

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Clarkson student prepares to enter the Church | PAGE 4

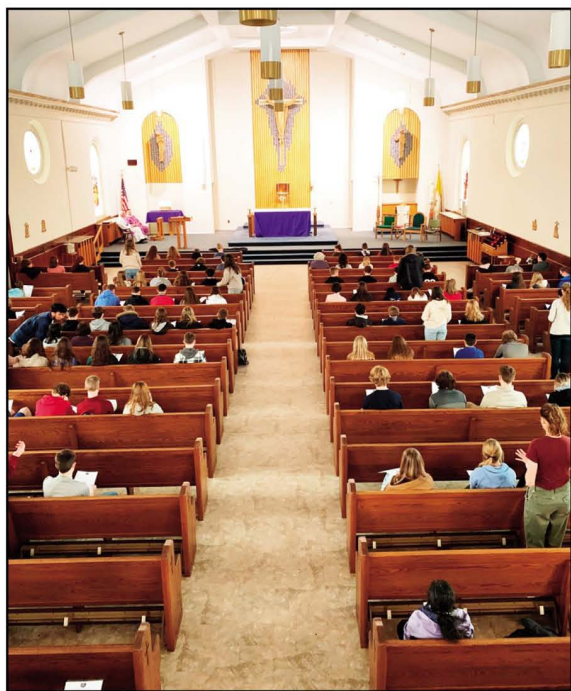
IHC students produce musical 'Aladdin' | PAGE 5

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 76 Number 43

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 16, 2022

YOUTH PRAY TOGETHER



Youth preparing for confirmation pray in Adoration at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh during a March 6 retreat lead by NET Ministries. See the complete story on Page 9 and additional photos on Page 10.

A priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

MORRISONVILLE – Originally here as a visiting priest from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines, Father Pedro Edgardo N. de la Rosa, known as “Father Jay,” is now a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“(Father de la Rosa) has sought permission from Archbishop Rolando O.J. Tria Tirona, Archbishop of Caceres, to Excardinate and from Bishop Terry LaValley to Incardinate here in the Diocese,” wrote Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan Vicar for Clergy. “Because of Father Jay’s initiative, the generosity of the Archbishop, and the welcome of Bishop LaValley, Father de la Rosa is now permanently a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.”

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

CHURCH HELPS RESIDENTS AFTER APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE



Bishop Terry R. LaValley leads a prayer service for displaced residents of Riverview Towers in the chapel at Wadhams Hall. More than 30 residents of the Ogdensburg apartment complex have been residing at the former seminary college since a March 8 fire. The Diocese of Ogdensburg, St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish and Catholic Charities have all been involved in the efforts to assist the apartment’s residents. “There were so many people and organizations there helping and wanting to help. While there were injuries, sadness and fear, goodness, service and love were also present in abundance. We look forward to continuing to work with other involved agencies to ensure the displaced residents are as safe, healthy and happy as possible as they wait for their home to be restored,” Bishop LaValley said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope Francis on Ukraine: 'Stop this massacre'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Appealing again for an end to the war in Ukraine, Pope Francis said those who invoke God to promote or justify violence “profane his name.”

“In the name of God, I ask: Stop this massacre,” the pope said March 13 at the end of his Sunday Angelus address.

With thousands of people gathered under the bright sunshine of a

Roman spring to pray the midday Marian prayer, Pope Francis turned their attention to Mariupol, Ukraine, a city named in honor of Mary; it has been besieged by Russian troops for two weeks.

The city, he said, “has become a martyred city of the heart-wrenching war that is destroying Ukraine.”

“Before the barbarity of the killing of children, of

innocents and unarmed civilians, there are no strategic reasons that hold up,” the pope said. The only thing to do is “to stop the unacceptable armed aggression before it reduces the cities to cemeteries.”

“With pain in my heart, I unite my voice to that of ordinary people who implore an end to the war,” he said. “In the name of God,

listen to the cry of those who are suffering and stop the bombings and attacks.”

Negotiations to end the war must begin seriously, he said, and the humanitarian corridors agreed upon to evacuate civilians and to bring basic necessities to people in besieged towns must be respected and secure.

With the U.N. Refugee Agency reporting March 13

that almost 2.7 million refugees had fled Ukraine since Feb. 24, Pope Francis thanked all the individuals and agencies in the neighboring countries who have welcomed them, and he encouraged continued generosity.

He also asked Catholic parishes and religious orders around the world “to increase moments of prayers for peace.”

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY
President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &

Communications Director



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.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

E-mail:
news@northcountry
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: \$30

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.
Paper is printed each
Monday;
deadline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

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

'Can't cut it out'

While life keeps reminding me that I'm getting older, there are parts of me that refuse to grow up.

One example of that: I absolutely love animated films, especially Disney movies. While I find some of the newer movies enjoyable (I adored "Coco" and liked "Encanto"), the Disney movies I grew up with – "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast," "Aladdin" and "The Lion King" – will always be my favorites.

Last week, as I reflected on the Gospel reading of the First Week of Lent, I was struck by the very last line: "When the devil had finished every temptation, he

departed from him for a time."

It was the "for a time" that made me pause. It didn't say "he departed from him, never to be seen again." The "for a time" makes it clear the devil wasn't done yet. He'd be back.

So, what's the connection between that and Disney?

Reflecting on that line, I thought of a scene from probably my favorite Disney movie ever: "The Lion King." In that scene, the main character, a lion named Simba, was approached by a Mandrill monkey, Rafiki. Rafiki is repeatedly singing a song.

"Come on! Will you cut it

out?" Simba says.

"Can't cut it out. It'll grow right back," Rafiki responds.

Isn't that the way it is as we try to address the sinful parts of our nature? God shows us an area of our lives where we need to improve, He shows us how we separate ourselves from Him. With His grace, we try to overcome that sinfulness as we try to grow closer to God.

Maybe it's just me (though I don't think it is), but I'll do well relying on God's graces and trying to overcome my sinfulness for a time, and then my sinfulness tends to pop back up, my humanity embraces it, and I fall into it again.

"Can't cut it out. It'll grow right back."

The devil is never done with

us. He may leave us "for a time," but he's pretty persistent.

As we move through this season of Lent, we focus on addressing those parts of ourselves that we use to prevent us from getting closer to God. While it sometimes drives me crazy that I keep battling the same sins and the same character defects, I'm fairly confident those battles will never end. Even if God manages to remove one sinful part of my nature, there are plenty of others left to address.

Luckily, God is even more persistent than the devil. His grace is always there for me when I need help overcoming my sins. His mercy is always there when I fail.

You can't cut that out, either.



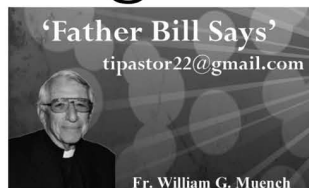
**Darcy L.
Fargo**

Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer

One of the many ceremonies of the RCIA during Lent that prepares the Catechumens for Baptism at Easter is the presentation of the Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is for all Christians our most perfect prayer and it was taught to us by Jesus, the Lord himself. So, this is a rather special ceremony – the giving of this prayer to those to be baptized.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus begins his teaching about prayer with his apostles by telling them that prayer is not about how many words. He says, "In praying do not babble – like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Then Jesus teaches them the Lord's Prayer, his gift to Christians of all time.

The Lord's Prayer is so useful for me personally – a real gift from the Lord. So many times, when I am with



a group of people and want them to join with me in prayer, I am certain all know the Lord's Prayer. It could be a family standing around the sick bed of a loved one. It could be a group at a cemetery around the grave of a deceased loved one. The Lord's Prayer quickly unites us together. And I am certain you all know that our Mass uses the Lord's Prayer to prepare us for Holy Communion.

