the diocese as we face each challenge that comes our way with Christ as our sure Guide.

This weekend, the annual *North Country Catholic* subscription campaign begins. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to our paper. If you are a current subscriber, please renew your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a

subscription as a gift for a family member or friend? I invite those who don't currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the *North Country Catholic* into your home. With much gratitude for your prayerful support, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

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

'Trust Truth' returns with 'Cabin Fever Edition'

By Amanda Conklin
Contributing writer

CANTON—February is often a month when many in the North Country experience serious cabin fever. It is cold, dark, and can be isolating. Recognizing this dreary season, St. Mary's Church in Canton listened to the call of the people, offering a second "Trust Truth" series, dubbed "Cabin Fever Edition," at the Stadium Sports Bar on Main Street. The intention was to bring people together from out of their hibernation holes to laugh, learn and discuss aspects of our Catholic faith.

The parish offered the first Trust Truth series over the summer in the same location. After a successful pilot series, it became a highly requested program. The

idea for the program came from two young parishioners who desired more fellowship and a deepening of their faith with topics that went beyond the surface, but also were accessible to people from all different points on their faith journey. The parishioners met with Pastor, Father Bryan Stitt, who supported the vision and helped brainstorm topics and presenters.

This time around, the February Cabin Fever series offered four topics and speakers including: "Parenting the Hell Out of Our Kids" by Carolyn Pierce & Amy Schirmer, "Holy Sex, Batman! Intro to Theology of the Body," by Father Mark Reilly, "Some Good Reasons to Leave the Catholic Church," By Father Stephen Rocker, and,

"Catholic, Gay, & Doing OK," By Andrew Lauria.

Each session consisted of a short presentation followed by a Q&A segment, which fostered an engaging discussion on the topic. The average attendance for these four sessions was around 30 people per session, spanning from high school age to senior members of the parish. Attendees traveled from as far as Saranac Lake and Malone for the evenings.

Beth Bergman, a parishioner at St. Mary's in Potsdam, attended Trust Truth with the hopes of growing in her own knowledge of the faith.

"I want to learn more about and grow in my Catholic faith, and to have real discussion and interaction with different people in (and outside) the faith community."

"These sessions were needed because it opened the door for people who aren't even Catholic to be comfortable talking about religion and life experiences in a public setting," shared Erin Alguire, parishioner at St. Mary's in Canton. "It brought a lot of people together who wouldn't have normally been in the same room. It was nice to hear people talk in such a human manor and listen to each other. The presenters took a good approach

and the presentations were well thought out."

A new feature Father Bryan added for the second series was an opportunity to offer feedback and ideas for future Trust Truth topics or speakers through comment cards distributed on tables. There are already plans to offer another Trust Truth series this summer, if not sooner.

All Trust Truth talks were recorded and are available at: www.canton-catholics.com/homilies

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Candace O'Neill, center, enjoys an outdoor adventure with four of her five children, McKenna, Aidan, Brendan and Liam.

'Giving Him more space in which to work'

Editor's note: This is the first installment in what's planned to be an ongoing series featuring how Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are living out their faith. To suggest an individual to be featured in this series, please call the North Country Catholic at 315-393-2920 or email dfargo@rcdony.org.

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MASSENA – After an experience that turned her to God and her Catholic faith as a young adult, Candace O'Neill has continued to try to follow the Lord's calling in her life, including making moves toward a major career change at age 49.

"I'm a cradle Catholic," O'Neill said. "I went to Catholic school a couple years growing up, and I made my sacraments. (My parents) practiced (their faith) and had us do so. Their example was huge! But like many young adults, I hit a period when I wasn't really practicing how I should. Then, when

I was 30-ish, the only way I can describe it is that God called me to Him."

O'Neill said she was living in a small town in Texas at the time, and the parish she was attending was looking for a Director of Religious Education (DRE).

"I knew I wasn't qualified," she said. "My only qualification was that I was Catholic. But I kept feeling that tug. I kept feeling God was calling me to that position. After a couple weeks seeing the announcement in the bulletin, I applied. I was called for an interview, and I got the job. Because of that, I had to up my game. If I was going to teach kids, I had to know my faith better."

After that, O'Neill learned to pray the Rosary and deepened her relationship with the Lord.

"I became just so in love with my faith and with Jesus," she said. "He moved me in amazing ways. That was kind of the beginning of it."

A couple years later, O'Neill moved to Massena, where a lay minister in-

ited her to participate in two small groups aimed at mothers.

"One was a moms and tots type of group, mostly for stay-at-home moms," she said. "But then once a month, a group of mothers would gather together and discuss faith. It was the first time in my life I was surrounded by other women who shared the strong faith and belief in God that I had. To share openly and learn from each other was amazing. We had older women I would describe as mentors who guided us early on. I think seeing them and their faith solidified it for the rest of us. While the younger mothers eventually broke off on their own, we maintained that group for 10 years, and probably the best friends I have here in Massena are people who were originally part of that group. Seeing people living their faith really encouraged me."

O'Neill said her faith was also bolstered by the Trinity Catholic School community and Family Life/Youth Ministry activi-

ties.

"I originally volunteered at Trinity when my kids went there," she said. "I eventually got hired (as Advancement director for the school). Being immersed in the community there was a beautiful thing."

While working at Trinity, a Massena lay minister suggested O'Neill and her family attend Family Guggenheim.

"My kids went to teen camp, but we had never done family camp," she said. "We started attending Family Camp and eventually were invited to be on staff. It was an amazing experience being surrounded by wonderful, faith-filled families. My family also started attending March for Life and Franciscan University of Steubenville teen conferences. Seeing the faith of people from outside this area has also been helpful."

Seeing her children, Josh, McKenna, Aidan, Brendan and Liam, living their faith has also been a major source of inspiration for O'Neill.

"I know I helped guide their foundation in faith, but they inspire me so often with what they do and the courage they have as it relates to their faith," she said. "When the twins (Aidan and Brendan) started middle school, on the very first day, one of them wanted to wear and 'I love Jesus' shirt. I thought it might be social suicide. A piece of me wanted to tell him not to wear it, but he wore it, and he wore shirts like that often. It really inspired me to be more open about my faith."

O'Neill said she has also been strengthened in her faith participating in ministries. She serves as a lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and is involved in music ministry.

