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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 78 Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 12, 2023

AT THE CHRISM MASS



PHOTO BY DARCY FARGO

(From left) Deacons Kenneth Lushia, Brent Charland and Ron Gingerich carry the Oils of the Sick and Catechumens and the Holy Chrism at the conclusion of the Chrism Mass held March 30. See more photos on page 6.

Follow Me: Ready our hearts for the grace of joy

In his annual Easter message, Bishop Terry R. La-Valley encourages us to prepare our hearts for the gift of joy.

"Many find it difficult to be joyful this Easter. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. We must prepare the soil of our hearts for this gift. I heard someone offer three suggestions to help us do that. Call it GPS - *God's Positioning Service* - directions to find Easter joy."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

PREPARING FOR CONSECRATION



Mary Beth Bracy of Plattsburgh will be consecrated to a Life of Virginity Living in the World on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. Bracy said she's been preparing for consecration with prayer, coursework, reading and retreats and working with a spiritual director.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope Francis washes feet of young inmates

By Hannah Brockhaus
Catholic News Agency

(CNA) - Pope Francis washed the feet of 12 young men and women, inmates at a juvenile prison in Rome, during a Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday.

The pope presided over the livestreamed Mass for more than 80 inmates, family, staff, and guards in the chapel of the Casal del Marmo juvenile detention center on Rome's outskirts on April 6.

In an off-the-cuff homily, Francis reflected on the meaning of Christ's choice to wash the feet of his disciples.

"Washing the feet was a habit at that time," he said. "But who

washed the feet? The slaves."

He explained that Jesus performed this gesture to help his disciples better understand what would happen the next day at his crucifixion.

The lesson we should take from this is to help one another, the pope said. "Jesus, today, with this celebration, wants to teach us this: nobility of heart."

Pope Francis, who was in the hospital for three days last week for treatment for bronchitis, arrived at the prison in a white Fiat. He was brought inside the chapel in a wheelchair and during the Mass he mostly remained seated.

At the end of his homily, Francis said he will repeat Je-

sus' gesture of the washing of the feet as a reminder of the lesson to help one another. "Life is more beautiful like that," he said.

"During the washing of the feet - I hope to get there because I can't walk well - during the washing of the feet, think: Jesus washed my feet, Jesus saved me," he urged the young people.

"[Someone might think,] 'but I have this difficulty, this...'" he added. "It will pass! The Lord is next to you and he will never abandon you, never. Think of this."

After the homily, Pope Francis walked with the help of a cane to where 10 young men and two young women sat on a

raised platform near the altar.

The platform allowed the pope to wash and kiss their feet without getting all the way on the ground as he has done in past years.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper, offered on the evening of Holy Thursday, marks Christ's institution of the Eucharist and the Mass.

Pope Francis told the young prison inmates that Jesus is never shocked by what we are on the inside, because he already knows our weaknesses: "He is never scared, because he has already paid [our debt]. He just wants to accompany us, he wants to take us by the hand so that life is not so hard for us."

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Change is in the air

As the adage goes, "the only constant in life is change."

Each edition of this newspaper is published with a volume and edition number (it's at the top of page 1, if you've never noticed). Since we print 45 editions each year, the volume number increases after we've hit 45 editions. This edition of the North Country Catholic is our volume change.

This edition is volume 78, edition number 1.

Admittedly, the volume/edition numbers don't

have any substantive impact on the content or creation of the paper.

**Darcy L. Fargo**

Another change in the newspaper has had a bit more impact on our day-to-day operations. As of last week's edition, we are officially using new graphic design software to assemble the paper. While we hoped the transition would be seamless enough that no one would notice, there are a

few subtle but noticeable differences in the paper (places we used white font have been replaced with

black, some of the fonts are slightly different).

Change isn't always easy. We're adjusting to the new software relatively quickly, but we ask that you bear with us and forgive any design errors. For example, I forgot to put paragraph indents on this column on our first test page a few weeks ago. It was something I didn't have to do previously. Other similar errors are likely.

It struck me as oddly appropriate that we were making this transition during this time of the year. I feel like what we're celebrating now, the resurrection of our Lord, is cele-

brating the biggest change in the history of the universe.

We're celebrating the fact that our Lord changed from dead to alive, and in doing so conquered sin and death. We're celebrating the change from the old traditions to the new. We're celebrating the chance at new life.

The staff, reporters, photographers and columnists of the North Country Catholic wish all of you a happy and blessed Easter.

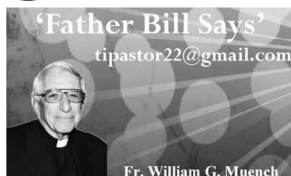
Christ is risen!

While the only constant is change, this is the change for which I'm constantly grateful.