So, today, I would like to meditate with you about the Lord's Prayer. I know I have written about the Lord's Prayer often. I think of it often. When I need a prayer, I usually turn again and again to the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer puts to-

gether the message of Jesus so perfectly. Jesus tells us that when we begin to pray to Our God, we remember that God is our Father. We begin "Our Father." The people at the time of Jesus did not think of God as Father. For them, God was the God of Moses. God was the God on Mount Sinai who gave the commandments. This was the God who demanded obedience. This was the God that came in thunder and lightning, the God that brought fear. Jesus teaches us to think of God as Our Father, the God of love, the God who is Father.

God's name is to be made holy and special for us. We are called by Jesus to make our lives as followers of the Lord by being part of the Kingdom of God. This is to be our place on this earth. Our dedication to the Lord Jesus is for us to live according to the "will of God." "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Next, we ask God our Father to give us our daily bread, our food to nourish our body and the Eucharistic food to strengthen our soul and spiritual life.

Then Jesus remembers to emphasize the importance of forgiveness. One of the essential characteristics of the Christian life is seeking to encounter Christ's loving mercy. We can really experience it only when we put it into practice ourselves. We grasp the true meaning of mercy when we forgive others. If Christ has forgiven us, how can we not forgive others? Do you treat others as you think they deserve to be treated? Do you treat others with mercy, love and kindness?

And then to close our prayer we beg out God to deliver us from all evil. Amen. Each time I say the Lord's Prayer I say so much to my God. I truly make such important agreements with the God who is my Father.

Church responds, helps after apartment fire

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG — When Riverview Towers, a 104-resident apartment complex operated by the Ogdensburg Housing Authority, was evacuated due to fire on March 8, it provided an opportunity for the Church to be Church, Bishop Terry R. LaValley said.

"I saw Ogdensburg Fire Department trucks go by as I was preparing for noon Mass," Bishop LaValley said. "Just before Mass, I received word of the fire at Riverview Towers. We prayed for the residents and the emergency responders during Mass, and I walked to the scene after."

Bishop LaValley, joined at the scene by Father Christopher C. Carrara and Father Shane M. Lynch, chaplains for local fire and law enforcement departments, talked to and prayed with residents on the scene before traveling with them to Ogdensburg Free Academy's gym, where a temporary staging area was created.

Learning more than 30 residents of the towers had no housing arranged, Bishop LaValley, working with Wadhams Hall Facility Manager William Seymour, offered the former seminary college as temporary housing.

"I went to Wadhams Hall to help prepare the rooms for the residents' arrival, to welcome people and listen to their stories," Bishop LaValley said. "One gentleman, as he settled into his room, made the connection with the parable of the Good Samaritan. People were down, but they witnessed and felt humanity and goodness in the midst of that suffering."

As Bishop LaValley, Deacon James Crowley and

Deacon Anthony Pastizzo, both from St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, prepared rooms and aided in getting both residents and the agencies helping them settled into Wadhams Hall, Father Joseph J. Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral, and volunteers opened Our Lady's Outreach Ministry, formerly St. Vincent de Paul, to provide emergency clothing to residents who were forced to leave their possessions behind as they evacuated the fire.

In addition to offering housing to residents, the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Wadhams Hall opted to accept the pets of the displaced individuals, allowing the animals to be reunited with their owners during this time of transition. Currently, the diocese plans to assist the displaced residents through the end of the month.

"There were so many people and organizations there helping and wanting to help. While there were injuries, sadness and fear, goodness, service and love were also present in abundance. We look forward to continuing to work with other involved agencies to ensure the displaced residents are as safe, healthy and happy as possible as they wait for their home to be restored. We pray prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude for our emergency responders and human services, and we continue to pray for the injured and provide love and care for the displaced."

Among the organizations helping in the fire's aftermath was Catholic Charities.

"Our Catholic Charities staff immediately got together to work to address the demands of those in need, providing clothing, gift cards, and toiletries,"

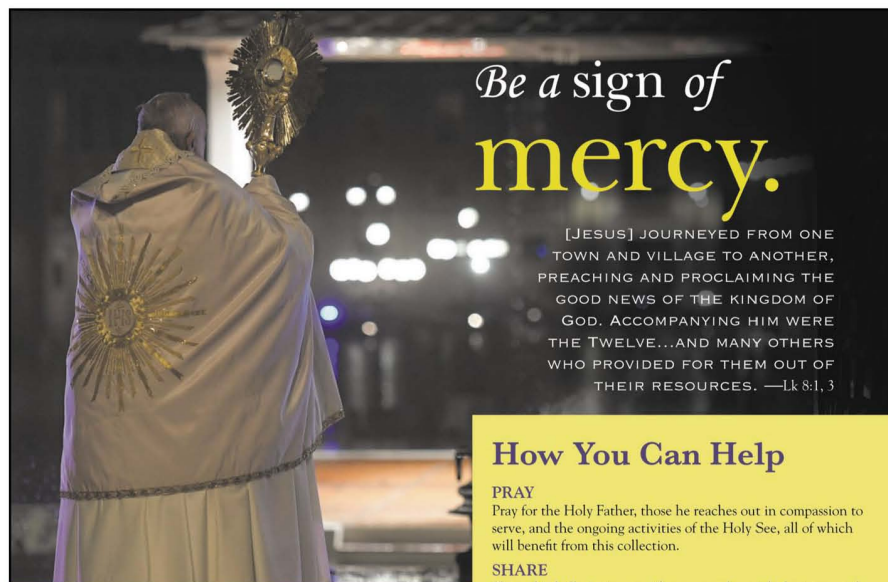
said Carol Whitcombe, director of Catholic Charities' Seaway House. "Thanks to the efforts of caseworkers, Shirley Cox and Tina Kellar, we were also able to network with United Helpers to provide walkers to assist the elderly and disabled. We are extremely grateful to Tina Kellar, who has been diligent in organizing our efforts along with providing time after hours to assist those individuals housed at Wadhams Hall."

Although, Catholic Charities has limited housing options, the organization sees itself assisting long term in a variety of ways in meeting the needs of those displaced.

"Catholic Charities is proud to be a part of this community effort serving those impacted by this devastating fire, our thoughts and prayers are with our neighbors, families, and friends," Catholic Charities said in a statement.

Bishop LaValley returned to Wadhams the afternoon of March 9 to lead displaced residents in a prayer service.

"When we got here, the parking lot was lined with cars and people who cared," said one Riverview Towers resident at the prayer service. "The whole thing has made me stop where I am, and the tears of gratitude are coming. It's sort of renewed my faith in humanity and my faith in general."



Be a sign of
mercy.

[JESUS] JOURNEYED FROM ONE TOWN AND VILLAGE TO ANOTHER, PREACHING AND PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE THE TWELVE...AND MANY OTHERS WHO PROVIDED FOR THEM OUT OF THEIR RESOURCES. —Lk 8:1, 3

How You Can Help

PRAY

Pray for the Holy Father, those he reaches out in compassion to serve, and the ongoing activities of the Holy See, all of which will benefit from this collection.

SHARE

Share this bulletin insert with anyone who might be interested. More information is at www.vatican.va/roman_curia/secretariat_state/obolo_spietro/documents/actual_en.html and www.peterspence.va/en.html.

GIVE

Give generously to this collection as a sign of mercy to those who suffer around the globe and in support of the ongoing work of the Holy See. By doing so, you help build up the Church so that it will continue to minister to all for generations to come.