"Music is a huge component for me and my family," she said. "We make an effort to listen to Christian music on a regular basis. It's probably 70 percent of what we listen to. So many times, you find yourself singing a song that's in your head. If you're listen-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

GATHERING FOR MISSION



Watertown clergy gathered at Sacred Heart Church in Watertown as part of the Watertown combined parish mission, 'Dare to be Holy.' Pictured are, from left, Father David DeLuca, MSC, Father Jonas Tandayu, MSC, Father Deepak Baru, HGN, Father Christopher Looby, mission speaker Bill Wegner, Father John Demo, Msgr. Paul Whitmore, Father Leo Wiley, and Father Vincent Freeh, MSC.

FROM NORTH TO SOUTH



Twenty-seven parishioners from Sacred Heart Church in Edwards met for lunch in Florida on January 15. We came from all different directions to meet in Winter Haven, Florida, at Harborside Restaurant. This was our third annual get-together.

'Giving Him more space'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

ing to music that doesn't have a good message, it still reverberates in your brain, even when you're not thinking about it. By listening to Christian music, it's those messages that are in our heads. It keeps me focused."

Developing relationships with other faith-filled people has also been critical for her faith development, O'Neill said.

"Relationships are huge," she said. "It's nice to have other people who reflect that it's ok to live with faith in a secular world. We may not always be able to speak about our faith in our workplaces or other aspects of life but having other people who stand by you and stand by the faith is huge."

O'Neill said she reconnected with a former schoolmate at her 30th high school reunion and discovered the former classmate is a devout Catholic.

"We went to a Mercy Me concert together," she said. "Then we started calling each other every

morning at 6 a.m. We'd open the readings for the day and read them together, and we'd each read a reflection about the readings. We're on hiatus now, but that was a great experience."

The hiatus was precipitated by O'Neill's decision to follow where she felt God was calling her, leaving her position at Trinity Catholic School to enroll in college to study nursing.

"I really felt the nudge, like God was calling me to the nursing program," she said. "I think of all the ways God has opened doors for me to take care of the things I was worried about, that made me think this wasn't possible, and I know this came from Him. It was just one thing after another, with obstacles being taken out of my way."

God has also helped her persist through hardships with the nursing program.

"I had a degree already, so I thought it would be a breeze," she said. "Then I had to accept early on that I wasn't going to get all As. I had no idea how hard it

would be. There have been times I've felt like giving up, but He manages to give me the inspiration I need to continue on. God is making me stretch and grow through this process."

Her early interactions with patients have also helped her be assured that she's on the right path.

"I'm able to discuss faith and God with my patients," she said. "I've come to realize how in need they are. It's so evident they want someone, especially when they're scared, lonely and sick. They want someone to be there for them. Sometimes, they want someone to pray with them. I feel that's God's plan for me – to be there with them and touch them in that way."

As she goes through nursing school and transitioning her children into adulthood, O'Neill said she maintains her connection to the Lord through prayer.

"Last Lent, as I was going to (Trinity) for work, I'd see one of my colleagues, Kathy Behrens, going into Sacred Heart Church be-

fore school started," O'Neill said. "I asked her if she was going in to pray for a few minutes. She told me it helped make her days better. I started doing that for Lent. I once had a friend tell me she would get huge peace just sitting there before the Tabernacle. I thought I would never feel that, that stuff like that doesn't happen to me. After talking to Kathy, I started going to church before school. After a few weeks, I couldn't believe how much I craved going there. Sometimes, I'd even go at night. Most of the time, I was there by myself, so if I felt the urge to sing, I could sing at the top of my lungs. Or I'd just sit quietly and listen. It made a huge difference in my life. I can't explain it or describe it, but I know it made a difference for me."

That faith relationship has also been bolstered by the priests and consecrated religious who have served in her Massena community.

"While I grew up Catholic, we never really knew priests," she said.

"When I started as the DRE in Texas, I got to know the priest, and he was one of the holiest men I've ever met. It was the first time I was able to see priests as real people."

Since then, O'Neill has had occasion to get to know a number of priests and religious sisters.

"They've always inspired me and been so kind to my family," she said. "I can't express how blessed we've been."

O'Neill said she encourages everyone to be open to hearing the Lord.

"Everyone is on their own faith journey and I would just encourage people to be open," she said.

"Try to go to church, go the sacraments and pray, but know there are highs and lows for everyone. I am not always 'feeling it,' but by placing myself in the presence of God at church, through the sacraments, Godly people, Godly music, readings, concerts, camps, experiences, etc. I am amplifying all the ways he can teach and reach me. I am giving Him more space in which to work."

Environmental Stewardship

Healing

Attempting to imitate the actions of Jesus during Lent can take many forms. Along with teaching, Our Lord was also well known for His healing ministry. Yet, while most of us lack His Power to correct or eliminate physical or mental ailments in people, most of us have the ability to heal or repair some of the damage inflicted to our common home by modern society.

Even though our landscape still remains covered in snow, there are several projects that can be undertaken in late winter to help nature. Building bluebird houses is one activity that can help restore the population of our state's official bird, especially in small towns and villages where it has been ravaged by the aggressive nesting behavior of the invasive house sparrow and starling. Building wood duck houses, or bat shelters/retreats and placing them outside before the spring migration begins can also contribute to the restoration efforts of these native species.

Early- to mid-March is also not too early to start planting the seeds of numerous types of flowers indoors. Growing plants inside is a great way to reduce the cost of developing sizeable flower gardens in late spring. Along with the beauty these areas provide during the warmer months of the year, they also help sustain bees and various other insects and bugs that rely on their nectar for sustenance.

Remember that Jesus never cured vast numbers of people in some dramatic fashion as He traveled through a region. Rather He tended to cured individuals whom He encountered on His journey after spending some time with them. In a similar way, we are never expected to solve all the regions' environmental ills. You work to correct one small defect that you encounter and let the others go; and you continuously thank God for the opportunity to serve His creations in some small way and for making that site a little better than it was before.

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

Diocese of Buffalo files for Chapter 11 reorganization

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) – Facing dozens of lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse by clergy, the Diocese of Buffalo has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The diocese announced the action in a news release as attorneys filed the case Feb. 28 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York.

"We have no more ur-

gent work than to bring about justice and healing for those harmed by the scourge of sexual abuse. The intense emotional, mental and physical pain inflicted on these innocent victim-survivors is a heavy burden they are forced to carry throughout their lives," Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany, New York, apostolic administrator of the Buffalo Diocese, said in a statement.

