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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 77 Number 41

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 8, 2023

RITE OF ELECTION



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Rite of Election with catechumens, individuals preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and enter the Church at the Easter Vigil, from around the diocese on Feb. 26. See the full story on Page 3. See additional photos on Page 8.

TIME WITH JESUS, FAMILIES



Holy Cross Parish Catechist Brenda Smith teaches children and families about Adoration in the Holy Family Adoration Chapel located in the downstairs of St. John's Church. Holy Cross Parish is offering Family Adoration this Lent. So far, more than 15 families have signed up to spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope: Devil uses 'dangerous temptations'

By Courtney Mares
Catholic News Agency

On the first Sunday of Lent, Pope Francis warned of three "widespread and dangerous temptations" that the devil uses to separate us from God and divide us from each other.

In his Angelus address on Feb. 26, the pope said that the devil uses three "powerful poisons" to attack and divide Christian communities: attachment to material things, mistrust, and the thirst for power.

"[These] are three widespread

and dangerous temptations that the devil uses to divide us from the Father and to make us no longer feel like brothers and sisters among ourselves, to lead us to solitude and desperation. This is what he wanted to do to Jesus and what he wants to do to us, to lead us to despair," Francis said.

The pope pointed to the Gospel of Matthew to offer advice for how to overcome the three types of temptations, as Jesus did when he was tempted by the devil after 40 days of fasting in the desert.

"Jesus defeats the temptations. But how does he conquer them?

By avoiding discussion with the devil and responding with the Word of God," he said.

Pope Francis explained that Jesus resisted the devil "by opposing him in faith with the Divine Word."

To counteract the temptations of attachment to material things, mistrust, and the thirst for power, Jesus quotes three phrases from Scripture that speak of freedom from goods, trust, and service to God.

"In this way, Jesus teaches us to defend unity with God and among ourselves from the attacks of the divider," he said.

The pope encouraged people to turn to the Word of God in their spiritual struggles and in times of temptation.

"If I have a vice or a recurring temptation, why not obtain help by seeking out a verse of the Word of God that responds to that vice?" he said. "Then, when temptation comes, I recite it, I pray it, trusting in the grace of Christ."

"May Mary, who welcomed the Word of God and with her humility defeated the pride of the divider, accompany us in the spiritual struggle of Lent," he said.

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Not the expected answer

I'm 99.9 percent positive it wasn't the answer she was expecting.

When you work for the Catholic Church or talk regularly about your faith, people start asking you their questions about Catholicism, Christianity and/or organized religion. It used to make me uncomfortable, and I constantly feared saying the wrong thing or answering the wrong way.

After a handful of years of this, though, I'm pretty used to it now. While I still worry about saying the right thing, I try hard

to leave that to the Holy Spirit and hope for the best.

So, it didn't bother me when, in the context of another conversation, an acquaintance asked if I considered it hypocritical that so many people "attend church on Sunday and sin on Monday."

My acquaintance wasn't the first person to ask me that question. I've been asked that question at least a handful of times. Normally, I answer with a sort of standard response "I've developed about "failing to meet the mark."

This time, before I had

time to even think it through, my mouth answered:

"You know people who make it to Monday? I'm lucky if I make it out of the church parking lot before I'm thinking some mean thought or gossiping or doing something I shouldn't do. We don't all pile into a church because we think we're awesome and we want to show the world how holy we are. I'm there because I'm a sinner. I'm there because I need a savior."

While I think my acquaintance appreciated the response, I think the Holy Spirit wanted me to get that message, too.

I have a bad habit of

falling into self-reliance as I try to overcome my sinfulness and the lesser parts of my personality. I have a habit of thinking I can fix myself if I just work hard enough.

"I'm there because I need a savior."

The reality is that if I could fix myself, I would've done it by now. Sadly, I'm still a sinner and I'm still flawed.

It's appropriate that I was given this reminder just as Lent was starting. What better time is there to try to focus on opening my heart and allowing Jesus to work on sinful nature, bad habits and flaws?

And it wasn't the answer I was expecting.



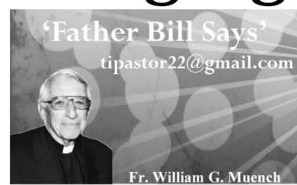
Darcy L.
Fargo

Changing our habits

Today, I would like to begin by thanking you for being a faithful reader of the North Country Catholic. This paper continues to be an important part of the life of the Diocese of Ogdensburg – uniting our diocese and bringing the people of all of our parishes into one family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for joining me each week here in this space. I want you to know that I consider all of you, my readers, as friends. Each week as I prepare to write this column, I think of you all. Please know that you and your families are remembered in my prayers and Masses.

Today, in this column, I would like to share with you some ideas that I picked up from a homily that I listened to lately. I liked it.

It started with a story: There was a king in a particular place. He often walked through the streets of his kingdom. One day he was approached by a beggar dressed in rags. The man asked the king for some



Fr. William G. Muench

money. The king did not give him anything, but he did invite him to visit the royal palace. The beggar agreed to visit.

So, on a day, the beggar came to the palace. Needless to say, he felt very uncomfortable dressed in his rags. The king was pleased to see him and welcomed him. The king gave him many things including a new suit of clothes. However, a few days later the beggar was back begging on the street dressed in his old rags.

Why did he refuse to wear his new suit? This beggar quickly realized that when he would wear this new suit, he would have to change his whole lifestyle. He would have to live in a way he was not accustomed. He decided he was not ready to give up his former lifestyle. A new

lifestyle did appeal to him. However, he knew that all the changes would demand slow and painful action – an uncertain future. He just couldn't accept any changes. He was simply too steeped in those unassuming days of being a simple beggar dressed in rags.

Our lives are about our habits. We live the second half of our lives according to the habits that we have developed during the first half. That is fine if we have developed good habits. However, this means a poor prospect for those who have been formed by bad habits.

Let us talk about Lent, our Lent. We join Jesus in the desert. It's a time for the huge challenge of considering our habits, a time to look over our lives. Each year, Lent is that time to improve ourselves. We could consider this like finding a new garment, a good garment. This means we are ready to throw away that old garment, those old bad habits. The new garment means new changes and living a new way of life draw-

ing closer to Jesus' image. Am I ready for such a change?

For each of us, Lent is meant to be a time of change. To be successful Lent means first to change those inner attitudes of our minds. The changes of Lent mean the substituting of new habits for the old ones that seem to be so imperfect. To accomplish such a necessary change of heart that Lent asks of us, will be possible only through the power of prayer.

Lent is our great window of opportunity. During Lent, each year, catechumens are prepared for baptism. Each year, we, the baptized, are called upon to celebrate again the experience of our own baptism. It's time to rededicate ourselves to being good disciples of Our Lord and God.

What do we have to do? In a nutshell: turn power into love; be kind; act justly, walk humbly with our God. May the Lord help us to let go of the rags of sin, so that God may clothe us in a newness of life.



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Candidates, those who have been baptized but have not received the sacraments of the Eucharist and/or confirmation, participated in the Call to Continuing Conversion with Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Sunday, Feb. 26, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Rite of Election and Call to Conversion

On Feb. 26, the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion were celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at St. Mary's Cathedral.

In the Rite of Election, catechumens, those who have never been baptized, mark their entry into the final phase of their preparation to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. Following the rite, the catechumens become "elect," since they have been elected by the Church to become members.

In the Call to Continuing Conversion, individuals who have been baptized but have not received the sacraments of the Eucharist and/or confirmation, known as "candidates," are invited to join the elect in their final period of preparation.