Renewing our baptismal promises

Today let us talk about Easter. When we think about Easter, the first thing that comes to mind for me is my new life. Easter is about Resurrection, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Jesus was crucified and placed in the tomb. Then the tomb was found empty. Jesus Resurrected! The Resurrection of Jesus transformed all of us from the day of the Lord's Resurrection until now. The Resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Messiah, means Jesus lives and is always ready to be with us, to lead us on our road to holiness, as we discover new life that leads us on the road to sanctity.

Easter is all about baptism. Our Catholic Church makes it very clear to us that baptism is the most important of all the sacraments our faith celebrates. Our baptism challenges us to make a decision, a daily decision to follow Jesus, a decision to allow Jesus to transform each one of us to become disciples of Jesus. As the baptized, we

**Fr. William G. Muench**

the Easter Vigil service. As part of this celebration, there is the baptizing of the adults who have made a decision this year to seek entrance into the Catholic Church, to be welcomed into the Church. They have found Jesus and found his Church. They want Jesus to be part of their lives. They want to be led by Jesus and to be transformed by the Lord so as to find new life through the Lord.

This Easter time is also the perfect time for each one of us to renew our own baptism, to again made a decision to choose to walk always with Jesus. This is the perfect time for us to seek again the grace of this powerful sacrament of baptism. In this way, we again seek new life to be disciples of the Lord so that we may follow the lead of the Lord Jesus, so that we

recognize the needs of our family and our community. This is a time to renew our vocation, our call, our decision to find the way of new life through the Resurrection of our Lord.

In each and every Catholic Church throughout the world at the Easter Sunday Mass, all the baptized are challenged to renew the baptismal promises that are a part of every baptism. Each year at Easter time, it is our time to step up and renew these promises for ourselves, our time to re-dedicate ourselves to our Lord and Savior.

These baptismal promises are renewed during each Easter Mass - led by the priest celebrant, who then blesses all with the holy water. Water is the symbol of this sacrament of baptism. Water is poured over our heads to call down the Lord's blessing upon us. At this time, water is the most precious substance on our planet.

At the Easter Mass, you be asked to consider the baptismal promises and

respond to them. Today, I would like to share with you here a few different but similar promises. I believe that these promises would fill out those we consider at the Easter Mass. So, I would ask you to read these promises, even pray about them, and hopefully accept them.

· Do you believe in God the Father, source of all light, and in his love for you?

· Do you believe in Christ, the light of the world?

· Do you believe that Christ has entrusted his light to us, and that he now depends on us to let the light of goodness shine in the world today?

· Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, counseling us in times of sorrow, strengthening us in times of difficulty, and binding us together in the love of Christ?

· Do you believe in the Church, the community of believers in the light, brothers and sisters in the Lord?

FOLLOW ME

Prepare our hearts for the grace of Easter joy

Editor's Note: The Following is Bishop Terry R. LaValley's Easter Message for 2023.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"Christ, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed His peaceful light on humanity who lives and reigns forever and ever."

These concluding words of the Easter Proclamation that we hear at the Easter Vigil have an urgency about them these days because the risen Christ's peaceful light seems to be shed so faintly on an unsettled world that is marked by violence, war, natural disasters and personal hostilities. Such darkness wears us down. Many find it difficult to be joyful this Easter.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. We must prepare the soil of our hearts for this gift. I heard someone offer three suggestions to help us do that. Call it **GPS - God's Positioning Service** - directions to find Easter joy.

G - Gratitude. A grateful heart silences a complaining tongue. If I'm always griping or whining, how will the Holy Spirit fill my heart with joy? So, if we want more joy in our lives, we start by being grateful, being attentive to the blessings we receive. I might write down one thing every day for which I am grateful. It's astounding after a month of doing

this prayerful exercise, to see how our days are really saturated with blessings.

P - Prayer.

I ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of joy. Joy is the fruit of our relationship with Jesus. Nurturing that relationship through daily prayer is critical. The Holy Spirit is the One Who makes Christ present to us.

We might need to get to know the Holy Spirit better.

And S - Sharing. If I'm not feeling the Easter joy, I might try to bring joy into someone else's life, and I'll be pleasantly surprised to see what happens in my own heart. Call someone, smile at someone, do something kind and joy will flow from that.

So...GPS - Gratitude, Prayer, Sharing. Christ died for us, He rose for us, and He wants to bring us the joy of His Presence in the Eucharist. Joy is the best response to Jesus. Who could have imagined that death could be conquered? That's what Easter means. Your death and my death are not the end. The world's woes don't have the last say. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, the faithful person will rise from the dead. Body and soul, we will live forever. Suffering does not have the last say.