The filing comes as the

diocese faces about 260 lawsuits that have been filed under New York's Child Victims Act, which suspended the statute of limitations for abuse claims for one year beginning last August.

The diocese also reported a \$5 million loss for fiscal year 2019, which it attributed to consequences of the abuse scandal.

Bishop Scharfenberger was scheduled to meet with reporters later in the day to discuss the action.

The filing allows the diocese to reorganize its finances while continuing to operate its offices, ministries and services.

The diocese said in court papers that it does not have enough assets to pay the millions of dollars being sought by creditors. The documents showed assets of \$10 million to \$50 million and liabilities of \$50 million to \$100 million.

The diocese also said it had between 200 and 999 creditors.

The diocese paid \$17.5 million to 106 people claiming they were

abused in 2018 under a voluntary compensation program.

The state of New York is six months into a one-year extension of the statute of limitations for filing claims under its Child Victims Act.

The news is the second major announcement by the diocese in February.

Bishop Scharfenberger told parishioners in a video Feb. 4 the diocesan seminary will close at the end of the current academic year. He said that Christ the King Seminary's board of trustees decided the school would "cease operations" after determining that a decade of losses averaging \$500,000 per year could no longer be sustained.

The Buffalo Diocese is the second in New York to file for bankruptcy reorganization in recent months.

The Diocese of Rochester filed its case in September. In all, 23 U.S. dioceses have sought bankruptcy protection in attempts to settle lawsuits over clergy sexual abuse of children.

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 4 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

March 6 – Noon – Diocesan Staff Lenten Day of Reflection at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

7 p.m. – Deacon Candidate Class at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 7 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting the location to TBD followed by lunch

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 8 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg followed by a Reconciliation Presentation for the Religious Education Program Students and Parents at St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy

March 11 – 11 a.m. – Priests Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

Rest in Peace

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

March 4 – Rev. Jeremiah S. O'Brien, 1899; Rev. Thomas D. Hurley, 1934

March 5 – Rev. Edward J. Murtaugh, O.S.A., 1951; Rev. Paschal Rys, OFM Conv., 2013

March 6 – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

March 7 – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

March 8 – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

March 10 – Rev. Hector Mauriot, O.M.I., 1895

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-
anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY, 12955
terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920

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.
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- Join the conversation!



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Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools, Father Scott A. Belina, parochial vicar at St. Peter's Parish in Massena, and Father Stephen T. Rocker, pastor of St. Mary's in Potsdam and St. Patrick's in Colton, were among the attendees at the annual Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS) luncheon.

DOVS get vocations update

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

COLTON - "We currently have 13 young men and not-so-young men studying for the priesthood for our diocese or in some part of the formation process," Father Christopher C. Carrara, episcopal vicar for clergy and director of seminarians and vocations told members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (DOVS), priests, deacons, consecrated religious and DOVS supporters gathered Feb. 25 for the group's annual luncheon at St. Patrick's Church.

DOVS is a group of faithful Catholics with the intention of promoting and supporting vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated religious life throughout the North Country. As part of their annual luncheon, the group received an update on the status of vocations in the North Country.

"We're going to be down by two (seminarians) shortly," Father Carrara said. "But that's because Bishop (Terry R.) LaValley will be ordaining two men in May."

Father Carrara noted there are also four men

discerning to determine whether they're called to begin seminary and the formation process.

"Your continued prayers for our seminarians and those discerning are greatly appreciated," Father Carrara said.

Father Carrara noted that he and Bishop LaValley have visited the seminarians where diocesan men are studying.

"It's such a joy talking to the men who are in formation," he said. "It's been 25 years since I went through the discernment process. It's a refreshing reminder of what that was like, and I see what a blessing these men are to our diocese."

Father Carrara said that while he's the official diocesan vocations director, all the faithful have a role in encouraging others to consider the priesthood, the diaconate or consecrated religious life.

"We are reminded that every one of us is a vocations director," he said. "We're all supposed to be out recruiting. If you see something in a young man that makes you think he'd be a good priest, mention it to him. If you see something in a man that you think would make him a great deacon,

mention it to him. If you see something in someone that makes you think they would make a god religious sister or brother, mention it to them."

In response to a question related to how our diocese is faring compared to others in terms of vocations, Father Carrara noted that the Diocese of Ogdensburg has more men in formation than other larger neighboring dioceses.

"We're doing well, but we'd like to have more," he said. "We need more."

Bishop LaValley thanked the DOVS for their generosity in supporting seminarians, priests, deacons and consecrated religious in the diocese.

"Whether we're talking about retired priests, priests in active ministry, seminarians, deacons or consecrated religious, on behalf of all of them, thank you for your efforts," Bishop LaValley told the DOVS. "I'm so grateful for your generous spirits, and I know our seminarians are grateful, as well. We're grateful for events such as this, and we're grateful for your generous prayers for our Church and for vocations."

Report: Number of immigrants in U.S. without documents in steady decline

WASHINGTON (CNS) - A report from the Center for Migration Studies of New York said the population of immigrants living in the United States without documents has declined 10% in eight years.

In 2018, the center said, the total "U.S. undocumented population" was estimated to be 10.6 million, a drop of 1.2 million since 2010. The figures show a steady downward pattern as immigration from Mexico to the U.S. has decreased and Mexican nationals have returned home, the report said.

The report "Reverse Migration to Mexico Led to U.S. Undocumented Population Decline: 2010 to 2018," released Feb. 28, says that from 2010 until 2018, a total of 2.6 million Mexican nationals "left the U.S. undocumented population" and 45% of those "left voluntarily."

The document says it shows that "improving social and economic conditions in sending countries would not only reduce pressure at the border but also likely cause a large decline in the undocumented population."

It mirrors the policy position and recommendations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which has said that improving "sustainable and equitable development in sending nations, especially Mexico and the countries of Central America" can help address the root causes of the present immigration crisis in the U.S., "so that migrants can remain in their homelands and support their families in dignity."

The report, based on data collected in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, says that when it comes to immigration from Central America, particularly the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the number of nationals from those countries entering without documentation "has been constant, rather than increasing since 2014," and that an increase in apprehensions of those nationals has not made a difference in the numbers of those who attempt to enter.

The report also shows that two-thirds of the total of those who have entered the country without documentation since 2010 have entered with a temporary visa and simply not returned when they were supposed to, while just one-third "entered illegally across the border."

And of those who remain in the country without documents, who numbered 10.6 million in 2018, "about 5.7 million (54%) entered across the border, and 4.9 million (46%) entered with a temporary visa and overstayed (it)," the report says.