Participating in the Rite of Election and Call to

Continuing Conversion were:

The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter

Candidate – Tamara Salaun

The Roman Catholic Community of St. Mary's in Canton

Catechumen – Taylor Thomas

Candidate – Susan Hughes

The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont

Catechumen – Linda Wilkins

St. Joseph's, Dannemora & Church of the Assumption, Redford

Candidate – Dillan Drollette

Catholic Community of St. Peter, St. Mary and St. Hedwig in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville

Candidates – Antoinette Earles and Michael Poste

St. Alexander's Church, Morrisonville

Catechumens – Jasper Simmons, Alan Sim-

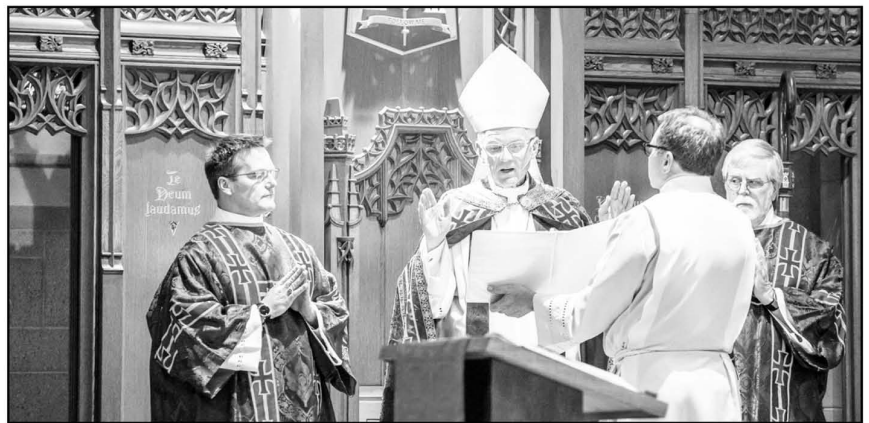


PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley was aided in the celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion by, from left, Deacon James Carlin, Deacon James Crowley, Deacon Patrick Donahue and (not pictured) Deacon Richard Burns.

mons, Matthew Senecal, Ben Edwards, Michael Ormsby and Daniel Vincent

Candidates – Jacqueline Prather, Kimberly Perrier, Jamie Havicon, Jeff Havicon, Sharon Rock, Tyler Rock, Andrea Seymour, Paula Vincent and Amanda Bushey

St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg

Candidate – Barbara Porter

Holy Cross Parish, Plattsburgh
Candidate – Joseph Murtaugh

Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary's, Potsdam

Candidates – James Chase and Laura Zuckerman

St. Mary's Church, Ticonderoga

Catechumen – Zachary Dishaw

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Watertown

Catechumens – Miyah Millan and Liyah Millan
Candidates – Kimberly Millan, Natalie Neaves and Maria Roman

Spending time with Jesus, families

Plattsburgh's Holy Cross Parish starts family Adoration

By **Mary Beth Bracy**
Contributing Writer

PLATTSBURGH – “I have to tell my mom what I saw!” exclaimed one of the elementary school students the first time that they gazed upon Jesus in the Holy Eucharist exposed in the monstrance at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. “Are we going to visit Jesus?” a three year old asked, wondering if they were going to the Adoration chapel again.

Desiree Kirk, director of Religious Education at Holy Cross Parish, shared her students' testimonies.

Instead of having the students sit for an hour and listen to grownups talk the whole time, she and the other teachers set up four stations for kids to learn about: a saint, music, the Bible and Catechism, and to experience Adoration. Desiree was inspired to move in this direction by simple research. When her computer wasn't printing properly, she googled which saint to ask for help.

“I came across Blessed Carlos Acutis and fell in love,” Kirk said. “I took my four children, ages three to thirteen, to see the Eucharistic miracles exhibit. So few people go to Adoration because they were never taught what it is. Carlos Acutis is such a relatable saint. He said to ‘pray to be a saint’ every day.”

When the teachers, including Brenda Smith and Sister Jackie Selapan, began the stations and brought the pre-K to 5th grade students to

Adoration, they were enthusiastic. Children went home and told their parents.

“A mom asked if she could join,” Desiree continued. “We asked parents to sign up for Adoration with their families during Lent on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays. Over 15 families have signed up for the six weeks of Lent. If it is successful, I will continue it. Two other teachers are also sacrificing their time. I am so excited to have this opportunity.”

Edge students (6th – 8th grade) and families are also participating. Courtney Khristiansen, Middle School Faith Formation Director, often brainstorms and collaborates with Desiree. Nate Pultorak, Holy Cross' organist and choir director, helps with the music.

“Attendance has risen exponentially,” Kirk noted.

This led to a monthly “Family Fun Day” where parents are invited to participate. At Thanksgiving time, Desiree reflected, families were invited and teachers showed them how we get all ready for Thanksgiving, setting up the table carefully. Then, they pulled everything away and families saw what looked like an altar set up for Mass. Teachers explained that the Mass was the real first Thanksgiving.

Based on positive feedback these experiences continued. Families spend time learning about the Bible and sacraments, make crafts together, have snacks and time for family pic-



PHOTO BY DESIREE KIRK

Catechist Brenda Smith teaches children and families about Adoration in the Holy Family Adoration Chapel located in the downstairs of St. John's Church.

tures.

“The kids are the teachers,” said Kirk. “Parents are starving to be part of what their kids are doing.”

Kirk related a story about parents and children at Adoration. One day, a little boy showed his dad where Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is present in the monstrance. The dad said, “That represents Jesus.” The seven year old replied, “It is Jesus.” The dad answered “It symbolizes Jesus.” The boy responded: “If you walk up to Him, you can tell Him all your problems. Jesus loved Himself into that (the Holy Eucharist).”

Another boy started going with his dad to Adoration.

“Kids need to practice their faith and see it in action,” Kirk said. “It is something amazing for them. It is making an impact even with my own kids.”

Kirk's eldest son said, “I have to put into action what's in my heart,” and decided to go to the March for Life in Washington, DC. Students also organized a baby shower for the Gabriel Project

and made pillows as gifts.

Sister Jackie brings the three year olds, including Kirk's daughter, to Adoration. When they enter the chapel some say “Hi Jesus” and wave to Him. Kirk's daughter and one of her friends make a “phone call” to Jesus. “They know all the prayers.”

The teachers use children friendly resources to teach the children about the Real Presence of Jesus and Eucharistic Adoration. One is a special interactive journal for catholicprouts.com.

“(At first) kids may not know what to do or might not be able to stay for very long,” Kirk said. One time, the children offered a whole Rosary at Adoration and were very proud that they prayed the whole thing.

“We're really encouraging prayers so they can say them in their hearts,” Kirk added.

There is a new section on the Holy Cross Parish website where people can submit prayer intentions that the students will pray for at Adoration: <https://holycrosspb.org>

/faith-formation

“We printed out Miracles of the Eucharist stories that children would enjoy and showed the kids the posters in the Eucharistic Adoration chapel,” Kirk explained. “We taught the kids how to be in there. We hung up a picture of the monstrance until ‘the big reveal.’ The kids were so quiet (when they saw Jesus exposed in the monstrance) they were gasping.”

The students always have activities to take home such as crosswords, craft, and coloring pages to help learn about prayers. In class, they learn about the meaning behind what we do to celebrate our faith. For instance, once they “built” Easter Candles and the teachers explained all of the Greek symbols on the candle. Kids who used to skip classes for sports now say “I can't miss!”

During Lent, they will also be offering Stations of the Cross for children and families.

“It's a team effort – we thrive, grow, and bloom,” Kirk said. “The program is stronger because of the Holy Spirit.” They currently have seventy three kids in pre-K to fifth grade, 20 in grades six through eight, and about 30 in confirmation class.

Kirk said she would be happy to talk with anyone who is interested in more information about their program and may be reached at the parish offices at 518-563-0730.

“We love our kids. I want them to have fun with faith and touch kids' hearts because they'll want to practice it more,” she said. “My mission is for every kid to find their happiness and joy in God.”