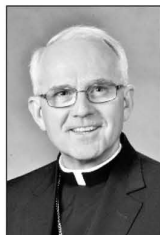
The love of God, given to us in Jesus Christ has the last word. When we embrace the gift of Easter, joy becomes truly the best response. We

are so blessed. HE IS RISEN! Joyful and Blessed Easter to you and your loved ones.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† Terry R. LaValley

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



**Bishop Terry
R. LaValley**



**Extraordinary things
can happen when we
*Gather at the Table.***

**NORTH COUNTRY
CATHOLIC**
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

The *NCC* shares stories of individuals, couples and families who love the Lord and do great things in His service here in the North Country. The newspaper shares information about events and happenings around the diocese and helps us learn about opportunities to further connect and grow in faith and love of the Lord. Through the *North Country Catholic*, Bishop LaValley communicates with Catholics around the diocese as we move forward together in this journey of faith, guided by the One we encounter at the Sacred Table, Jesus Christ.

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Preparing for consecration

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

As she prepares to be consecrated to a life of virginity living in the world, Mary Beth Bracy says she's both happy and grateful.

"I would say right now I'm elated," she said. "I'm grateful to God that this is coming to fruition. I'm thankful to all the people who helped me along on the path of discernment."

To prepare for consecration, Bracy said she's had an intense period of prayer, including daily Mass and Eucharistic adoration, coursework, reading and retreats.

"I've worked with (diocesan vocations coordinator) Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, who has been bishop's delegate in my vocation," she said. "She and the diocese provided me with an extensive reading list. Some of it was particular to consecrated virginity, some of it was more general spirituality and Vatican documents. There were also of aspect

creating a rule of life so to speak and talking about ongoing formation. I'm grateful to have made an 8-day retreat last August and more recently a three-day retreat. Both were silent Ignatian retreats. I completed certain coursework, including a masters in apologetics from the Magis center, which is accredited through Catholic distance university. Something unique about that program is that it was designed by Father (Robert) Spitzer and promotes the relationship between faith and science, faith and reason... I did courses on the meaning of suffering and other things very relevant to questions people ask today. I did additional coursework - audited through Augustine Institute. One

on mystagogy, one on moral/spiritual theology, one on the Creed. It was a deep dive into the Catechism on a graduate level. I enjoyed the coursework immensely. I'm also really blessed to have a wonderful spiritual director. Also, it took a lot of prayer and discernment, with the help of ongoing spiritual direction, as well. Daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, the Liturgy of the Hours, meditation on scripture and the rosary were essential in guiding me to hear the voice of the Beloved. They remain at the heart of my daily life of prayer. Over time, God confirmed that this was the vocation to the consecrated life He was calling me to and, in the words of one of my favorite Scripture verses, Isaiah 30:21, I was convinced that our Lord was saying 'This is the way; walk in it.'

Bracy noted, though, that the work to cultivate her vocation started much earlier.

"I'm blessed to have come from a family of strong faith," she said. "My mother is a cradle catholic and has always been fervent in living her faith. When I was little, she would sometimes bring me to daily Mass. It was a wonderful way for me to encounter God from the time I was very young. My godmother was my great-grandmother. When I was little, we lived a block away from her. She's one of the most saintly and prayerful people I've ever encountered. I don't remember ever seeing her without a rosary in her hands. I'm sure her prayers have helped bring me to this point. On the back of my commemoration card, there's a prayer she used to say regularly. Growing up, I



Mary Beth Bracy

also lived near Our Lady of Victory church and the sisters there. Over the years, I corresponded with some of the sisters, including Sister Anne Theresa Dostie, a Sister of Charity of St. Louis. I also believe her prayers helped me to get to this point. From the time I was really little, I wanted to do something to be involved in the church. I saw the joy and peace especially receiving Holy Communion brought people, and I wanted to grow in faith and grow closer to God."

As her consecration approaches, Bracy said she's preparing to live out her vocation and ministry.

"I think sometimes people are expecting that my life will look like something different after consecration," she said. "The principal thing about consecrated virginity is that you're getting married, becoming a spouse of Christ. It's like asking someone who's about to get married how their life will be different. Hopefully, they want to be the best spouse they can be. The heart of this vocation is prayer and cultivating that relationship with Christ, and praying for the people of the local church, the diocese, the nation and the world."

Consecrated virgins are "in the world," and support themselves through

employment.

"Sometimes consecrated virgins work in Church jobs," Bracy said. "But there are many who work in secular professions. I know consecrated virgins who are teachers and healthcare workers. I met one who is a firefighter. It's about bringing the vocation and love for God to the world and using your talents for Him."

While she previously worked as an educator, Bracy has been working as a writer for a Catholic publishing company, work she plans to continue after her consecration.

"And I'll still help in other ways in my parish and in the diocese," she said.

In terms of the consecration Mass, which is open to the public, Bracy said, "it has been called one of the most beautiful rites in the Church."

"People may do a double take," she said. "There are aspects that make you think you're at a wedding. The candidate is wearing a wedding dress. There's a ring and a veil. During the rite, there are also parts that will remind people of a priestly ordination."