Collection Weekend: March 26 & 27

A Concrete Sign of Mercy

The concrete participation in the needs of the universal ecclesial community has taken different forms throughout history. Collections and donations by the individual faithful or entire local churches raise awareness that all the baptized are called to materially sustain the work of evangelization and, at the same time, to help the poor in whatever way possible. By doing so, they build up the Church so that it will continue to minister to all for generations to come.

During his apostolic visit to Bangui in the Central African Republic in 2015, Pope Francis visited the city's pediatric hospital with a donation of medicines and a promise that he would not forget the country's children. With contributions raised to support Peter's Pence, the Holy Father kept that promise to the children of Bangui

by founding a new facility in 2017. The existing hospital was renovated, and a new facility specifically for malnourished children was constructed. In a March 2019 message, Pope Francis described the hospital as "a concrete sign of mercy" originating with his 2015 visit.

A Tradition of Support for the Holy Father

Support for such papal efforts has its roots in the scriptural message to take care of the poor and is an expression of unity with the Holy Father. Peter's Pence expresses this unity in two ways: through the ongoing activities of the Holy See and through the charitable works of the Holy Father on behalf of those most in need.



Peter's Pence Collection | Office of National Collections | www.usccb.org/nationalcollections
3211 Fourth Street NE | Washington, DC 20017-1194 | (202) 541-3346 | Fax (202) 541-3460

Copyright © 2020, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photo: © CNS/Vatican Media.

80200401

College student prepares to enter Church

Editor's Note: This is the second installment in a planned series of several features highlighting individuals who are participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) as they move toward entering the Catholic Church.

By Mary Beth Bracy
Contributing Writer



Jack Kumpf

POTSDAM – One of several young adults are preparing to enter the Church at Easter, Jack Kumpf, a senior and business management major at Clarkson University, said rather than one major experience, his journey to faith was a process.

"I grew up in an agnostic house," said Kumpf, a native of Victor, New York, near Rochester. "My mother is a baptized, but non-practicing, Catholic, and dad is an atheist. It [religion] just wasn't a thing for me. Some people have something big happen that kind of changes their whole way of life. That wasn't the case for me. It was sort of a build up over time, it was like I constantly noticed evil in the world. And I'm a pretty logical person, so if the devil is real and evil is real then that must mean there is a God."

In February 2021, he emailed Father Joseph W. Giroux, who invited him to come to Mass.

"I literally just went to St. Mary's one day. I sat down and I had no idea what I was doing," he said. "I met a friend of mine who's actually sponsoring me now, and it just took off from there. It's not like one big event. It's not like an addict who had a near death experience and saw the light. But it's not like a small

thing either. I kind of just fled from evil, I kind of just realized it. I took initiative."

Jack, who has a minor in history, found books about history of Catholicism interesting.

"I researched the difference between Catholicism, Protestantism, and Eastern Orthodox," he said. "Basically Catholicism just spoke to me more. I mean it has more history, I like the way they do things, I like the traditional aspects of Catholicism. So that's why I gave Catholicism a try and I've never looked back since."

Faithful friends have encouraged Kumpf on the way.

"I started meeting people at Church right away," he said. "I just noticed that people I go to Church with are just better people, they're just nicer people [than non-Church friends]. They kind of have more of a handle on life. They seem more

happy, they seem more balanced in life. When I see my friends who I'm going to Church with, I see people who are ready to graduate. What's inspired me are other Catholics. Connor Cummings, the campus minister, is a good friend of mine. Whenever I have a question he answers it or points me in the right direction."

The RCIA program has been a positive experience for Kumpf.

"Every Sunday after Mass we will meet in the church, and there will be a specific topic that day," he said. "Topics can be like the Eucharist, the Bible, salvation. We'll watch a video going in-depth about it, and we'll talk about it. Our RCIA teacher will explain things in between and at the end. We'll have prayers at the end. I've researched stuff on my own, so oftentimes I'll know the stuff they talk about, but other times it's stuff I never really had a handle on, but now I completely understand."

Although Kumpf hasn't chosen his confirmation name yet, he has a concept of what saint he'd like.

"I want to pick a saint that would go well with the concept of dying for your faith, I want to pick a saint that was martyred," he said. "I want someone who was

pushed to the edge and still never renounced his faith in God. Because that can relate to anything in the faith, really, not just being tortured by infidels."

Currently, Kumpf is involved in Newman Club and enjoys going on the "amazing" Campus Ministry retreats to Guggenheim.

"It is so great there," he said. "They have all these activities, you help out with the Church there. It's like you get a vacation to Lake Placid, and you get to become a better Catholic, and you get to be with your friends. So, I mean, there you go."

Kumpf has found learning about the faith interesting, especially belief in the Holy Eucharist.

"At first, I didn't understand what it was at all, and it took me awhile to get a grasp around it," he said. "The history about it, when we read about it in the Bible, when Jesus says to eat His body and to drink His blood. It is interesting that people fled from him."

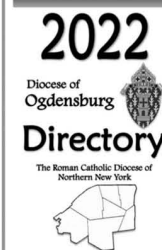
One of the greatest blessings that Kumpf has found in faith is a sense of balance.

"Catholicism brings order to life and every-

thing about it is about discipline and order," he said. "It has hierarchies, it has an official organization, it has its own terms, it has very specific traditions about what you can and especially what you cannot do. If you want your life to have order and not chaos and disorder, Catholicism is what you should be doing. Now that I've become a Catholic myself my life has had more order, more stability, things are getting better and I'm just a better person. Catholicism brings discipline to yourself and, more importantly, it is the one section of Christianity that teaches you to deny yourself. If you want to be just a Christian you can be Protestant, but if you want to be one of Jesus' disciples, you have to deny yourself. If you want to deny yourself, the best way to do that is to become a Catholic."

"The end result of seeking salvation, and – not just in the afterlife, but knowing that once I really clean myself from sin and become a better person – I know how much better life is going to be and how much more fulfilling it is going to be. I'm very excited," Kumpf said.

2022 Diocesan Directories are now available!



The Official 2022
Directory of the Diocese of
Ogdensburg includes
detailed information about
parishes, schools and other
Catholic organizations.

Order online at
www.northcountrycatholic.org
or call our office at

\$15.00
each

315-608-7556
to order yours today!

BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
BE A PROFESSIONAL DRIVER

"Family owned dealership serving the
North Country for over 56 years!"

For more information, visit our Website
at: www.barstowmotors.com

MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

A priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

MORRISONVILLE – Originally here as a visiting priest from the Archdiocese of Caceres in the Philippines, Father Pedro Edgardo N. de la Rosa, known as “Father Jay,” is now a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“(Father de la Rosa) has sought permission from Archbishop Rolando O.J. Tria Tirona, Archbishop of Caceres, to Excardinate and from Bishop Terry LaValley to Incardinate here in the Diocese,” wrote Father Christopher C. Carrara, diocesan Vicar for Clergy. “Because of Father Jay’s initiative, the generosity of the Archbishop, and the welcome of Bishop LaValley, Father de la Rosa is now permanently a priest of the Diocese of Ogdens-



Father Pedro Edgardo N. de la Rosa

burg.”

“We’re blessed and grateful to have Father de la Rosa’s continued service and priestly ministry,” said Bishop LaValley. “He’s been a joyful witness of Christ’s love to the people of Morrisonville, Cadyville and Peru since arriving in our diocese, and we look forward to having him con-

tinue to serve God, the Church and the people of our diocese for many years to come.”