Augustinian Academy kindergarten students River Walts and Rocco Boccuti complete a blubber/ice water challenge during the school's Winter STEM Days. The winter break program was funded by a grant from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

Winter STEM days make science fun at Augustinian

CARTHAGE – Thanks to grant funding from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Augustinian Academy students were able to spend time on their winter break having fun with Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Led by teachers Katie Clarkson and Shannon Margrey and aided by parent volunteers and middle school helpers Anna Clarkson and Jordan Folsom, Augustinian Academy students kicked off their Winter STEM Days learning about animal adaptations in winter.

Students completed a blubber/ice water challenge, hunted camouflaged candy, created winter habitats for animals visiting from warmer climates and cre-

ated pinecone bird feeders to take home.

While one day of the program was cancelled due to weather, the students were also able to gather for Lego and robotics experiments and learning as part of the program.

"It's always fun to see students having such a great time learning with hands-on science," said Clarkson. "They amaze me with their creativity and problem-solving skills. I often learn from them the way they think outside the box to find solutions!"

The program wasn't just fun for the teachers.

"My favorite thing was the animal habitats," said Nathan Rumschlag, a fourth-grade student. "I also learned about camouflage. I didn't know an-

imals could blend in like that!"

"My favorite thing was painting the habitats," added Savannah Kimball, also a fourth-grade student at Augustinian. "I also liked learning about layers and blubber."

As part of that experiment, students dipped their hands in a bowl of ice water then did it again with their hands coated in shortening. The students compared how long they could withstand the cold.

The Winter STEM Days were free for student participants thanks to the funding from the Cabrini grant.

"They have been very generous in helping us to provide enrichment activities for children in the community," Clarkson said.



CATHOLIC
SISTERS WEEK

Honoring Catholic Sisters

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Diocesan Vocations Coordinator

Catholic Sisters Week is celebrated every March 8 through 14.

This week is a celebration that began in March 2014 during Women's History Month to honor religious Catholic women and remember Catholic sisters who have passed away.

The week focuses on how the light of Christ shines on the spirituality, mission and community building of women religious.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has been blessed with many religious communities that have provided Catholic education to the students in Catholic schools, religious education programs, adult faith formation and permanent deacon formation.

They have reached out in the diocese who continually stand with the poor and immigrants, fight injustice, visit the sick, pray with them, share spirituality, empower women to serve, defend the planet, promote peace and justice, create community, offer hope and more.

During this special week of March 8-14, there is a role that individuals, organizations, parishes, schools, religious education programs can in some way honor a particular sister or religious community for their work. Honor the sister or community by attending a parish or school event, supporting a congregation's work with a collection or donation, offering prayers or sending a thank you card for their service.

Catholic sisters bring abundant hope to our Church and the world, especially to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

For resources, visit catholicsistersweek.org.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more



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Environmental Stewardship

Tending to our seniors

Here in the North Country, our society is aging. There has been a steady decline in the birth rate causing older people to become an increasingly large segment of our population. Retired individuals are moving into the Adirondacks or surrounding lowlands to spend their golden years.

As people age, health issues tend to arise, and many seniors begin to limit their travels to doctors, pharmacies and grocery stores. For many, socialization drops, which can trigger loneliness and depression.

As Christians, we are taught to visit the sick and the imprisoned. While many of us may not know anyone in the hospital or in prison, most of us are aware of older individuals in the neighborhood who are not getting out much anymore or of someone living in a retirement home.

Many older people become hesitant to drive to attend Mass. These individuals may like a ride or to receive a bulletin to keep abreast of what is going on in the parish. They may also like to have someone pray with them or even have the Eucharist brought to them.

Spending time picking up plastics from the ground, planting flowers or tending vegetables are all helpful ways to benefit nature. Chatting with a shut-in, driving an elderly neighbor or saying the rosary with a parishioner now in a nursing home are equally beneficial ways to sow the seeds of peace for our world.

An elderly person sitting in a chair is seen by some as having nothing left to contribute to society, but that individual is still full of potential. Prayer has a far greater power to change conditions and open hearts than most people can ever imagine. An elderly person praying can be of tremendous benefit, and we must never allow this resource to be forgotten.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg can schedule sessions of *Protecting God's Children for Adults*. For more information, contact Jeannie Grizzuto in the diocesan Safe Environment Office at 315-393-2920 or jgrizzuto@rcdony.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 8 – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

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

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

March 13 – Rev. James Keveny, 1880; Rev. Ferdinand J. Ouellet, 1929; Rev. Joseph A. Bachand, 1950

March 14 – Msgr. Maurice John Bellamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

OBITUARIES

Bombay – Louis J. Durant, 80; Graveside Services in spring at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Carthage – Gladys J. (West) Collins, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2023 at the Lundy Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Champlain – Norma J. (Duquette) Babbie, 83; Mass of Christian burial at St. Mary's Church.

Lake Placid – Daniel C. Farrell, 75; Mass of Christian Burial March 4, 2023 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Rose of Lima Catholic Cemetery, Alder Brook.

Lake Placid – Ruben Lennart Folin, 82; Mass of Christian Burial at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Dr. Megan E. Cartier, 44; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2023 at St. Peter's Church.

Malone – Robert L. Lavoie, 59; Mass of Christian burial to be held at a later date; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Charlotte M. (Gravell) Levesque, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2023 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Lawrence A. Pellerin, 72; Funeral Services March 4, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Thomas Frederick Gregware, 69; Mass of Christian Burial March 17, 2023 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St.

Mary's of the Lake Cemetery.

Port Leyden – Andrew Richard Ossont, 72; Graveside Services in spring at Calvary Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Dr. William Camil Maroun, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 3, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Victor Joseph Capone, 88; Private Services to be held; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery

Watertown – Paul M. Reese, 54; Mass of Christian Burial March 2, 2023 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

West Chazy – Donald J. Miner, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Feb. 28, 2023 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC, 5050 Route 374, Merrill, NY 12955; terrianneyanulavich@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.

Bishop's Public Schedule

March 8 – Parish Lenten Mission for St. James Church in Gouverneur, Sacred Heart Church in Edwards and St. Hubert's Church in Star Lake

March 9 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 10 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence

March 11 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 12 – 9:30 a.m. – Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

March 13 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

March 14 – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

12:15 p.m. – Diocesan Staff Lenten Day of Reflection at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

March 15 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a Luncheon with the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society Officers at Bishop's Residence

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Giving themselves away for nothing

As internet pornography continues to make inroads into the daily lives of millions, greater numbers of young women are making the decision to participate in its production, with some even seeing it as a "path of empowerment" for themselves. They may hear about the "success stories" of porn stars, one of whom declared during a media interview a few years back that her breast implants were the best investment she had ever made, making her a multi-millionaire.

Young women today can indeed be tempted to "play the pornography card," but as girls become women, parents and society face the important task of conveying to them that when they immodestly display their feminine attributes and participate in pornography, they end up objectifying themselves, trivializing their sexuality, and harming their interpersonal relationships.

In a recent interview, Pamela Anderson Lee, the former Baywatch actress, revealed how her

Playboy photo spreads and pornographic videos impacted her sons and left them in tears after being teased at school about her sex tape with their father and her ex-husband Tommy Lee.

She explained: "I wasn't thinking when I was in Playboy that I was going to have kids soon and they were going to grow up and it was going to be embarrassing for them..."

"I remember one day after school Dylan came to me in tears and he was like, 'Mom why did you do that tape?' ...But I always thought I'd tell them, age-appropriate – but I never got the chance – they always found out before I could really talk to them about it."

Her other son Brandon described it this way: "When I was a kid, I thought everyone knew things about me and my family that they never should've known. Everyone had this dirty little secret about my family."

The powerful misappropriation of a woman's sexuality through involvement in pornography can wreak havoc on multiple fronts.

Another front where chaos can arise as sexual mores shift is in the very delicate interpersonal area of sexual attraction that is ordered to connecting young women to young men through a stable marital commitment.