Despite the decline, nationals from Mexico remain at the top of the list of the top 10 countries with the most number of foreign nationals without documentation in the U.S. followed by El Salvador, India, Guatemala, Honduras, China, Philippines, Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Korea.

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Mr. and Mrs. James Keable
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lacroix
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Matott
John Miner
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Nephew
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Rasco
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Recore
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Rheome
Mr. and Mrs. Randall Smith
Mrs. Eleanor Tart
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whalen

The CC of Moriah, Port Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Lemza
Marc Manfred
Alton Supernault

St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Beltowski
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Mangan
Ms. Stacey McCall
Eva Sessions

St. Mary's Church, Potsdam

Mr. and Mrs. William Simmons

Church of the Assumption, Redford

Glenda Mazzotte

St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point

Mr. Joseph Bailey
Gary Brunell
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Barcomb
Mrs. Eleanor Reynolds

St. Ann's Church, St. Regis Falls

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crinklaw
Mr. and Mrs. Laramie McCaffrey

St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor

Mr. Grover Brenon
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gorman
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hunneyman
Mrs. Annie Thomas

St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake

Mr. and Mrs. John Coppolo
Francis Dumont
Ms. Sylvia Hough
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Keough
Jimmy and Robin Law
Mrs. Rebecca Leahy
Sr. Mary Carolyn Madden, RSM
Rev. C. John McAvooy
Steven Schibbe
Mr. Kenneth Wiley

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Schroon Lake

Mrs. Madelaine Colleary
Michel Michelsen Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Real St. Cyr

St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Liddell
Carolyn Malaney
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Valenti

St. Alphonsus-Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Tupper Lake

Eileen Carrow
Mr. and Mrs. James Ellis
Theresa Lamare
Mrs. Jeannette Keniston
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Robillard

St. Mary's Church, Waddington

Thomas Nelson

Church of the Holy Family, Watertown

Mrs. Loretta Esposito
Ms. Patricia Fanning
Ryan and Haley Grant
Miss Donna M. Hajdasz
Mr. and Mrs. William Heldt
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Herman
Harold B. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kiernan
Mr. and Mrs. James Lafferty
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lewis
Edward Miller
Lucille VanWormer

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Watertown

Jeanette Franks
Mrs. William Hermann
Dr. and Mrs. Larry Percciaccante
Deacon & Mrs. John J. Trombly

St. Anthony's Church, Watertown

Mr. and Mrs. William Boulio
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Fontana
Mrs. Sally Grzesiak
Mrs. Cecile Hosmer
Mr. and Mrs. Cataldo Morgia
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Morgia
Mr. John Peters
Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Spano
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Tufo
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Vespa

St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

Mr. Kenneth Baker
Mr. and Mrs. William Bamann
Miss Sandra Haight
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Izzo
Ms. Beverly Lamica
Paul & Lynn Trimmer

St. Ann's Church, Wells

Mrs. Rachel Lauria

St. Joseph's Church, West Chazy

Mr. Howard Chauvin
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Niles
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sanders

St. Philip Neri Church, Westport

Eric and Louise Brockdorff

St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

Joseph Barnaby, Jr.

Other

Thomas Breeyear, Port Henry
Theresa and George Cataldo, Herkimer
Patricia Couture, Dannemora
Cherie Edwards, Fulton
James Gillen, Jonesboro, ME
Timothy Giroux, New York City
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Herne, Akwesasne
Nancy Hughes, Watertown
Mary Jank, Watertown
Wanda Kavanaugh, Clayton
Kathleen Lauzon, Ft. Covington
James Miller, Waddington
Mary O'Connor, Rouses Point
Henry Pedicone, Niskayuna
Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus OH
John M. Robinson II, Jacksonville NC
Msgr. Richard Siepka, East Aurora

This listing reflects extraordinary, sustaining, special and patrons from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2019. Although every effort has been made to include the names of every patron, some mistakes are inevitable. If, however, an omission or error has occurred, we do apologize. Please notify us at 315-608-7556 so that we may correct our records.

PLEASE NOTE: Parishes are listed with their legal parish name, not each individual worship site is listed as some worship sites are combined under one Parish name.

Task force to help bishops orders with abuse guidelines

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has set up a task force of qualified experts and canon lawyers to help bishops' conferences and congregations of men and women religious with drawing up or revising guidelines for the protection of minors.

The Vatican will also be releasing — at an "imminent," but unspecified date — a handbook or vademecum, prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, to help bishops and religious superiors clearly understand their responsibilities and the procedures for handling allegations of abuse.

The Vatican unveiled the new initiatives, which had been suggested one year ago at a Vatican summit on the protection of minors, at a news conference Feb. 28.

At the end of last year's summit, Pope Francis expressed his intention to establish task forces "made up of competent persons" to assist those needing help in addressing and providing for the protection of minors, especially when they lack the needed resources and skilled personnel.

About a dozen bishops' conferences in countries experiencing extreme hardship due to conflict or poverty still have not been able to draw up safeguarding guidelines as was called for in 2011 by the doctrinal congregation, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi told reporters at the press event.

However, the task force is only meant to respond to requests for assistance since the responsibility for formulating the

guidelines fully rests on bishops and religious superiors, Father Lombardi said.

While the group is there to help those needing to still establish guidelines, it also will help those wanting assistance to revise and update their procedures to comply with recently mandated Vatican norms, he added.

Those who have completed guidelines must constantly review, revise and improve them, said the task force's new coordinator, Andrew Azzopardi, who is head of the church's safeguarding commission for Malta and Gozo.

Laws change, research on abuse reveals new insights and "the messages we get from victims always help us improve our procedures," which should get revised at least every four or five years, he said.

The new task force, established by the pope, is currently made up of about a dozen canon lawyers and safeguarding experts. Requests for assistance are to be sent to taskforce@org.va where Azzopardi will relay questions and needs to experts, who will then provide the needed help.

The task force's work and travel expenses will be covered by a special fund established by donors, said a Vatican communique.

The group will be under the authority of Archbishop Edgar Pena Parra, the "substitute secretary for general affairs," which is the third-ranking official in the Vatican Secretariat of State, and will be supervised by the four members of the organiz-

ing committee of last year's summit: U.S. Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay; Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna of Malta, adjunct secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Vatican's chief abuse investigator; and Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, president of the Centre for the Protection of Minors of the Pontifical Gregorian University and member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

The task force was operative as of Feb. 24 and will have a two-year term.