Father de la Rosa noted the decision to seek incardination into our diocese was not one he took lightly.

“It’s a mix of emotions,” Father de la Rosa said of his incardination into the Diocese of Ogdensburg. “I’m happy and I’m grateful that our beloved bishop welcomed me here, but I’m also sad to leave the archdiocese where I grew up and was ordained.”

Father de la Rosa noted, though, that he has been welcomed with open arms by the people of Morrisonville, Cadyville and Peru, where he serves with Father Scott R. Seymour, pastor.

“I’ve been here for two years,” he said. “Since I

came here, I feel very welcome. I am happy here. I can feel the love and welcoming attitudes of the North Country people, and that helps me a lot. This wasn’t an easy decision for me. I really prayed about it. I don’t have any relatives on this side of the U.S. They’re in California and the Philippines. We are called to bloom where we are planted. I’m grateful to be serving God and serving His people.”

He said he’s also grateful to the brotherhood of priests in the diocese.

“Bishop LaValley and my brother priests have welcomed me here,” he said. “I’ve received lots of messages thanking me and congratulating me. It helps me to settle down and feel welcome. I have of gratitude for Father Scott Sey-

mour, who has been my mentor since I came here. He’s helped me adjust to ministry here. I’d like to thank Father Gordon and the staff here.”

Father de la Rosa said he looks forward to continuing to serve God and His people here in the North Country.

“I thank the archbishop of Caceres, Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona, for allowing me to continue my ministry here in the North Country,” he said. “I’m very grateful to Father Chris Carrara for all the work he did, and this would not have happened if not for our bishop, Bishop LaValley. I’m very grateful. Of course, I promise my commitment. I’ll do whatever I can to be of service to God’s people in the North Country.”



Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown recently staged a production of the musical, ‘Aladdin,’ the school’s first musical production in two years. The show’s cast and crew included students in grades four through 12.

IHC students return to stage for ‘Aladdin’

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Watertown—After two years without a musical production, students from Immaculate Heart Central (IHC) returned to the stage March 4 and 5 to perform the Disney musical “Aladdin.”

“After two years with no show, they were relieved to have it again,” said IHC Music Teacher Tara Petrillose, the show’s director. “You could feel the energy in the kids. For some, this was their first show. For others, it was their first show in two years. They were excited to be on

stage and excited to have a show for the community.”

Petrillose said auditions were held for IHC students in grades four through 12 the first week of December.

“We started practicing the following week,” she said. “Because we didn’t

have much experience in the cast, we had to teach them what it takes to make a stage show. A lot was thrown at them, but they really did a great job learning and growing through the process.”

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the school would often produce a fall

show and a spring show, with each show an opportunity for different age groups to perform.

“We decided to do one show that would combine grades four through 12 instead,” Petrillose said. “It worked out very well. The fourth- and fifth-grade

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Environmental Stewardship

Fasting to feasting

"It is God's love that warms me in the sun and God's love that sends that cold rain. It is God's love that feeds me in the bread I eat and God's love that feeds me also by hunger and fasting."

— Deirdre Ni Chinneide

There is a time for everything... a time for sun and time for rain; a time for feasting and a time for fasting, as this Celtic Blessing reminds us. Lent is a time when we are called to fast. T

his call appears in both the Old and New Testament. It is often linked with prayer as it is in Matthew's Gospel that we heard on Ash Wednesday.

The question is how could our fasting possibly be connected with *Laudato Si': On Caring for our Common Home?* This Encyclical addresses the urgent need for each of us to respond to the "cries of the earth" and of our "sisters and brothers" right here, right now. Our response requires an ecological conversion from a way of life. When we use more than we need, it leaves others without what they need.

One connection that Lenten fasting has is when my fasting from that chocolate, soda, extra serving, etc. is an act of being in solidarity with my "neighbors" who are suffering from lack of food not by choice but by situation.

Another connection is that fasting from meat on a day besides Friday during Lent can have a positive effect on the earth's resources. It takes much more water, land and feed to produce a pound of meat than it does to produce a pound of veggies. When we plan our main meal, we often start with what kind of meat will we have and then plan the rest of the meal around it. What would happen if for tonight's meal your plan begins with what kind of vegetables/potato/pasta/etc. or casserole you will prepare? Keeping nutrition in balance, your second meatless meal each week can have far-reaching benefits. This fasting can provide a feast for others and the earth.

IHC students return to stage

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

students loved working with the older students, and the older students did really great mentoring and helping the younger kids. It was a good opportunity for everyone."

Henry Charlebois, 12, of Watertown, an IHC sixth grader, played the name-sake character of the show, Aladdin. Though it wasn't his first time on

stage, Charlebois said playing the lead role posed additional challenges.

"I did 'The Lion King' in fourth grade," he said. "I was a Hyena. It was sort of hard going from more of a background character to the main character. I was afraid I was going to mess up. It made me nervous, but it was good once we got going, and it made me want to do another show."

Chanelle Lott, 16, a California native who currently lives on Fort Drum, played Jasmine, the female lead, in the show.

"I've performed before in recitals and talent shows, but this was my first big show," she said. "I thought it was really fun. I looked forward to the rehearsals after school, and being able to see the audience as we were performing made me realize all our hard work wasn't taken for granted."

While both youth noted it was a bit challenging working with such varied age ranges, they said it was an enjoyable experience.

"The younger kids were a little harder to control, and, of course, the older kids did very well," said Charlebois. "There were a lot of people who had never been in plays, and they had to figure out what to do. By the end, it was going pretty well."

"We had to get to know each other and get everything and everyone in order, but once that happened, it got much easier," added Lott.

The young actors said they both hope to perform in future shows.

"I'd love to do 'Moana' next or 'Wizard of Oz,'" Charlebois said. "Ms. Petrillose said she has some shows in mind, but she didn't tell us what they are. We have to live with the suspense."

"I really enjoyed the experience, and I hope to participate in more shows in the future," said Lott. "I'm really thankful for Ms. Petrillose. She worked hard putting this show together and getting kids from the elementary to join in. I'm really thankful we got to do this."

This year's show drew 230 to 240 spectators each night of its two-show run. Funds raised through ticket sales and donations will be used to stage future shows and for other IHC art-related programming.

"The money goes into future shows, new music for our chorus and band library, new instruments for the band – items we need for theater and music," she said. "In the future, we'd like to buy a backdrop for a bigger show. Ticket sales and donations allow us some flexibility as we build and grow our music community."

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 16 – Seminarian visit at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio

March 17 – Seminarian visit at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio

March 19 – 11 a.m. – Mass and celebration of Saint Joseph's Day at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

March 20 – Mass at St. Augustine's Church in Peru followed by the Knights of Columbus Annual Bishop's Bourse Dinner at St. Augustine's Parish Center (Time TBD)

March 21 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 23 – 9 a.m. – St. Joseph's Home Board of Managers Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

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, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terri-
annyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-651-2267 days; 518-
569-0612 evenings; or Father
Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal
Vicar for Clergy;
ccarrara@rcdony.org Phone: 315-
393-2920 ext. 1340. If you have a
complaint of suspected sexual
abuse or related misconduct by the
bishops, contact the **Catholic
Bishop Abuse Reporting Service**
at 800-276-1562 or
www.ReportBishopAbuse.org.

Rest in Peace

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

March 16 – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

March 17 – Rev. Michael Froc, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Francis X. Parisian, 1955

March 18 – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

March 19 – Rev. Andronique Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009

March 20 – Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, 1939

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg uses the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. If you need to complete VIRTUS training, contact Jean Grizzuto, jgrizzuto@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 x 1413.