Many young women, for example, feel pressured to sleep with and cohabit with dates and boyfriends to try to win them over and perhaps one day marry them. It should come as little surprise that these kinds of relational mistakes on the part of a young woman often lead a young man to ask the proverbial question: Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free? The unique influence or leverage that a young woman has with a potential future husband is squandered away.

A woman who is not sexually available before marriage is perceived and approached differently by men: they have to put in the effort to woo and win her, and later she is a "catch" and a "treasure" as she becomes a man's "better half."

In contemporary hook up culture, meanwhile, young women give themselves away for nothing, and men don't have to woo anyone or bother with the complexities of interpersonal relationships or real-life intimacy skills.

As men are drawn into the addictive world of pornography, they similarly devalue women by reducing their gifts to a single highly sexualized dimension. This disrupts healthy patterns of attraction and courtship that are meant to lead to male-female friendship, bonding and marriage.

As Fred Rabinowitz, a psychologist and professor at the University of Redlands who studies masculinity has noted, young men today "are watching a lot of social media, they're watching a lot of porn, and I think they're getting a lot of their needs met without having to go out. And I think that's starting to be a habit."

Parents face a real challenge in trying to convey to their sons and daughters that their sexuality is a gift to be treasured, not squandered. At times, they may need to be very direct in how they share their values with their children.

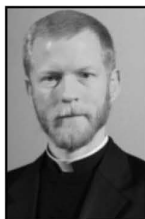
A friend once shared with me that as a teen,

she and her mom were watching a movie at the local theater when a mostly unclad woman doing a pole dance unexpectedly flashed up on the screen. Her mom, a woman of fortitude, hardly missed a beat as she gently leaned over to her daughter to whisper just three words: "I'll kill you...!"

The moment left an indelible impression, and nearly 50 years later, my friend still appreciates her mother's humorous but direct and loving approach in conveying the importance of modesty for a young woman's maturing sexuality.

The remarkable gifts of a woman – her "feminine genius" as Pope John Paul II used to refer to it – including the gift of her sexual nature and her interpersonal acumen, need to be esteemed and safeguarded. Over the course of civilization, these gifts have built up the family, protected children, supported men through the bond of marriage, and more broadly strengthened the life of society itself. We need great courage and resolve today to protect and advance these precious gifts.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org and www.fathertad.com.



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.



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RITE OF ELECTION & CALL TO CONVERSION

Photos by Jesse Sovie



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Let Jesus satisfy our thirst

Have you ever been so thirsty that you could die for a drink of water?

I once told my wonderful fourth grade teacher, Sister Mary Daniel, that I was so thirsty I could die. She let me go for a drink of water!

Like the woman at the well in today's Gospel, we try every kind of water under the sun to satisfy our thirst. Later in life, we recognize that it's for more than physical thirst – it's thirst for happiness, satisfaction, peace of mind. We look for the wrong kind of water. Every day we travel many miles, spend all kinds of money and waste a lot of time, looking for something to quench our thirst. And most of the time it doesn't work!

Jesus offers us the spiritual water that really satisfies. He is offering us what he offered the Samaritan woman – water far superior to anything she had ever dreamed of. Certainly, her five husbands (plus her newest lover) hadn't brought her what she was really looking for. We know she had tried cheap love, and we presume she was no stranger to intoxication power, and money! This isn't a gentle lady whom comes to draw water from the well, but a toughened cynic. No wonder she is rude to this travel-dusty Jew, whom she is sure will avoid her with downcast eyes. Jews despised Samaritans who worshipped in the wrong church. But Jesus doesn't follow the accepted prejudice!

What a surprise, when Jesus', tired, hungry, and thirsty, asks her for a drink of water. He broke

all the rules in speaking to her. Now, he keeps on talking, ignoring her hostility, aware that, in this unexpected encounter, the Father has provided him with an opportunity for piercing the heart of this sinful woman with His love. Jesus forgets his own needs and offers this

woman living water, spiritual grace. Incredible! Finding her heart curious and open to this miraculous water, he proceeds to raise her vision. He asks her to go back and bring her husband to the well with her. Of course, this is the turning point of the story.

When he confronts her with the truth, she could have flounced off in righteous indignation and denial – but she doesn't. In humility, she accepts the reality of her sordid life. Because of her humility, Jesus floods her soul with grace. Dropping her bucket, she runs back to spread the good news. "I've found the Messiah." And she had!

Lent is a time for us to let Jesus satisfy our thirst. Like the Samaritan woman, we find real joy and satisfaction in letting the Lord fill us with the grace of the season. Like her, we find that our joy is greatest when we share that gift with others – joining in a study or prayer group, in visiting a nursing home, in being patient with our family members, and really listening to them, in praying from the heart in a quiet place, in reflecting on the Word privately or at daily Mass, and letting the Eucharist change us into the Body of Christ.

The Samaritan woman never did give Jesus a

March 12

Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Exodus 17:3-7

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

John 4:5

drink of water as he had requested. Do we stop to realize that Jesus' thirst

for our love is even greater than our thirst for His love? I guess only saints understand that. It's what gives them the energy to pour themselves out in ministry up to their last breath.

Next Sunday, Lent will be half over. A question: "Are you satisfied with what you have done so far

to let Jesus into your life? Check out your prayer, your penance, your almsgiving. And what are you planning for the remainder of Lent. It's all about quenching your thirst for life – to shun the type of thirst-quencher that doesn't really satisfy, and to earnestly beg Jesus to give you His living water.



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

REVEAL Christ's LOVE

The Catholic Relief Services Collection is your opportunity to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people around the world and here in the United States. Your support funds organizations that aid travelers, people affected by war and natural disasters, others whose work or unique cultural circumstances require special pastoral support, and migrants and refugees displaced by conflict, persecution, or political instability.

One example is the people of South Sudan, which became an independent country in 2011 when its people overwhelmingly elected to separate from Sudan, making it the world's newest widely recognized sovereign state.

Clashes between rival ethnic groups then resulted in a civil war that lasted from 2013 through 2020, with millions fleeing to neighboring countries. Nearly one million South Sudanese refugees now shelter in neighboring Uganda, with many located in the Bidi Bidi refugee camp in northern Uganda. For Jimmy Luete, his wife, Jackie, and their daughter, Stella, Bidi Bidi has been home since they fled the war in 2016. Catholic Relief Services—through a comprehensive program of home building, training in hygiene practices, and leadership development—

has helped Jimmy become a leading advocate for refugee families in need.

When you contribute to The Catholic Relief Services Collection, you not only



strengthen programs that meet the immediate material needs of refugee families like Jimmy's, but you also empower and train future leaders who work to build peace and stability in their homelands.

Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . . In the United States

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

And Around the World

Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Syria and Niger . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection 2021

Grants

USCCB Migration & Refugee Services	\$1,356,112	34.68%
Holy Father's Relief Fund	\$1,000,000	25.57%
USCCB Cultural Diversity in the Church*	\$608,032	15.55%
USCCB International Justice & Peace	\$545,524	13.95%
USCCB Justice, Peace & Human Development Education & Outreach	\$140,893	3.60%

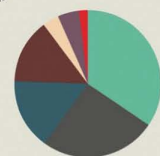
Administration

Promotion & Education Costs	\$184,672	4.72%
Administrative Expenses	\$74,932	1.92%



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Collection Weekend: March 18 & 19

70200401

The 'motorcycle missionary'

At the wheel of his "two-wheeler," he covered miles and miles on the rough roads of West Kalimantan in Indonesia. He visited villages, celebrated the Eucharist and gave the sacraments, catechized

children, young people and adults, brought the proclamation of the Gospel to indigenous groups who had never heard of Christ Jesus, led caravans with humanitarian aid, or simply made

long journeys to spend a few days with communities in remote places that very rarely saw a priest. This is why Monsignor Giulio Mencuccini, religious of the Congregation of the Passion, commonly

known as "Passionists," is nicknamed and known to all as the "motorcycle missionary," the means of transport that has accompanied his 48 years of missionary work in the forests of Borneo in Indonesia.

of local communities, recalling the many churches, schools, social centers and structures for young people that he built and organized, and which operate today.