Meanwhile, Bishop Juan Ignacio Arrieta, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, told reporters that the doctrinal congregation is preparing the handbook suggested at last year's summit.

Because there have been so many new laws and revisions over the years, the doctrinal congregation will clearly spell out what each bishop or religious superior is expected to do upon receiving an allegation of suspected abuse, he said.

It will also make clear how the new norms emphasize there are penalties involved when a leader neglects, ignores or covers up suspected or known abuse, he said.

Bishop Arrieta also explained that a new juridical "roundtable" or commission also has been set up for monitoring and reviewing how all the different dicasteries responsible for handling abuse cases are handling the workload and procedures.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope names auxiliary bishop for San Diego, three auxiliaries for Newark

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis has appointed Father Ramon Bejarano, a priest of the Diocese of Stockton, California, to be an auxiliary bishop of San Diego. He also has named three New Jersey priests — Msgr. Gregory J. Studerus, Benedictine Father Elias R. Lorenzo and Father Michael A. Saporito — to be auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey. The appointments were announced in Washington Feb. 27 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Bejarano, 50, has been pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in Modesto, California, since 2008. Fluent in English and Spanish, he was ordained a priest for the Stockton Diocese Aug. 15, 1998. In New Jersey, Bishop-designate Studerus, 71, and Bishop-designate Saporito, 57, are priests of the Newark Archdiocese. Bishop-designate Lorenzo, 59, is a monk of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, New Jersey, in the Paterson Diocese. He also is abbot president of the American Cassinese Benedictine Congregation, an association of Benedictine monasteries in the United States, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico and Taiwan.

In prepared speech, pope warns clergy on pitfalls of bitterness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Confronting and not giving in to bitterness helps priests realize that they are not all-powerful beings but sinners who have been forgiven and called by God, Pope Francis said. Bitterness is "a subtle enemy" that hides and "robs us of the joy of the vocation we were called to," the pope said Feb. 27 in an address to clergy of the Diocese of Rome read by Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, papal vicar of the diocese. Pope Francis was unable to attend the traditional Lenten penitential service with priests of the Diocese of Rome due to a mild cold, the Vatican said. In his talk, titled "Bitterness in the life of a priest," the pope said his reflection was based on listening to the experiences of seminarians and priests of various Italian dioceses and did not refer "to any specific situation. The majority of priests that I know are happy about their lives and consider these types of bitterness as part of a normal life, without drama," he said.

Pope: Reflect on God's love, not 'useless sermons'

ROME (CNS) — Ashes not only symbolize humanity's frail mortality but are also a reminder of God's infinite love of people, whom he created from dust, Pope Francis said. While men and women are just "dust in the universe" compared to the galaxies and space, "we are thus a dust that is precious, destined for eternal life" with God, the pope said Feb. 26, celebrating Mass and distributing ashes at the beginning of Lent. "For Lent is not a time for useless sermons, but for recognizing that our lowly ashes are loved by God," he said. "It is a time of grace, a time for letting God gaze upon us with love and in this way change our lives. We were put in this world to go from ashes to life." After a brief prayer at the Benedictine's Monastery of St. Anselm, Pope Francis walked in the traditional Ash Wednesday procession to the nearby Dominican-run Basilica of Santa Sabina, on Rome's Aventine Hill, for the Mass. The pope received ashes on his head from 95-year-old Cardinal Jozef Tomko, titular cardinal of the basilica, and distributed ashes to the cardinals present, as well as to Benedictines from St. Anselm, Dominicans from Santa Sabina and some laypeople.

CLINTON

FISH FRY

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

Date: March 6 and 20

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

Place: Holy Name Parish Center

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

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

IRISH MEAL

Peru – The Peru Knights of Columbus will have a corned beef and cabbage dinner.

Date: March 14

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

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

FISHERS CLUB

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

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

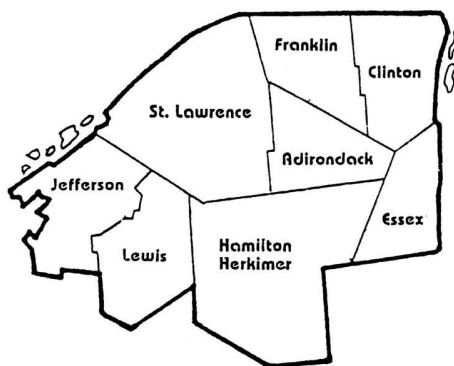
LENTE BIBLE STUDY

Plattsburgh – Join us this Lent as we take six 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 St. Peter's

Features: The Road to Redemption, Cycle A. A Catholic Scripture Study International Program by Mitch Pacwa,



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

Date: 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

ESSEX

ST. JOSEPH'S LENTE STUDIES

Olmstedville – Lenten Studies on Miracles to be held.

Date: Wednesdays starting Feb. 26 to April 1

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish House

Features: Discussion to be had. Soup and bread will be served.

FRANKLIN

ROSARY RALLY

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

Date: March 21

Time: Noon

Place: St. Ann's Church

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

JEFFERSON

FISHERS CLUB

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

Date: March 22, April 26, May 31

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's Church, Sechi Hall

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

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

THE MASS SERIES

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

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

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Dostie Hall at Sacred Heart Church

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

Contact: Holy Family Rectory, 315-782-2468

LENTE PRAYER GROUP

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

Date: Sundays for six weeks March 1 to April 5

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

Place: St. Cecilia's Parish

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

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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: March 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

CHILD TRAFFICKING PRESENTATION

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

Date: March 15

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Hearthside Center at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1425 Washington St., Watertown

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: March 26

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

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

CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Schedule: April 10 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying the chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; April 19 at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday, call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

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 five 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: Tom at 315-523-5890 or via email tkalarnas@twcny.rr.com. Parish Office at 315-346-6958

BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – Fr. Paschal Rys Knights of Columbus to have an all you can eat

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Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

brunch.

Date: March 15
Time: 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Place: St. John's Church Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Students, \$5; Under 5, Free

Contact: Delivery available in the Lyons Falls area by calling 315-348-6599 or Chris at 315 766-6897

LENTE PARISH MISSION

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

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

Place: St. Peter's Church
Time: 7 p.m.