OBITUARIES

Brushton – Pauline M. (Dumas) Trumble, 90; Mass of Christian Burial March 14, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cadyville – Hildred (Rabideau) Carter, 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2022 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cape Vincent – John A. Constance, 93; Private Services to be held.

Croghan – Frances K. (Linck) Strife, 91; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Croghan – Linda Carole (Houppert) Tabolt, 59; Mass of Christian Burial March 12, 2022 at St. Stephen's Church.

Lowville – Ora Jean (Van Cour) Petrus, 79; Services to be held at a later date.

Ogdensburg – Vincent F. Bresett Sr.,

74; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2022 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg – Catherine A. (Limoges) Priest, 68; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2022 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Potsdam – Mary Frances (Smith) Williams, 94; Mass of Christian Burial March 14, 2022 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Church, Colton.

Rouses Point – Margaret (Neverett) Spiegel, 95; Services to be held at a later date.

Saranac Lake – Carol Wesleyn (Johnson) DeFuria, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 18, 2022 at St. Bernard's Church.

Willisboro – Marie Rose-Anne (Bergeron) Bowen, 82; Services to be held in sprint at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Sister sues DC over vaccination mandate for health workers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A woman religious who as a physician provides free medical service in the nation's capital has sued the District of Columbia over its COVID-19 vaccination mandate for health care workers. Sister Dierdre Byrne said in a federal lawsuit filed March 9 that she was denied a religious exemption from the mandate by city health officials, an action that she said violates her rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Attorneys for the Thomas More Society filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of Sister Byrne, who is a member of the Sisters of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart and a retired U.S. Army colonel. She is board certified as a surgeon and in family practice, the society said. Named as defendants in the lawsuit were Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser, Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, and the District of Columbia. Society attorney Christopher Ferrara said in a statement that Sister Byrne had "sought — and been denied — a religious exemption from D.C.'s health worker COVID-19 mandate."

Airport chaplains offer sacraments, a listening ear to travelers

HIGH HILL, Texas (CNS) — Just about every kind of person can be found in an airport — from vacationers heading for a little piece of heaven to business people whose schedules seem like hell on earth. The concourses are a limbo of sorts as people wait to get to their destinations. If any travelers are carrying around too much emotional baggage, they might find an airport chaplain to lighten the load. Father Charlie Samperi recalled a man who saw his priest's collar and approached him because he was weighted down with the need for reconciliation. The priest, pastor of St. James the Apostle Parish in Spring, Texas, said they found a quiet spot off the concourse where he heard this man's confession. "He just unloaded, and it was a wonderful confession," he said, adding that it had been a long time since the man had received the sacrament of reconciliation. Father Samperi serves in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, which hosted a retreat for Catholic airport chaplains in mid-February. The retreat was held virtually the past two years because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the chaplains said they were happy for their own getaway and face-to-face time with colleagues.

Meta, Twitter, Netflix on list for enabling exploitation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Some familiar brand names were put on the newest "Dirty Dozen" list of companies by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation for enabling exploitation. Those names include Google Search, Netflix, Twitter, Meta and Visa. Netflix and Twitter are repeats from 2021, as are Reddit and OnlyFans. Others making the list, released March 8, are Etsy, Kik, Verisign and Kanakuk Kamps. "We oppose all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation," said Lina Nealon, director of corporate and strategic initiatives for the center, during a video call announcing the 2022 version of the Dirty Dozen. "Last year, the majority of the list were tech companies," Nealon said, as they "reap soaring revenue without making substantive changes" to deter exploitation. "We thought 2020 was bad," she added. "The Internet Watch Foundation called 2021 the worst year on record for exploiting children online." Despite Google and parent firm Alphabet making improvements over the past year — such as, NCOSE noted, Google activating age-appropriate controls on school-bound Chromebooks last year — Google Search was named for 2022.

Ukrainian refugees try to mend their lives

BARABÁS, Hungary (CNS) — For Daróczi Gábor, mayor since 2010 of the sleepy Hungarian town of Barabás, making daily visits to the border with Ukraine was the last thing he thought he would have to do during his tenure.

"This is something that I have never seen before in my life," Gábor told Catholic News Service March 11. "It is really strange."

Barabás, a town of fewer than 900 people, had welcomed more than 2,000 refugees since the start of the Russian attack on Ukraine Feb. 24.

The first day refugees started to arrive, "there wasn't any form of organized help. So, the town opened this place to shelter people," he said, pointing to a small building occupied by Caritas Hungary.

"We are trying our best to help everybody, and we're putting our maximum effort to make sure that everybody has food and shelter," Gábor told CNS. "I am hoping for peace between Russia and Ukraine so this situation can end. But until then, we'll do everything that we can to help the people."

Gábor drives several times a day to the border to monitor the arrival of refugees. The soldiers guarding the entrance into Ukraine wave to him as he sits in the parking lot overlooking the border.

Fewer people were coming in March 11 than on previous days because of tighter controls on the Ukrainian side, he said.

Nevertheless, dozens of refugees who succeeded in crossing over during the night and early morning entered the refugee center to rest after the long journey.

A young Nigerian couple who asked to remain anonymous sat on one of the cots set up in the hall. They had traveled from Ukraine's northeastern city of Sumy, one of several cities that were bombed heavily by Russian forces despite a cease-fire.

"We came yesterday. We were staying in Sumy. It was kind of traumatic but at the end of the day we got used to it," the young man said.

His fiancé told CNS the two were studying and working in Sumy before they were forced to leave.

On a normal day, she said, "it's a three-hour journey" from Sumy to the western city of Lviv. "But it took us 12 hours because we were trying to avoid being seen by Russian troops."

While there were reports of discrimination against foreigners from Africa and Asia attempting to leave Ukraine, the young couple told CNS they had "never experienced any discrimination" when leaving the country.

"They were really nice to us in Ukraine," the young man said. "For now, we'll stay here. We're still trying to make some moves but hopefully — 'Inshallah' (God willing) — everything will be fine."

"Nothing is certain but we definitely hope for the best," he added.

An elderly couple from Ukraine, Oleg and Valentina Malakhivska, sat outside the hall, visibly worn out from their journey from a small town on the outskirts of Kyiv.

Their daughter Iuliia, who lives in Zurich, traveled to Barabás to pick them up and take them to her home in Switzerland. Her 37-year-old brother, she said, stayed behind

since men between the ages of 18 and 60 must remain to defend the country.

It took some time to convince her parents to flee since they didn't want to leave their son behind, she said.

"A lot of families are like this: a lot of elderly people and mothers with children, who will not leave Ukraine because of their families," Malakhivska told CNS. "And this is difficult because it's better that the older women leave so that the men can fight and there can be less victims in this war."

"That's why I convinced my parents to cross the border and stay with me. That way they can be safe, they can receive medical care and my brother can have less stress and concentrate on the war because he is a telecommunication engineer and he is working 24/7," she added.

Malakhivska told CNS she is saddened by the war in her country and points the finger squarely at Russian President Vladimir Putin who she said had been fixated for a long time on taking back Ukraine.

"The problem is that (Putin) did not want to change his idea and he stuck to the plan," she said. "The economy of Russia is already ruined, but he didn't want to stop and people around him couldn't stop him."

When asked by CNS if she thinks Western sanctions against Russia are enough to change the tide, Malakhivska said she believes sanctions are the only way Russians will "wake up" and see the reality not portrayed in Putin's narrative that downplays the war as a "special military operation."

VIRTUAL EVENTS

BROWN BAG SERIES

The Office of New Evangelization will be running a new Brownbag Chat.