During his 48 years as a missionary in Indonesia, he never stopped cultivating his passion as a missionary-cyclist during his short stays in Italy. He led hundreds of motorcyclists on the annual solidarity motorcycle ride from Fossacesia to Rosello, in his native region of Abruzzo. He also organized and led biker rallies to the sanctuary of San Gabriele dell'Addolorata (Teramo), also in Abruzzo, raising awareness among young bikers of solidarity and concrete help in the missions. The mission, he concludes, is to go, to move, to go towards one's neighbor, towards those who await a word of love, a message of hope for their lives, with the joy of the Gospel of Christ."

— Article from *FIDES missionary news service of the Pontifical Mission Societies.*

The bishop remembers with enthusiasm the time of his mission in Borneo: "I often wanted to make several visits to all the villages of the diocese and participate fully in the cultural and traditional festivities of the different places, so that I can really be with the faithful. Their faces, their simplicity, their faith, all these beautiful memories will always remain in my heart. I told the faithful that I consider them and will always consider them as brothers and sisters in the same faith."

The people of the Sanggau and Sekadau districts sent many messages of deep gratitude to the bishop-motorcyclist. Local civil authorities also thanked him and recognized his meritorious work for the development



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Monsignor Giulio Mencuccini, religious of the Congregation of the Passion, commonly known as "Passionists," is nicknamed and known to all as the 'motorcycle missionary.'

AG Garland grilled on anti-Catholic bias

By Tyler Arnold
Catholic News Agency

Attorney General Merrick Garland on Wednesday fielded questions from lawmakers regarding alleged anti-Catholic, anti-pro-life bias within the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In his responses to questioning before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the attorney general called a now-retracted Richmond FBI memo that suggested investigating traditionalist Catholics for possible ties to domestic terrorists "appalling."

Garland also defended the DOJ and FBI during heated exchanges with Republicans over whether federal agencies are biased against the pro-life movement in their enforcement of federal laws.

The FBI memo and allegations of anti-Catholic bias

In response to questioning from Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, Garland denounced a memo from the FBI's Richmond division, which detailed a strategy to investigate a link between "radical-traditionalist Catholic ideology" and "the far-right white nationalist movement."

The now-retracted memo discussed investigating Catholic parishes that offer the

Traditional Latin Mass and certain Catholic online communities. The document cited a list from the Southern Poverty Law Center to determine which organizations adhere to "radical-traditionalist Catholic ideology."

Hawley asked Garland whether the Department of Justice is "cultivating sources and spies in Latin Mass parishes and other Catholic parishes around the country."

"The Justice Department does not do that," Garland said. "It does not do investigations based on religion. I saw the document you have. It's appalling. I'm in complete agreement with you. I understand that the FBI has withdrawn it and it's now looking into how this could ever have happened."

Hawley pressed the issue further, asking Garland how many informants the FBI has in Catholic churches.

"I don't know and I don't believe we have any informants aimed at Catholic churches," Garland responded. "We have a rule against investigations based on First Amendment activity and Catholic churches are obviously First Amendment activity. But I don't know the specific answer to that

question."

Hawley criticized Garland for not providing a definitive answer to the question.

"You don't know the specifics of anything it seems, but apparently on your watch, this Justice Department is targeting Catholics, targeting people of faith, specifically for their faith views," Hawley said. "And Mr. Attorney General, I'll just say to you, it's a disgrace."

Alleged targeting of pro-life activists

Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, asked Garland to account for a disparity in the number of prosecutions of pro-life activists and pro-abortion activists under the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act. The FACE Act made it a federal crime to impede access to a pro-life pregnancy center or abortion clinic.

Lee noted that there have been 81 reported attacks on pro-life pregnancy centers "and only two individuals have been charged" with violating the FACE Act. Meanwhile, he said, 34 pro-life activists have been charged for blocking access to or vandalizing abortion clinics.

Garland acknowledged the disparity in prosecutions and attributed it to pro-life activists' tendency to operate openly, in the light of day.

"There are many more prosecutions with respect to the blocking of the abortion centers, but that is generally because those actions are taken with photography at the time, during the daylight and seeing the person who did it is quite easy," Garland responded.

"Those who are attacking the pregnancy re-

source centers, which is a horrid thing to do, are doing this at night in the dark. We have put full resources on this. We have put rewards out for this," he said.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, contrasted the lack of prosecutions involving crimes against pro-life pregnancy centers with the FBI's arrest of Mark Houck, a pro-life activist charged by the FBI for allegedly violating the FACE Act but acquitted on all counts.

"Two dozen agents clad in body armor and ballistic helmets and shields and a battering ram showed up at his house pointing rifles at his family," Cruz said.

Garland responded by stating "the decisions about how to do that are made at the level of the FBI agents on scene" and "my understanding is the FBI disagrees with that description."

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.



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!"

Roy Foote
age 83
Foster
Grandparent

Volunteers Needed



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.



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Want more info about how to get started?

Contact Melissa Howard,
Volunteer Coordinator

PHONE:
(518)359-7688

EMAIL:
mhoward@catholiccharities.org

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Bishops urge senators to oppose revival of the Equal Rights Amendment

By **Jonah McKeown**
Catholic News Agency

Amid an attempt by the U.S. Senate to revive the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) – which failed in 1982 – the Catholic bishops of the United States have urged senators to vote down the proposal, citing possible threats to religious freedom as well as a likelihood that the amendment would be used to strike down pro-life laws and promote public funding for abortion.

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing Feb. 28 to discuss a resolution to revoke the original 1982 deadline for the ERA's ratification, thus allowing it to become part of the U.S. Constitution.

"Catholic teaching speaks very clearly and strongly about the equality of men and women ... For the needs of those in challenging circumstances in particular, whom many of our ministries serve, we have called lawmakers to radical solidarity and offered numerous policy recommendations to provide women and their families meaningful assistance and support," the U.S. bishops wrote in a letter.

"That all being said, we are writing to you to express our alarm with a number of far-reaching consequences that will arise from the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), and its negative impacts to the common good and to religious freedom. We strongly urge you to oppose it and any resolution attempting to declare it ratified."

Drafters of the bishops' statement included Car-

dinal Timothy Dolan of New York, Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Philadelphia, and Bishops Robert Barron of Winona-Rochester and Michael Burbidge of Arlington.

The ERA was first introduced in Congress in 1923. The amendment states that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

In 1972, Congress submitted the ERA to the states for ratification, requiring a three-fourths majority to add the amendment to the Constitution. Ultimately, the amendment failed to garner the required 38 states, neither by the original 1979 deadline nor the subsequent extension to 1982.

Despite the expiration of the deadline, states such as Nevada and Illinois continued to ratify the amendment, with Virginia becoming the 38th state to approve the amendment in 2020.

The bishops noted that activists for abortion rights, such as the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) have touted the ERA as a means of overturning pro-life laws throughout the country. NARAL stated in 2019 that the ERA, if ratified, "would reinforce the constitutional right to abortion by clarifying that the sexes have equal rights, which would require judges to strike down anti-abortion laws because they violate both the constitutional right to privacy and sexual equality."

In at least two states with equal-rights amendments with language analogous to that of the federal ERA – Connecticut and New Mexico – courts have interpreted the amendments to require government funding of abortion.

"Both supporters and opponents of abortion believe that the federal ERA would have this effect, as well as restrain the ability of federal and state governments to enact other measures regulating abortion, such as third-trimester or partial-birth abortion bans, parental consent, informed consent, conscience-related exemptions, and other provisions," the bishops wrote.

"While in the early years of the ERA debate some considered these abortion threats to be remote or 'scare tactics,' abortion advocates in recent years have freely admitted that they intend to use the ERA to litigate such abortion claims and anticipate that such cases would be successful."