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

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

ST. LAWRENCE

BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY

Massena – 8 Week series to be held unclinking 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 marion@massenacatholics.com; massenacatholics.com

LENTE FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

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

Date: Friday's during Lent starting Feb. 28

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free
Contact: Deliveries and take-outs available by calling 315-287-0130

LENTE BIBLE STUDY

Ogdensburg – Bible series on salvation to be held.

Date: March 4 and runs for 10 weeks.
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral, Brzana Hall

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

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

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

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – CLM's and FFM Candidates invited to attend a morning of reflection.

Date: March 7
Time: 9:30 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral Brzana Hall

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

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

DINNER AND FUN

Canton – St. Patrick's Day Community Dinner and Family Fun Night hosted by the Canton Knights of Columbus.

Date: March 15
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary's School Gym
Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 4-8, \$3; under 4, Free; Families, \$32

Features: Dinner will include Ruby glazed corned beef. Presentation of the Irishman of the Year Award. Fun activi-

ties for the kids. Irish Dancing by the St. Mary's Students. Music by Barb Heller from NCPR. More music by Grammy nominated duo, The Dotys.

FISHERS CLUB

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

Date: 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.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CATHOLIC SCOUT SUNDAY

As a part of Celebrate Girl Scout week Girl Scouts are encouraged to wear their Girl Scout Uniforms at Mass.

Date: March 8
Features: Girl Scout Sunday is a special day dedicated to thinking about your beliefs and how they're reflected in the Girl Scout Law. Think of the things the two have in common and share your thoughts with others.

LEAD EVENT

Lake Placid – Diocesan LEAD event to be held.

Date: March 9-10
Place: Crowne Plaza
Cost: One LEAD member is free, Additional members cost \$50. If you have a team of 3 the cost is \$120. Non-LEAD parishes cost \$75 per person.

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

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

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

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

Schedule: March 14 at St. Mary's in-

Champlain; March 21, St. Patrick's in Watertown

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Features: There is no fee to attend. Each retreat will focus on three aspects to aid us in centering ourselves on Jesus Christ and strengthening our relationship with our loving God. Each afternoon retreat will be fun, heart and mind opening and spiritually rejuvenating.

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

EVENT FOR WOMEN

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

Date: March 15
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Agnes Church

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

DAY OF REFLECTION

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

Date: March 21
Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Place: Eastern Region, St. John XXIII Newman Center, Plattsburgh. Speaker will be Deacon Mark Bennett. Western Region, Wadhams Hall, Ogdensburg. Speaker will be Deacon Jim Crowley.

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

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

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – The Diocese of Ogdensburg is cordially invited to the Chrism Mass.

Date: April 2
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral
Features: Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled. Join The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the

Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ.

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: 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 games, entertainment, food, a dynamic speaker and a closing Mass offered by Bishop Terry LaValley. Keynote speaker will be, Doug Tooke, a dynamic speaker with more than 20 years in Ministry. Also appearing will be the Gratto Fellows Circus Performers showcasing their interactive juggling, unicycling, rope walking, and feats of daring and comedic entertainment.

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

EARLY CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE TRAINING

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

Date: May 16
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: St. Patrick's Church, Pastoral Center
Presenters: Alan and Joanne Foley, the creators of the Early Catholic Family Life Program.

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

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – If you are suffering after abortion, you're not alone. Find love, support, hope and healing at a Rachel's Vineyard weekend.

Date: May 22-24
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Contact: Confidential online registration is available at www.rcdony.org/prolife Chaplain for the spring retreat is Father Mark Reilly. Please contact the Respect Life office with questions 518-524-0774.

AT THE MOVIES

BURDEN

NEW YORK (CNS) – The rough atmosphere of writer-director Andrew Heckler's drama "Burden" (101 Studios) makes it anything but a family film.

Yet the harsh realism with which the movie portrays the hardscrabble world its working-class characters inhabit serves to make its uplifting conversion story all the more striking.

The fact-based tale revolves around Laurens, South Carolina, resident and veteran Ku Klux Klan member Mike Burden (Garrett Hedlund). When Mike falls for more enlightened single mom Judy (Andrea Riseborough), a clash of outlooks becomes inevitable.

Eventually, Judy demands that Mike choose between his racist pals and his burgeoning relationship with her and her endearing young son, Franklin (Taylor Gregory).

Mike makes the right decision. But he struggles with the consequences of renouncing his allegiance to local Klan leader Tom Kennedy (Tom Wilkinson). Orphaned at an early age, Mike has long regarded Tom as a father figure, so the split is an emotionally



CNS PHOTO/101 STUDIOS

Tom Wilkinson, Forest Whitaker and Usher Raymond, aka Usher, star in a scene from the movie "Burden."

taxing one. He also quickly discovers that Tom has abundant behind-the-scenes influence in Laurens.

Mike and Judy receive timely aid from a seemingly unlikely source: an African American Baptist minister, the Rev. David Kennedy (Forest Whitaker). While committed to obeying the scriptural injunction to love one's enemies, Rev.

Kennedy also is a vocal and active opponent of the Klan in general and of the offensive "museum" of

the evil organization's history that Tom has recently opened in the middle of town.

As it limns Rev. Kennedy's healing influence on Mike, Heckler's script is rich in such Gospel values as repentance, forgiveness, hope and the rejection of violence. Though strictly for grown-ups who can tolerate foul dialogue, including nasty epithets, it's ultimately an inspiring reminder of the power of long-suffering, courageous, charitable love.


The film contains scenes of stylized violence, including beatings, cohabitation, a scatological incident, about a half-dozen profanities, a couple of milder oaths, constant rough and much crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Knights raise funds to conquer childhood cancer

POTSDAM – The Knights of Columbus are looking for groups or individuals who are willing to shave their heads to raise money to conquer childhood cancer as part of the organization's participation in the St. Baldrick's fundraiser.

The head shaving will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. on March 14 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Potsdam. The event will also include food, raffles, a photo booth and a silent auction.

Awards will be given for campus individual or group raising the most money, individual who raises the most money, and business that donates the most.