Date: 10 sessions starting Wednesdays, March 23

Time: noon to 1 p.m.

Place: via Zoom

Features: We will use the Revive Parishes Series by Chris Stefanick on Evangelization. In each session, we will watch a video together via zoom and then have an informal discussion.

Contact: If you would like to join us this series of lunch-time chat discussions, please sign up online at rcdony.org/brownbag. For more information, contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

CLINTON

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.

Date: March 2 to April 10

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

Place: Outside Planned Parenthood

Features: Stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood of the North Country.

Contact: Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024 or email: nancys_56@hotmail.com for more information.

ADORATION

Ellenburg Center – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the Fridays during Lent.

Date: March 4th to April 8th

Time: Noon to 3 p.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer.

Contact: Deacon Ken Lushia 518-493-6671 or Sarah Anderson, OFS 518-534-9976

TAIZE PRAYER

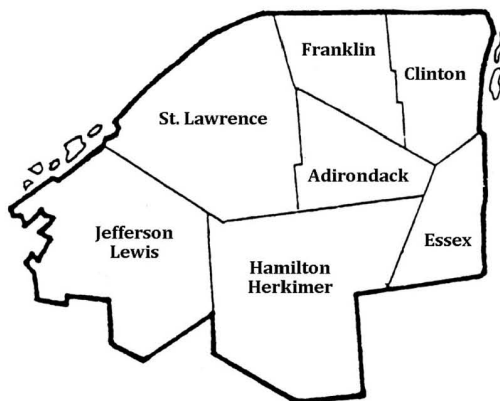
Plattsburgh – Lenten Prayer opportunity to be held.

Date: March 24

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Join us as we gather around the wood of the cross for Taize' prayer this Lent! Taize' Prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple and melodic. Refrains are repeated in the mantra style of the Eastern Church. As you enter into the



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

song and silence, the prayerful repetitions will permeate your spirit. All are welcome. "Come, let us Adore Him"

FRANKLIN

ROSARY RALLY

St. Regis Falls – Rosary Rally and video to be held.

Date: March 19

Time: Noon

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: "The Lambs Supper" by Theologian Scott Hahn to be shown after rosary rally. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: 315-384-6170

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Watertown – IHC to hold Kindergarten registration.

Date: March 17

Features: Eligible to children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2022.

Contact: Call 315-788-7011 for an appointment and to review documentation requirement details.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

Lyons Falls – Drive-thru Chicken and Biscuit dinner to be held.

Date: March 29

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Cost: \$12

Contact: Deliveries are available!!

Pre-orders should be made by calling 315-348-8945 or 315-348-8577 or the day of the event by calling the church hall at 315-348-6599.

HOLY HOUR AND DIVINE MERCY

Houseville – A Holy Hour of Adoration with the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be observed the first Sunday of the month.

Date: April 2

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 4:10 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School Friday Fish Fries are back during Lent.

Date: Though Lent.

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

Place: Back of St. James School

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

Features: Dine in or take out.

Contact: Local deliveries available by calling 315-287-0130

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Canton – All are welcome to join in praying the Stations of the Cross.

Date: Fridays through April 15

Time: 5:15 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

FOOD DRIVE

Canton – Join the Sarto Council #1059 Knights of Columbus in Canton in a Lenten Food Drive. All are challenged to donate one can of food (or other non-perishable item) for each day of Lent. Donations can be deposited at the doors St. Mary's Church.

PRAYER AND ADORATION

Massena – Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to gather for Adoration and Rosary.

Date: Every third Wednesday of the month (March 16)

Time: 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Church

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Canton – Traditional St. Patrick's Dinner to be held.

Date: March 17

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Gym

Cost: Age 13 and up, \$12; Children 5-12, \$6; Under 5, \$2; Family, \$40

Features: Corned Beef or Shepherd's Pie. There will also be Irish Entertainment.

ACIES

Ogdensburg – The ACIES of the Legion of Mary to be held.

Date: March 27

Time: 1 p.m.

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

Features: ACIES is the Latin work meaning "Army Dresses in Battle of Array". This is the yearly opportunity for all Legionaries to gather in unity and fellowship and consecrate themselves once more to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayers, music and hymns in the Chapel will be followed by refreshments in Bishop Brzana Hall. Anyone who loves our Blessed Mother is invited to attend this Legion of Mary event.

ALPHA

Massena – You're invited to ALPHA.

Date: Starting Tuesdays April 5

Time: 6 p.m. to 8:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Hall

Features: Join for a meal and fellowship. No cost to attend

Contact: Sylvie Marion at 315-769-2469

DAY OF MERCY

Canton – St. Mary's Church will be offering a Day of Mercy.

Date: April 6

Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Features: The Sacrament of Confession to be heard all day with a pause at 8:15 a.m. for morning Mass.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

REFLECT AND RECONCILE

A Diocese of Ogdensburg youth Lenten retreat to be held for all young people in grades 7 to 12.

Schedule: March 19 at St. Mary's Cathedral Brzana Room, Ogdensburg; March 26 at St. Mary's Parish Center, Champlain.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5

Features: As we dive deeper into the sacrament of Reconciliation and the season of Lent, we should center ourselves and work to understand who we are. Join fellow youth in grades 7 to 12.

Contact: Registration: rcdony.org/lentenretreat For more information please contact Tom Semeraro - Office of Youth Ministry - 315-393-2920 ext. 1415 or tsemeraro@rcdony.org

PRESENTATION OF FORGIVEN

A Continuation of the Eucharist Initiative. Explore the transforming power and the healing grace of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Date: March 26

Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center, Clayton; Dostie Hall, Watertown; St. Peter's Church, Lowville; Father Amyot Parish Center, Norfolk; St. Edmund's Parish Center, Ellenburg; The Emmaus Room inside St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; St. Bernard's School, Saranac Lake; Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake

Features: Please bring a bagged lunch.

Contact: To register go to: rcdony.org/forgiven

YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid – Diocese of Ogdensburg Youth Rally to be held.

Date: Apr. 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with Mass at St. Agnes at 5:30 p.m.)

Place: High Peaks Resort

Cost: \$35 per youth

Features: A Special Day event for you people in grades 7 to 12. Theme will be "In His House". It will be a day of faith, friendship, fun, and a closing Mass with Bishop Terry LaValley.

Contact: Please visit rcdony.org/youth/rally or contact Tom Semeraro 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

NET young adults minister to youth

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

Around 200 youth from around the diocese had the opportunity to hear young adults sharing the Gospel message as NET Ministries visited the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

NET Ministries, an organization that sends teams of young adult missionaries around the United States to conduct Catholic retreats and workshops, led confirmation retreats at St. Cecilia's in Adams on March 4, at St. Mary's in Massena on March 5 and at Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh on March 6.

"We were thrilled to get NET here," said Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Massena. "These are young adults who clearly are not just going through the motions. They're serious about walking in relationship with God. There's a charismatic flavor to their ministry, and it allows our youth to come into a dy-

namic relationship with God. And because they're close in age to the kids, they have a certain credibility with them that some of us may not have. They're almost peers to them. It's a real gift."

Emmanuel Arias, 21, from Concord, North Carolina, was one of the NET team leaders. He said God brought him to NET through a circuitous route.

"I moved to North Carolina from Florida in 2015," Arias said. "I met this guy, his name was Michael, and he was a youth minister. He kind of changed my life and helped me come to know my faith. He made me feel loved by God. He suggested I apply to NET. I took some time to think about it and pray about it, and I applied. At that time, though, my family situation wouldn't allow me to follow through for that year. I ended up going to college for two years and studied psychology. My sophomore year, I felt like

I wasn't in the right spot. I wasn't where I needed to be. I was really not in a good place. I turned to my faith, and I turned to God. I decided to reapply to NET and see what happened. I got accepted."