The bishops warned that the amendment could also promote a redefinition of sex discrimination that could affect the ability of churches and other faith-based organizations to obtain and utilize conscience protections whenever there is a claimed conflict with the sexual nondiscrimination norms that the ERA would adopt. The ERA could also lead to requirements that would require health care professionals to perform, and secular and religious employers to cover, "gender transition surgery," the bishops said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Francis cuts free and discounted rent for cardinals

(CNA) – Pope Francis has cut housing perks for Vatican managers and cardinals in order to save the Church money. Reuters and Vatican News reported March 1 that cardinals and other high-level positions at the Vatican will no longer be able to live in Vatican-connected apartments for free or at special prices. The Vatican owns an extensive amount of real estate both in and outside Vatican walls. Apartments are principally managed by APSA (the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See). The pope's decision to drop housing benefits for upper management was communicated in a note from the Vatican's new prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, Maximino Caballero Ledo. The note, called a "rescriptum ex auctoritate," was posted in the San Damaso Courtyard inside Vatican City, according to Reuters. The rescript, which was posted in the Vatican following a Feb. 13 meeting with Pope Francis, says housing perks for high-level Vatican officials are being cut to meet the growing needs of the Church in an economic context "of particular gravity."

Miss. law to protect minors from transgender procedures

(CNA) – Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signed legislation that prohibits medical professionals or anyone else from providing gender transition procedures to anyone under the age of 18. The ban includes both surgeries and hormone treatments. "At the end of the day, there are two positions here," Reeves said in a statement after signing the legislation. "One tells children that they're beautiful the way they are. That they can find happiness in their own bodies. The other tells them that they should take drugs and cut themselves up with expensive surgeries in order to find freedom from depression. I know which side I'm on." The Mississippi American Civil Liberties Union released a statement opposing the new law. "This law shuts the door on best-practice medical care and puts politics between parents, their children, and their doctors," a statement from the ACLU of Mississippi read. "But this fight is far from over – we are determined to build a future where Mississippi is a safe place to raise every child."

Citing dementia, ex-cardinal asks for dismissal of abuse case

Former cardinal Theodore McCarrick, 92, filed a motion in a Massachusetts court claiming he is "legally incompetent" to stand trial for sex abuse charges, citing "significant, worsening, and irreversible dementia." McCarrick is charged with three counts of indecent assault and battery on a person over the age of 14 relating to allegations that he sexually abused the teenager who was a family friend at a wedding ceremony in the 1970s at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. McCarrick, laicized by Pope Francis in 2019, held one of the highest offices in the Catholic Church and has been accused of serially abusing his priestly authority by sexually abusing minors and seminarians. The state of Massachusetts told CNA that it wants an opportunity to examine McCarrick's competency to stand trial.

CALLED TO SERVE

I'm from away, but I like it here

I worked with a guy many years ago who was born and raised in Jefferson County. We worked in a broadcast newsroom together in Watertown.

This fellow took a lot of pride in sharing with me that at age 23 or so, he had never left, never set foot outside Jefferson County. "I have everything I'll ever need; everything I have any interest in, right here."

His pronouncement left me speechless.

I have not travelled the world, but I have seen enough of this country and others to realize my friend's assertion was ludicrous, at best. I prayed for him.

Recalling that incident reminded me of the political race we had in said town a long time ago. One of the candidates,

who had lived in Watertown for three or four decades, was originally from Pennsylvania. His opponent, like my friend, was born, reared and never left the county.

She fancied herself a "here" and did not want this city run by someone from "away."

That led to the slogan "I'm from away but I like it here."

The away won.

My friend, many years later, was hired by a Syracuse broadcaster, and his views of the world changed. Changed for the better, I think.

It is wrong for us to assume the world revolves around our little portion of the universe, even in

matters of parish or diocese-wide practices. It is good for folks to get a different perspective about the way we do things or think about some things.

As I write this column, for instance, the March 1 edition of the North Country Catholic is promoting the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation grants and the paper's annual subscription campaign. Good stuff to know about.

On Long Island, in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the diocese has an article about a Catholic school teacher leadership program. The Diocese of Brooklyn is talking about its 40-day Pilgrimage to a different church in the

diocese each day during Lent. That might not be practical in the North Country.

The Diocese of Buffalo has an interesting project in conjunction with its 175th anniversary. The diocese has created a podcast. Each episode through March is a dramatization of a conversation over dinner with a character who had an historical impact on the diocese. That will be fun to listen to.

The Diocese of Albany has put a hold on the celebration of Mass in Latin until there is a final decree from Rome. An article in NCC last week reported the issue local bishops have to deal with.

The New York Archdiocese recently discontinued their print

newspaper. On-line the English/Spanish site promotes Cardinal Dolan a lot and featured an article about 40 apps you can download this Lenten Season.

In Syracuse, the diocese congratulates all married couples on World Marriage day and notes that Bishop Lucia has granted a dispensation of Friday Lenten obligations for St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2023.

And that's just a tour of the diocese in New York State. Think about all the things going on beyond the borders of our local map?

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



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

Kicker talks about Super Bowl, devotions

(CNA) – Even though Harrison Butker kicked the winning field goal in what he described as "one of the best Super Bowls ever played," football doesn't define the Kansas City Chiefs player's life.

"I want to be a saint. And that's the most important thing, and that's why I'm here on this earth," Butker recently told EWTN News in Depth's Colm Flynn.

"I'm not just making kicks so that I can make money and I can puff myself up as this great person that people want to be like one day. I'm making kicks because God wants me to have a platform, at least for right now, to share this message of faith, of growing in virtue, of

growing closer to the sacraments and of being a saint."

Butker, 27, is outspoken about his Catholic faith and his pro-life convictions.

Earlier this month, Butker made the game-winning kick for the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII.

When asked about the future, the father of three noted his teammates "notice that I am happiest when I am with my family."

"I envision my life with my wife and having lots of children and being saints. That's what I envision. I don't really envision myself being in the Hall of Fame, winning more Super Bowls, getting x, y, and z records, getting that contract. It's

just not something I really think about... all of my fantasies, you could say, are all for my family and for my children," Butker said.

During the Super Bowl, many on social media were quick to point out that Butker was wearing a brown scapular around his neck, a sacramental from the Carmelite tradition worn as a sign of devotion to Mary.

In his interview with EWTN, Butker said he has been wearing the brown scapular since college, but never wore it during games until after an injury earlier this season. He said the example of a teammate, fellow Catholic Leo Chenal, helped convince him to start wearing it during games.

He also said he didn't intend for the scapular to pop out of his jersey during his game-winning kick, but the fact that it did and that numerous people on social media noticed provided a "great witness."

"Wow, if Harrison Butker is wearing a brown scapular, maybe I should look into it," he said.

Butker says he stays off of social media but has not gotten "any negative feedback to my face, at least from teammates or coaches" about his Catholic and pro-life views.

Amid the money and fame that comes with being a professional athlete, especially a successful one, Butker says daily prayer and meditation on

God's grace help him to stay grounded and remind himself that he is ultimately "ashes... dust."

"I don't allow [the fame] to get to my head and change the way I view myself, because I'm a child of God. I'm a sinner. I need a savior, I need Jesus, I need the sacraments, and prayer grounds me. And then, again, always coming back to my vocation and knowing that that job is way more important than kicking a football."



ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN

COFFEE AND CATHOLICISM

Wells – Please join us at our Coffee and Catholicism program, where we will enjoy brunch as we view and discuss Word on Fire's Catholicism series.

Date: Every Saturday (except for Holy Saturday), beginning March 4 and ending May 13

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Ann's rectory

Features: We will enjoy brunch as we view and discuss Word on Fire's *Catholicism* series. Parents of small children are not discouraged from attending! We will have toys and books set up for little ones.

Contact: For more information, please call 757-817-4700.