To register, visit stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/13810/2020 or contact Colin Myers at 315-265-6168.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Climbing a mountain with Jesus

During these six weeks of Lent, we're on a spiritual journey, each of us hoping to be a better person by Easter. Before Lent, we spent more weeks with Jesus on the Mount of the Beatitudes. Today, we climb a mountain with Jesus and His disciples...a very special mountain traditionally called Mt. Tabor.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

How God loved mountains! Remember, it was on Mt. Sinai that God had treated Moses like a friend and given him the ten commandments. Be-

fore that, he had tested Abraham's faith on Mt. Moria, as he was preparing to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Today's first reading is about God's call to Abraham to found a great dynasty of believers. In our second reading this week, Timothy reminds us that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has saved us and has "called us to a holy life...accord-

ing to His own design." But back to Mt. Tabor. Here, Peter, James and John, will catch a glimpse of the glory of God. As

March 8

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a

2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9

they approach the summit, the three suddenly notice a change in the garments Jesus is wearing. From a dusty brown and gray of a carpenter's garb, they become a dazzling white. The disciples then see two famous figures appear. They recognize Moses the Lawgiver, and Elijah the Prophet. They are both discussing something with Jesus. Perhaps

they were talking about his coming Passion. Peter is so overjoyed that he proposes that they stay here on this blessed spot. Peter himself will build them tents! Then suddenly a cloud comes between them and the sun, and a Voice thunders out, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!" No more talk of tents! In fear, the disciples fall to the ground. Jesus calms them and tells them not to be afraid. The glory has faded, and they proceed down the mountain. Jesus warns them to keep quiet about all this until after His Resurrection. They

proceed on their journey...a journey that will end on Mt. Calvary.

What does all this mean for us on our spiritual journey? If we're really serious about Lent, we'll take the Transfiguration experience as Jesus intended. It will strengthen and transfigure our faith and encourage us to listen more carefully to the teachings of Jesus. When we listen and ponder, we ourselves will be filled with light.

In the midst of the darkness and tensions of the world, we will have more courage to speak out with conviction on the teachings of Jesus and His Church.

Walking with moms in need

If a pregnant and frightened-looking young woman walked into your church and sat in the back row silently crying, would you have the courage to approach her? Could you whisper words of support into her ear and sit with her for the duration, welcome her and let her know she is not alone?

If a poor, single pregnant mom and her toddler

walked into your parish office looking for assistance, would your parish receptionist or your pastor know where to refer her for food, clothing, prenatal care and resources to help her choose life for her unborn child?

Twenty-five years ago this month, in his groundbreaking encyclical "The Gospel of Life," Pope St. John Paul II tasked us with

helping to create a Culture of Life in our communities. Building on that challenge, today Pope Francis implores us to accompany our sisters and brothers on their journey, and reminds us that our parishes are called to be "islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference."

How are we doing with regard to moms in need? Our church should be a place where anxious young girls facing an unplanned pregnancy can naturally turn for help. But is it?

We've certainly got the infrastructure: hundreds of parishes across the dioceses, including 91 of them right here in the

North Country. We have Catholic Charities' pregnancy and parenting educa-



Kathleen
Gallagher

tion classes, counseling and maternity services. We have pro-life pregnancy centers, Birthright and other programs offering maternity and baby items and referrals for medical care, housing and social services. Nine parishes in the Ogdensburg Diocese

have Gabriel Project volunteers, "angels" who will walk with expectant moms to help provide whatever they might need.

It's clear that our state government is not going to promote pro-life options or material assistance for pregnant and parenting moms. They are moving in the opposition direction, by legalizing, promoting and celebrating abortion on demand

as the answer to all unintended and difficult pregnancies.

So we need to step in and step up. Everyone in our parish community should know where to refer a pregnant woman in need. If you don't know, find out. Contact the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at rcdony.org/pro-life. Publicize the information in your bulletin. Put a poster up in the church vestibule. Check out the beautiful Prayer for Pregnant Mothers and other great resources at walkingwithmoms.com.

Be ready to walk with a woman in need. Accompany her. Assist her. Welcome her and her infant, recognizing them as the sacred vessels of Jesus Christ that they are.

Kathleen Gallagher is the director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference.

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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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mbrett@rcdony.org

Accolades for the North Country Catholic

The Pontifical Mission Office in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Missionary Projects in the Diocese of Ogdensburg would like to take an opportunity give praise where praise is due. In this case, please allow us to show our support and admiration for a jewel in the crown of the Diocese: *The North Country Catholic*. The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. The Pontifical Mission Societies have, as their primary purpose, "the promotion, of a universal missionary spirit, a spirit of prayer and sacrifice among all baptized Catholics."

For decades, the *North Country Catholic* has provided our Diocese and others around the globe with a weekly, informative and thorough means of delivering news pertinent to our diocese. The newspaper's loyal and devoted staff, consisting of Editor Darcy Fargo and Editorial Assistant Christine Ward, are hard-working, smart and innovative promoters of our Faith. We commend the enormous efforts of the North Country Catholic with their assistance in promoting the missionary spirit week after week.

The *NCC* promotes and exhibits our column, photos and ad space to help educate the faithful with awareness of the Church's universal mission. Our columns teach of sacrifice, encourage prayer and support of any on-going appeals. Our appeals consist of Christmas, Lent, St. Peter the Apostle, Missionary Projects of the Diocese, Missionary Cooperation and World Mission Sunday. In addition to these appeals, children in Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association program for on-going support and prayers for children in developing lands.

The *North Country Catholic* has always been there for the Mission Office to aid in our goal of promoting education and awareness. We acknowledge that without the weekly column, so many of our faithful donors would not be able to keep up with the news from the Mission World. The *NCC* helps to transform the lives of others far, far away. This office will always be grateful for this assistance. The Mission Office is proud to walk with the *North Country Catholic* on our long journey together of making the Diocese a better place through promoting prayers and personal sacrifices for the Missions.

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls – Vincent J. Penderghest, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

Brasher Falls – Edmund J. Walker, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church.

Canton – Susan Freego Gibbons, 49; Funeral Services Feb. 29, 2020 at the Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Malone – Dorothy R. (Mikula) Elliott, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Margaret (Leahy) Fitzpatrick, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2020 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Huntingdon, Quebec.

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

Morristown – Ellen Lynch (McDonald) Magee, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 26, 2020 at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Ogdensburg – Lisa M. (Fredericks) TenEyck, 56; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2020 at Notre Dame Church.

Plattsburgh – Edna M. (Hayes) Trudeau, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 29, 2020 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery, Altona.

Potsdam – Marlene Alana Hawkins, 68; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2020 at the Garner Funeral Service.

Saranac Lake – Norman Russell Johnson, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 29, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Anne S. Latham, 82; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2020 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Gouverneur.

Schroon Lake – Howard Lashway, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2020 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Watertown – Larry P. Fioretto, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2020 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Allen L. Smith, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 27, 2020 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Dorothy Day movie to premier on PBS March 6

NEWYORK (CNS)—Complicated, flawed, often misunderstood and as controversial as she was beloved, Dorothy Day (1897-1980), co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, is the subject of the documentary "Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story."