Members of the NET team use music, theater, personal testimonies, games and more to help youth connect to God and their faith.

"Seeing the transformations in the youth from start to end is really amazing," said Annika Kolarsky, 18, of Wisconsin, a NET team member. "The groups start out quiet. By the end, they're hugging us and thanking us and telling us we changed their lives and changed their view of faith. There are hard parts, but the positives outweigh the negatives."

"We think we're serving the youth, but everyone on the team that's given this opportunity gets a lot out of it, too," added Arias. "Everything we do, God works through us tenfold.

We think we're going to help the youth get closer to God, but God keeps bringing us closer to Him. It's a gift and blessing for us, too."

Jensen Akin, 13, of Plattsburgh, said it was his first retreat.

"It was good," he said. "My favorite part was when we talked to Jesus."

Akin described the young ministry team as "cool and nice," and he said it was a different experience hearing about Jesus from people close to his age.

"It was kind of weird and unusual, but I was able to get through it," he said.

He also noted that he was able to meet peers from around the region.

"There were a lot of new faces," he said. "I met a lot of people for the first time."

The NET Team almost didn't make it to the event after vehicle troubles left

them stranded outside of Pittsburgh for a time.

"We put in a lot of miles," Arias said. "We've had this year since we started this in mid-August. When we'd hit a certain speed, the transmission would act up. We took it to a shop."

While repairs to their van were ongoing, NET arranged to send a new van from Minnesota to meet the team in Pittsburgh.

"It didn't seem ideal, but we didn't break down and we did what we needed to do to keep going," Arias said. "I appreciate the commitment NET has to the ministry. Having someone drive all that way was huge to us."

After the delayed travels, they were glad to be in the North Country.

"Everyone has been very welcoming," said Kolarsky.

Editor's note: See photos of the NET retreats on the Page 10.

What is a Foster Grandparent?

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs. The program provides a way for volunteers age 55 and over to stay active by serving children and youth in their communities. They are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic learning skills, friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help. The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 kids per year.

The Foster Grandparent Program is hosted by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and supported by AmeriCorps Seniors, a federally funded agency responsible for building volunteer based programs for over 50 years and counting.



Am I Qualified to be a Foster Grandparent?

All you need to join is the ability to give the kind of comfort and love that sets a child on the path toward a successful future. If you're 55 or older and want to share your experience and compassion, you have what it takes to be a Foster Grandparent.

You'll also receive a small bi-weekly, non-taxable stipend that cannot be held against any current benefits you may already have as well as paid mileage for your travel. Additionally, you receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.



Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I and along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!"

Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@cathcharities.org

80 Park Street, Suite 2
PO Box 701
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL Massena, New York

Is seeking applicants for the position of
PRINCIPAL
For the School Year 2022-23

Applicants should:

- Possess a Master's Degree in Education and/or Education Administration/Supervision;
- Be a practicing Catholic;
- Have successful experience(s) in a Catholic school;
- Give evidence of administrative leadership skills in Catholic identity, instructional evaluation, management, promotion and maintenance of an effective learning environment and school advancement.

Applicants should send a cover letter expressing their suitability for the position, resume, a completed application (available at www.rcdony.org under Offices and then selecting Education), transcripts and two letters of recommendation attesting to the candidate's proven administrative ability and one letter of recommendation attesting to the person's adherence to the Catholic Church, no later than May 6, 2022 to:

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSI,
Superintendent of Schools
100 Elizabeth Street
Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

AT THE NET CONFIRMATION RETREATS



(Left) Youth play 'Paper, Rock, Scissors' with members of the NET Ministry Team during the confirmation retreat held at St. Mary's Social Hall in Massena. (Right) Youth from around the Jefferson-Lewis Deanery gathered at St. Cecilia's in Adams for the retreat, which included small group discussion.

At the movies: The Batman

NEW YORK (CNS) – Viewers will find themselves thoroughly absorbed by "The Batman" (Warner Bros.). Di-

rector and co-writer Matt Reeves' reboot of the DC Comics-based franchise is a darkly powerful affair,

and its script – penned with Peter Craig – plays with the interesting question whether the iconic crime-fighter of the title is, in fact, a hero.

The film's dialogue, however, is marred by unusually frequent violations of the Second Commandment while, aesthetically, an excessive running time just shy of three hours makes the proceedings feel overstuffed. Still, the result is too much of a very good thing.

Robert Pattinson dons the black cowl and presents us with a troubled, self-doubting Bruce Wayne, one who recognizes that, while he may keep to the right side of the law, his ability to deter villains arises from the fear he inspires in them. His alter ego's unexpected emergence from the shadows is a recurring visual motif.

Reeves' Gotham City is not only prey to widespread crime but to political corruption at the

highest levels. The latter problem has drawn the attention of The Riddler (Paul Dano), a masked, internet-savvy psychopath whose solution is to assassinate a series of crooked local leaders, beginning with the mayor (Rupert Penry-Jones).

To stop the killing spree, Batman enters into an uneasy alliance with honest but beleaguered police officer Lt. Gordon (Jeffrey Wright). He establishes an equally volatile partnership with Selina Kyle (Zoë Kravitz), this iteration's version of the Catwoman.

Bruce, meanwhile, benefits from the protective care of Alfred (Andy Serkis) whose role here is more that of an adoptive father than a butler. Bruce will need all the backup he can get since he will have to tangle with both the Al Capone-like Penguin (Colin Farrell) and Carmine Falcone (John Turturro), the city's leading gangster, to catch up with the elusive Riddler.

Reeves' atmospheric production, bolstered by

Michael Giacchino's doom-laden score, is rich in moral complexity and striking performances. Pattinson's lonely, appealingly vulnerable Bruce navigates the ethical ambiguities of his crusade with ultimate success and resolutely guides Selina away from vigilan- tism and revenge.

Yet, while neither the creativity nor the screenplay's commitment to humane values flags, watching "The Batman" eventually becomes a taxing experience. Thus, by the time the foundation is laid for a sequel, moviegoers may feel as though they've already seen the first half of it.

The film contains much harsh violence with some gore, gruesome images, drug use, pervasive profanity, a few milder oaths, at least one rough term and considerable crudel language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



As Catholics, we're pilgrim people. We're journeying together with Christ toward a common destination: eternal life with our loving God. Despite the distances and differences that separate us, the *North Country Catholic* helps us, the Diocese of Ogdensburg, stay

ON THE JOURNEY TOGETHER NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENBURG

- Personal stories of faith
- Parish and Diocesan News
- Important messages from Bishop Terry R. LaValley
- A fresh perspective on Catholic news from around the nation and world
- Scripture Reflections
- Receive you copy in print by mail or have it emailed to you!

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW
TO THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC TODAY!

- Place your envelope in your parish collection
- Online at our website: www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Call our office at 315-608-7556



Due to an error in our records we failed to recognize the following for being a Patron donor (\$35) to the *North Country Catholic*.

Mr. Thomas Hanno, St. Peter's Church, Lowville.
We apologize for this error and thank you for your support.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A burning bush and a fig tree

One of the last homilies of our retired Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, emphasizes how intimately our Church is connected to Sacred Scripture and must always preach the Word. It is so important for every Catholic to hear God speaking personally in the readings we hear at Mass.