CLINTON NORTHERN FRANKLIN

LENTEN FISH FRY

Plattsburgh – Holy Cross Parish to have a Lenten Fish Fry hosted by the K of C Council #255.

Date: Fridays Feb 24 to March 31

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

Place: Parish Center behind OLV only

Menu: Alternating weeks of Cod and Haddock. Fries, Cole Slaw, Drink and dessert.

Contact: For more information call 518-563-0730

ADORATION

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks warmly invite you to join them for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent.

Schedule: Fridays through March 24

Time: 3 p.m. to 5

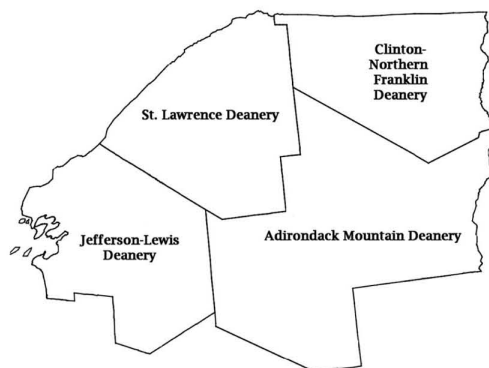
Features: Enjoy these quiet times of enriching prayer, worship, and communion with our Lord and Savior

PREPARATION FOR PARISH NURSING

Plattsburgh – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will offer preparation for the role of Parish Nurse.

Date: Beginning March 10

Place: St. Joseph's Outreach Center



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

e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Features: This course is open to registered nurses and others who are interested in health ministry in their parishes or with Mercy Care. Parish Nurses (Faith Community Nurses) promote wellness by health screening, health education, advocating for clients, connecting them to services in their community, listening and providing support. There is no charge for this course, but registration is required. It is 36 contact hour course offered on Fridays and Saturdays in March.

Contact: For further information, please contact Alexandria (Lexi) Bevilacqua, Program Director at abevilacqua@adkmercy.org or 518-523-5446.

SUNDAY MOVIE EVENT

Plattsburgh – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a movie night.

Date: March 12

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: In the Large Gym at Holy Cross Parish Center, behind OLV Church

Features: Showing "Mother Teresa, No Greater Love". Showtime is 1 hour and 50 minutes. Will be shown on a 10-foot screen with a Hi-Def Projector. There will be free popcorn and other refreshments and snacks for sale. There will be no charge, but donations are

welcome. Donations will go to the Interfaith Food Shelf.

Contact: For more information call the parish office at 518-563-0730

CORNEBEEF DINNER

Fort Covington – St. Mary's of the Fort will be have their 4th Annual Corned Beef Dinner.

Date: March 12

Time: 11 a.m. until gone

Place: Fort Covington Adult Center, take-out only

Cost: \$15

Menu: corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert.

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Gather around the cross for prayer this Lent!

Date: March 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church

Features: Taizé Prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple, with brief refrains repeated in the manner of the mantra of the Eastern Church or the rosary of the Western Church. Allow the prayerful repetitions to permeate your spirit as you enter into this song and the silence.

FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to

have a Fish Fry.

Date: March 31

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

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$15; Children 5-12, \$9; All take-outs, \$15

Menu: Fried Perch, Homemade Macaroni and Cheese, French Fries, Cole Slaw, rolls, beverage and dessert.

Contact: For more info, contact Noreen at the rectory 518-846-7650 or email sacredheart@west-elcom.com

ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Adoration to be held weekly.

Date: Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

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

Place: St. John's in the Holy Family Basement

Features: Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy.

Contact: For more information, to become a substitute or to sign up for an hour, please contact 518-563-3773.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

WIZARD OF OZ

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School will be presenting "The Wizard of Oz"

Date: March 10 and 11

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Highschool Building

Cost: \$5, they can be purchased at the door or before the shows

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be having a spaghetti & meatball dinner.

Date: March 11

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Quart of sauce, \$6

Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Carthage – The Knights of Colum-

bus will be sponsoring a monthly Pancake Breakfast to benefit Augustinian Academy.

Date: March 12

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. James Community Room

Cost: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$7; Children under 10, \$4; Family of 4 or more, \$27

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, French Toast, Ham, Sausage, Baked Goods, Juice, and Coffee

Contact: For more information call 315-493-3224.

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Watertown – St. John Bosco Pre-school program to have open enrollment.

Date: March 20 for current IHC Families and April 3 for the public

Features: Must be 4 by Dec. 1

Contact: For more information visit www.ihschool.org or call 315-788-4670 ext. 1

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central to have Kindergarten Registration and screening for the 2023-24 school year.

Date: March 22

Time: By Appointment only

Contact: Call 315-788-7011 to set up a time.

BOTTLE DRIVE

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central School to have a bottle drive.

Date: March 25

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Place: IHC High School

SOCIAL MEDIA – THE PATHWAY TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown – Panel Discussion to be held addressing the recent trends regarding Human Trafficking.

Date: March 26

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3

Place: The Children's Home of Jefferson County Dining Hall.

Features: The Sisters of St Joseph Social Justice Committee in collaboration with The Alliance for a Better Community, The Victim's Assistance Center/Safe Har-

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

bor and local law enforcement and schools invite all to attend a panel discussion addressing recent trends regarding Human Trafficking, statistics from community surveys and advice for parents and caregivers to help safeguard our children. Light Refreshments will be served. Event is FREE and open to the public.

Contact: For more information please call Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, (315) 782-3460

WOMEN'S PRAYER AND HEALING RETREAT

Watertown – The Department of Faith Formation will be having a Women's Prayer and Healing retreat.

Date: March 31

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

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthside Room

Cost: \$20

Features: The retreat will be run by Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville.

Contact: To register go to, www.rcdony.org/healingretreat

ST. LAWRENCE

LENTEN FISH FRY

Gouverneur – Lenten Fish Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.

Date: Starting Feb. 24

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: 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

Norwood – Stations of the Cross to be held with reflection.

Date: Every Wednesday during Lent.

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Church BINGO

Canton – The Knights of Columbus will have BINGO.

Dates: March 6, 13, 20, 27

Time: Doors open at 4:30 p.m., first game is at 7 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Features: Bring a friend or your family. Snack bar available.

FORGIVEN

Waddington – A free Lenten Day of Reflection to be held.

Date: March 11

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Features: Come and explore the transforming power and healing grace of God's Mercy available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession, explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, Forgiven communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Bring your own lunch.

Contact: Register Online rcdony.org/forgivenlent For more information contact Marika Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org

MONTHLY BRUNCH

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond's will have their monthly Knights of Columbus Brunch.

Date: March 12 (Second Sunday of each month)

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; Omelets, add \$3; Take-outs available

Contact: For more information contact Grand Knight Gil Gonthier 315-212-5166.

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Heuvelton – One of the most beautiful Lenten traditions is the Stations of the Cross. The Immaculate Heart Central High School Mystery Players from Watertown will present a creative play entitled The Way of the Cross.

Date: March 19

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Raphael's Church

Features: Mystery plays on the Stations of the Cross have a history that extends back to the Middle Ages. The IHC Mystery Players bring the Way of the Cross to a modern level through the use of special lighting, music, pantomime and paraliturgical readings. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this unique and powerful prayer experience. Please note that small children may be frightened due to the nature of the play.

Contact: For more information contact Father O'Brien 315-344-2383 or kobrien@rcdony.org

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SURVIVING DIVORCE

The Family Life Office is offering the Surviving Divorce Program, starting late February in Gouverneur, Canton and Potsdam/Colton.

Dates: Facilitators at each site will contact registrants to establish exact dates and times for the meetings.

Cost: \$25

Features: Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.

Contact: Register online at www.rcdony.org/survivingdivorce. For more information contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT

Lenten Retreats for youth in grades 7 to 12 to be held.

Schedule: March 18 at St. Peter's Church (Emmaus Room) 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. with Mass at 4 p.m.