Wonderfully evocative and challenging, the independently produced hour-long film will air on PBS stations nationwide starting Friday, March 6 – in conjunction with Women's History Month. Viewers should consult their local listings for broadcast times.

Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier ("An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story," 2017) wrote, directs and narrates "Revolution of the Heart." Actress Susan Sarandon, who famously portrayed contemporary Catholic social activist Sister Helen Prejean in the

1995 drama "Dead Man Walking," reads excerpts from Day's 1952 biography, "The Long Loneliness."

The film opens with Pope Francis' September 2015 talk before a joint session of Congress, during which the pope highlighted four individuals who, he said, "shaped fundamental values which endure forever in the spirit of the American people." They were President Abraham Lincoln, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Trappist monk and spiritual writer Father Thomas Merton and Day.

Speaking of the film's subject, the pontiff said, "A nation can be considered great when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed as Dorothy Day did." As U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia – who once served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps – recalls, his colleagues were asking him who Day

was because they had no clue.

"Revolution of the Heart" recounts the improbable yet fascinating journey of this "typical grandmother," who eventually became, in the words, "one of the greatest champions for the poor America has ever known," while "earning her place on the FBI watch list as a dangerous American."

Older viewers, especially Catholics, may be familiar with the arc of Day's career. For younger ones, her story may prove revelatory.

Day began her public life as a writer for various socialist publications in New York City while her private affairs took on a distinctly bohemian cast. She had an abortion and attempted suicide twice before taking up with biologist Forster Batterham. In 1926, their common-law relationship produced a daughter, Tamar.

Archbishop: Rejection of pro-life bills is 'appalling'

WASHINGTON (CNS)—By blocking two pro-life bills from going to the floor of the U.S. Senate for a vote, senators "failed to advance two critical human rights reforms that most Americans strongly support," the chairman of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee said late Feb. 25.

Earlier that day, the Senate voted on motions to advance the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, S. 3275, sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, and the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, S. 311, sponsored Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Nebraska.

Largely because of "nearly unanimous Democratic opposition to the measures," as National Right to Life noted, neither measure received the 60 votes needed in the Senate to overcome a filibuster and advance to a vote on passage.

The Pain-Capable bill, which would protect unborn children from late-term abortions, failed to advance by a vote of 53 to 44.

The Born-Alive bill failed to advance by a vote of 56 to 41. It would prohibit infanticide by ensuring that a child born alive following an abortion would receive the same degree of care to

preserve her life and health as would be given to any other child born alive at the same gestational age.

"It is appalling that even one senator, let alone more than 40, voted to continue the brutal dismemberment of nearly full-grown infants, and voted against protecting babies who survive abortion," said Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Our nation is better than this, and the majority of Americans who support these bills must make their voices heard," he added in his statement.

On Feb. 28, the House failed to advance its version of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act by voting down a proposal to amend another piece of legislation to include it. The pro-life bill's supporters, led by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-California, proposed including it in H.R. 2339, the Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019. But this procedural vote failed 187 to 220.

H.R. 2339 – a multi-pronged approach to addressing youth tobacco

use considered by many to be an "epidemic" – passed in a final 213-195 vote. In supporting the bill, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-California, said that "big tobacco is an assault on the health and well-being of American children."

In a statement Feb. 28, Archbishop Naumann noted the U.S. Senate three days earlier "tragically failed" to advance its version of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and "today, the U.S. House of Representatives shamefully followed suit."

"The Born-Alive bill simply and rightly provides additional protections to ensure that newborn babies who survive an abortion attempt are given the same care as any other baby and are not left to die or directly killed," he said.

"Americans should be outraged that our U.S. Congress cannot pass a law to ensure that newborn babies are not vulnerable to infanticide," Archbishop Naumann added. "We will not and cannot stop pressing Congress to do the right thing and pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act."

In other reaction to the House action, Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, thanked McCarthy for "his brave leadership today in forcing a vote on the floor of one the most pro-abortion House of Representatives in history."

"It is deeply saddening that anyone would vote against such basic protections for the most vulnerable among us" contained in the Born-Alive bill, she

said noting this year's March for Life featured two speakers "who shared their own stories of survival after botched abortions."

"We will continue to advocate for the discharge position to force more votes on this important piece of legislation so that constituents know where their representatives stand on this common sense piece of legislation," she added.

Earlier in the week in reaction to the Senate votes, Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, said in a statement: "These bills would have protected very developed, living unborn children who can feel pain and those babies who are born alive following an abortion who are often allowed to die from neglect."

"Shame on pro-abortion Democrats for not being willing to even protect living babies that survive abortion or to protect late-term babies who feel the excruciating pain of abortion," she added. "Their constituents will want to know why they are willing to allow these horrors to continue."

Jennifer Popik, National Right to Life's legislative director, said that in the eyes of the law, "babies born after an abortion are considered separate individuals ... and every effort should be made to preserve their lives."

"Babies capable of feeling pain are considered by the medical profession to be a 'second patient' and should be treated in the law as the pain-capable human beings that they are," she added.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, and other pro-life leaders praised Graham and Sasse for sponsoring the bills and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, for

setting the vote on the measures for Feb. 25.

"You would think that those elected to public service would know the difference between serving the public and killing the public," Father Pavone said in a statement. "With few exceptions, that is apparently not the case among Democrats in the U.S. Senate, as once again, a largely party-line cloture vote failed to advance two key pro-life bills."

In pushing back against the bills, Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, and other Democrats said the Republicans were "fabricating an infanticide narrative," when infanticide is already illegal in the U.S.

Sasse has noted several times that in 2002, Republicans and Democrats worked together to ensure that children born alive are recognized as persons under federal law. "But, unfortunately," he said, "federal law does not criminalize the denial of care to babies who survive an abortion."

In a Feb. 27 statement Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, of the Knights of Columbus, called it disappointing that neither Senate pro-life bill advanced, especially when for more than a decade the Knights' polling "has shown that both Democrats and Republicans support substantial restrictions on abortion."

"In fact, a majority of Republicans and more than four in 10 Democrats support banning abortion after 20 weeks," he said. "There is a bipartisan consensus on this issue among Americans, so it is doubly unfortunate that it continues to be viewed as partisan by some lawmakers who are not heeding the voices of their constituents."

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