The first reading this Sunday narrates God's call to Moses. Up to this point, Moses had been just a lowly shepherd "on the run" for murdering an Egyptian. He is about to become a man with a mission. As he is tending the



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

sheep one day, his attention is drawn to a bush on fire. The bush is not destroyed. As he approaches, he hears a divine command to take off his sandals. Then, in shock, he hears God calling him to free his own people, the Israelites, from slavery. He gives God excuse after excuse in protest, but to no avail. God then reveals His name to Moses: "I am who Am - Yahweh!" In fear and trembling, Moses goes back to Egypt to announce God's decision to the elders. He's armed with the power of God's name, never revealed

March 20

Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9

before. He is a God who is always present to His world - "I am who Am".

On our Christian journey through Lent, we, like Moses, are often reluctant to carry out the work God called us to at our baptism. That mission is to be Christ-bearers to the world, preaching the Gospel by the example of our lives. In Lent especially, we do this through daily prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, as well as through love and service

to our neighbor.

Should we stick to our comfort zone this Sunday as we hear Jesus struggle to convince his "righteous" hearers that it's time for action, time for them to repent of their sins and change their ways before God's grows tired, and brings them to final justice? Toward the end of the Gospel, Jesus tells them about the owner of the vineyard who wants to cut down his barren fig tree. Year after year, he's waited. Now he's tired of waiting. Fortunately, he's persuaded to wait just one more year... just one more year!

That fig tree is a symbol of each one of us today. In what way have we perhaps

exhausted God's patience? Lent is the time for some action on our part that will remedy that. St. Paul, in his exhortation to the Corinthians, is urging them not to be complacent with all the good they have done, but to make sure they have gotten rid of any sinfulness in their lives.

Except for World War II and Vietnam, most of us have never seen the world in such a dangerous condition. We've never had such fear from the pandemic. We're almost to the middle of Lent. Now is the time for us to seriously seek personal conversion as never before. Now is the time for bring new intensity into our fasting, penance, and almsgiving.

CALLED TO SERVE

Speak up! I can't hear you!

Jim Collins stood in the back of the auditorium at Bishop Reilly High School in Queens, New York, and in his finest school yard voice bellowed "I can't hear you!" to the people on stage.

Collins was the theater director for my high school, and this was a rehearsal for one of our productions at Bishop Reilly. Ironically, I remember hearing Russ Faunce, the theater director at Watertown High, repeatedly make the same observation, "I can't hear you!" to the actors when my daughter was in high school shows. Some things never change.

Those were the days when stage performers learned to speak to the back row by projecting their voice loud enough to fill the auditorium. Note I said project, not yell. Pronounce it PRO-ject not prah-ject. Think of it as

throw. We throw our voice to the audience.

We project our voice when we use our chest cavity as the primary amplifier instead of the voice box, or throat, mouth or nasal cavity.

I read an item recently that said, "If you are like most people, you probably yell or shout to be heard. The problem with increasing your volume in this manner is that it is hard on your throat and vocal cords. And it can also be hard on your listeners' ears."

Projecting our voice takes some training. That's why God invented sound systems. So, we would not have to learn to project our voices, or yell to be heard.

Some deacons and priests think they do not

need a microphone in a large church. Pardon me. You are wrong gentlemen. Let me explain why.

Sound systems amplify our speech. The microphone will not correct your mispronunciations or compensate for a poor reader or homilist. The little gadget will make sure, if the system is on and the volume dials are all set in the right position, that everyone in church hears you. It

guarantees your message, prayers and missteps will all be heard.

It is also wrong to think you only need a microphone sometimes during liturgy. That presumption creates imbalance. The lector reads scripture from an ambo with a microphone, the cantor is singing using a microphone. It is folly to



**Deacon
Kevin Mastellon**

think you can match those amplified levels without a microphone at the chair, for example.

A terrific example of balance has been given us by COVID. Many churches are now streaming Mass and other liturgies. It is obvious when a minister who speaks is not using a microphone or forgets to turn it on. The imbalance between those ministers and the others who are using microphones is striking.

If members of your con-

gregation say, "I can't hear you," it is usually for one of two reasons. You are not using your sound system correctly or they forgot their hearing aids. Sometimes it's both.

So put your notion that you speak loud enough to be heard without a microphone to bed. In truth, you do not.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.

Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669
www.sisterspreciousblood.org

Fifth, sixth Stations of the Cross

Instead of our regular reflections, throughout this holy season of Lent, the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be featuring Stations of the Cross.

These Stations of the Cross were assembled by Maureen Crowley Heil, director of Programs and Development for the Pontifical Mission Societies and the Archdiocese of Boston.

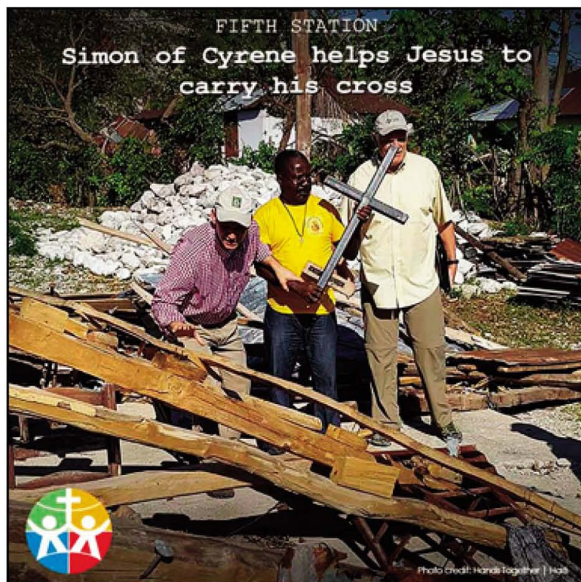


The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

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

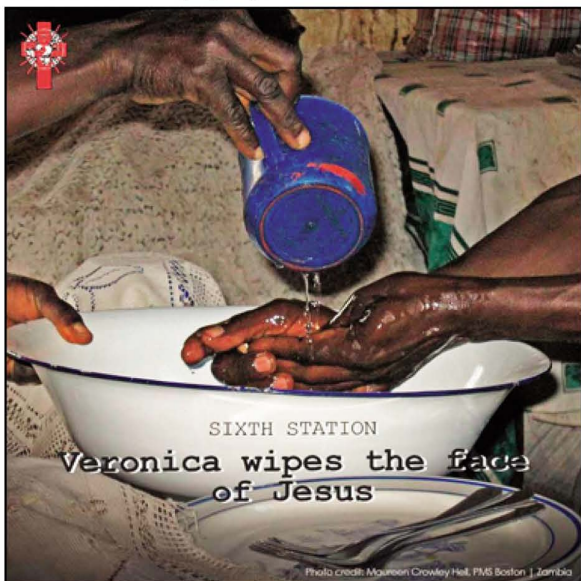
Reader: In Zambia, the simple gesture of helping someone to be clean can bring the loving touch of God to them. Lord Jesus, help us to value the gifts we have like clean water, as we share our blessings so that others may feel Your gentle touch through us.

Sixth Station: All: Because by your
 Leader: We adore You, O Holy Cross, You have re-
 Christ, and we bless you. deemed the world.



Fifth Station:
 Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we bless you.
 All: Because by your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.
 Reader: The missionaries of Haiti are stepping forward to help people

rebuild their lives after so many disasters – natural and man-made. Lord Jesus, we pray to always be ready to help others carry their burdens and share the problems that life brings to them.



REVEAL Christ's LOVE

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

Copyright © 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Photo: Eric Salguero for CRS.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection helps **Jesus in disguise**. Funds from this Collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

Collection Weekend: March 26 & 27