Features: Lent is a perfect time for all of us to think about

how we can be more like Jesus in our homes, at school, and in our communities. During this retreat, you and your friends will be able to have some fun while putting together your "Best Lent Yet" plan! This compact retreat will contain moments of fun, reflection, conversation, and workshops. Drinks and snacks will be provided. There is no fee to attend and, retreatants are encouraged to attend the Mass offering.

Contact: Registration is required to attend. The deadline to register is: March 1. To register visit: www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat When registering, please choose the date and location that works best for you. For more information **Contact:** Tom Semeraro @ 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Massena – The Vocation Office and the Office of Youth Ministry is sponsoring a Middle School Retreat (Grades 6-8) in the St. Lawrence/Franklin region of the Diocese.

Date: March 22

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Features: The purpose of a Middle School Retreat is to guide young women and men to prayerfully consider what God's plan is for their lives. This invitation is open to students in Grades 6-8 both in the Catholic schools and public schools. This is a Retreat Day for the students and is considered a legal excused absence.

Contact: Contact your pastor, Catholic school principal, or Religious Education Coordinator for a registration form.

CHRISM MASS

Ogdensburg – All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join Bishop LaValley in 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 our Diocese.

Date: March 30

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: This ritual symbolizes that we are one family in Christ. The Chrism Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://www.rcdony.org/live-mass>.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ogdensburg – The Department of Faith Formation will be hosting a Day of Reflection.

Date: April 1

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

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$30, lunch is included

Features: Sister Mary Michael Fox, OP, a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville will present "Blessed, Broken, Given: Living Eucharistia!" **Contact:** To Register go to www.rcdony.org/dayofreflection

YOUTH RALLY

Lake Placid – "We are Jesus in the World" Youth Rally to be held for Middle and High school age students.

Date: April 22

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

with Mass to follow at St. Agnes Church

Place: High Peaks Resort

Cost: \$35, includes full day pass, lunch, snacks, games and giveaways.

Features: A super presentation from Monet Souza and a bouncing concert from Catholic recording artist, Joe Melendrez. Closing Mass will be offered by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

Contact: To register please go to www.rcdony.org/youth/rally If you have any questions please contact Jeannie Grizzuto at the Youth Office, 315-393-2920.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY

All are invited to attend this free seminar, Loving Authentically: Sex, Happiness and Catholic Teaching designed to deepen our understanding of how Church doctrine on sexual morality connects with our happiness.

Schedule: 2 different times and locations to attend. April 22,

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Eating corned beef on Friday St. Patrick's Day

North Country Catholic

There will be corned beef on St. Patrick's Day!

In keeping with local custom, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has granted a dispensation from the law of abstinence from meat to those in the Diocese of Ogdensburg who observe the memorial of St. Patrick on Friday, March 17, asking that another act of penance be

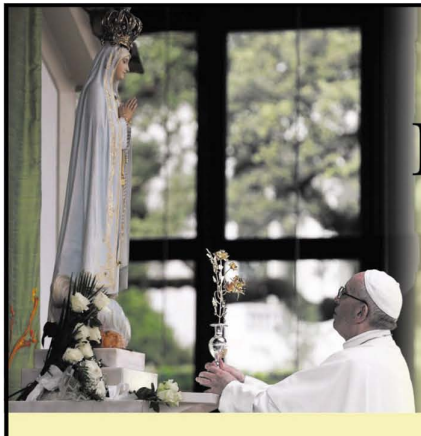
substituted sometime during Lent.

Father Bryan D. Stitt, diocesan director of Worship and pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, noted that the day is distinct.

"I ask my parishioners to look at their calendar on March 17th, and they'll note that St. Patrick's name is listed twice," he said. "On the first line it says, 'St. Patrick, Bishop.' This is to acknowledge the liturgical

significance of the day. Officially we call it an optional memorial which is the lowest of the celebrations of the liturgical year. On the next line, it says, 'St. Patrick's Day,' which is considered a 'high-holy day' by many churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike. There is music, decorations, parades, and oh yes, food that we associate with the day. In a former parish, a parishioner would

have an annual celebration in which he not only had a delicious meal but also had a handmade episcopal costume for someone to wear to honor the day's namesake. For him and for the broader culture, it's a day to celebrate the Irish heritage particularly here in America. When the Church can do something to support our culture and celebrate a saint of the Church, I'm glad that we can."



SUPPORT THE WORKS OF THE
HOLY FATHER THROUGH THE

Peter's Pence Collection

*Be a sign of
mercy.*

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, a humanitarian crisis began for Ukrainians, whose lives were shattered by the violence of war. Many left their homes in eastern cities in Ukraine for cities in the west, such as Lviv, farther from the most intense fighting. From the beginning of the war, the Holy Father pleaded for an end to the violence and expressed his love and concern for the Ukrainian people who were its victims. In solidarity with the victims of war, the papal almoner, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, made two visits to Ukraine in March 2022. He first visited the cities of Rivne and Zhovka and other regions directly affected by the early conflict. He returned to Ukraine to celebrate Mass in the cathedral in Lviv and to deliver an ambulance donated by the Holy Father to the Center for Mother and Child Health to assist children displaced by the war.

The Holy Father's charitable outreach to victims of war, migrants and refugees, and the poor affected by illness and natural disasters is supported by contributions to the Peter's Pence Collection. When you participate in the collection, you join Catholics across the globe in supporting the pope's mission of mercy as well as the activities of the Holy See's dicasteries that assist his ministry.

Support for such papal efforts is rooted in the scriptural message to take care of the poor and expresses unity with

the Holy Father 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.

How You Can Help

PRAY

Pray for the Holy Father, for those he reaches out to serve in compassion, and for the ongoing activities of the Holy See, all of which benefit from the Peter's Pence Collection.

SHARE

Share this bulletin insert with anyone who might be interested.

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.

For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website: <https://www.obolodisanietro.valer/cos-e-l-obolo.html> (English) or <https://www.obolodisanietro.valer/cos-e-l-obolo.html> (español).



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

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Collection Weekend: March 18 & 19

Around the diocese

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2023 at St. Bernard's Saranac Lake 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; May 20, 2023 at St. Mary's Ticonderoga 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: Program will be a showing of "Unprotected: A Pope, the Pill, and the Perils of Sexual Chaos." With Q & A led by Natural Family Planning Directors, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and Catholic Theologian, Maura Hearden Fehlner, Ph.D. Lunch will be provided.

Contact: to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthenticity. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or sttartaglia@rcdony.org

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake - Rachel's Vineyard After Abortion Healing Retreat to be held.

Date: May 26 to 28, Memorial Day Weekend

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Features: If you or friend are hurting after abortion loss, please consider attending a Rachel's Vineyard healing retreat. You aren't alone, help is available.

Contact: Registration is online at www.rcdony.org/pro-life or by contacting the Respect life office at cminer@rcdony.org. A list of retreat locations outside of our

diocese is available at: www.rachelsvineyard.org.

GUGGENHEIM SUMMER CAMP

2023 registration is open. New this year is a mini session for youth 11-13 years old along with the annual sleepaway camp weeks for ages 11 to 18.

Dates: The season starts July 5th and ends Aug. 11th.

Cost: Mini session is \$200 and the weeklong sessions is \$425 per camper. Meals and accommodations are included in the registration fee.

Features: There are so many fun things to do at camp! Like arts and crafts, Project Adventure, Liturgy, rappelling, hiking, basketball, or soccer. Guggenheim has its very own beach where you can swim, tool around on our watercrafts and play watersports. Evenings at camp are packed with fun activities like bonfire time, a dance, outdoor movies, and camp-wide games. Summer Camp Guggenheim is a fun place where you can make great friends, escape the craziness of the world, and just chill with cool people like you.

Contact: To sign up for camp please visit: www.rcdony.org/youth/camp or call, Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413