During the liturgy, the individual being consecrated is given three insignia, a veil, a ring and the Liturgy of the Hours.

"The Liturgy of the Hours is the principle

prayer (of a consecrated virgin)," Bracy explained. "This is the official prayer of the Church that priests as well as some religious and laity pray daily. It consists of Psalms, scripture readings, selections from the saints, prayers, and hymns which are offered at certain times daily to help us 'sanctify the day' and intercede for others."

The consecration will be held at 11:15 a.m. on April 16, Divine Mercy Sunday, at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh.

"I'm grateful to our bishop, to all the wonderful people in the diocese, to Father (Kevin) McEwan for hosting the consecration at our parish," she said. "It's usually held in the cathedral, but we thought holding it at St. Peter's would make it easier for people from the parish to attend. Father Bryan Stitt and the Department of Worship have gone above and beyond. Sister Eamon and others have been great sources of support and prayer."

Bracy said she's looking forward to beginning this next phase of her life as a bride of Christ.

"Consecrated Virgins are members of the Order of Virgins (Ordo Virginum)," she said. "When the bishop consecrates her virginity, a virgin becomes a sacred person. Her life is in service to the diocesan Church, lived fully in the world, individually, with the spiritual assistance of her diocesan bishop. (Consecrated virgins) are called to imitate our Lady, the first consecrated virgin. By living out her vocation, a consecrated virgin is called to be a witness of the love we will experience in Heaven and a spiritual mother to souls."

"I'm very grateful to God."

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Get to know the diocesan Review Board

Editor's Note: April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. With that in mind, the North Country Catholic offers this introduction to the diocesan Review Board.

WHY DO WE HAVE A REVIEW BOARD? IS IT REQUIRED?

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (the "Charter"), was published by the Catholic Bishops of the United States in 2002 as a set of comprehensive procedures to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by church personnel. The requirement for a Diocesan Review Board is outlined in Article 2 of the Charter which specifically requires that "dioceses/eparchies are to have a review board that functions as a confidential consultative body to the bishop/eparch The majority of its members are to be lay persons not in the employ of the diocese/eparchy."

WHAT DOES THIS REVIEW BOARD DO?

The review board assesses all allegations of sexual abuse of minors by priests, deacons and other church personnel to advise the diocesan bishop of their credibility. The Review Board may assess both past and present allegations, as well as a cleric's fitness for ministry. Additionally, the Review Board reviews the diocesan Child & Youth Protection Policy and procedures every five years, recommending modifications if appropriate.

The Child & Youth Protection Policy was last updated in 2020. The next update will likely occur shortly after the Charter is revised. The Charter underwent revisions in 2011 and 2018.



WHO SERVES ON THE REVIEW BOARD?

The Review Board is comprised of at least 12 people, a majority of whom are laypersons not employed by the Diocese. At least one member must be an individual with expertise in the treatment of the sexual abuse of minors. The diocesan Vicar for Clergy and Promoter of Justice are both members, along with at least one other diocesan priest. Current members of the Review Board include board Chairperson Mark House, MA, psychologist; Lisa Breitenbach, M.D., psychiatrist; Father Douglas G. Comstock, priest of the diocese; Mary Harper, public school teacher; Lawrence Kring, M.D., primary care physician; The Honorable Robert G. Main, Jr., retired Franklin County judge; The Honorable Patrick McGill, retired Clinton county Court judge; Amy Mitchell, Catholic school teacher/administrator; Robert Mullin, business owner; Michael R. Neaton, school resource officer, retired New York State Police;

Sheila Peo, academic counselor; and Katherine Wears, associate dean of the Clarkson University School of Business; as well as ex-officio member Father Christopher C. Carrara, vicar for clergy (non-voting).

HOW OFTEN IS THE REVIEW BOARD CONVENED?

The Review Board meets at least once a year and when an investigation into an allegation of abuse is needed.

WHEN DOES THE REVIEW BOARD GET INVOLVED IN AN ALLEGATION?

The Review Board investigates an allegation of abuse only after civil authorities have been notified and completed any related investigation and after a preliminary investigation.

WHAT IS THE REVIEW BOARD'S ROLE IN AN INVESTIGATION?

Should an allegation of abuse be a matter of civil or criminal action in the courts or under investigation by law enforcement officials, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will cooperate fully with these legal proceedings. The bishop, in consultation with the diocesan Review Board, will judge whether the accused be placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the civil or criminal action. The diocese and/or Review Board will not conduct any investigation at the same time a civil or criminal investigation or proceeding is pending. Upon conclusion of the civil or criminal action, the diocese and/or Review Board will conduct its investigation

and follow-up on the allegations pursuant to its policies.

IS THE REVIEW BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION BINDING?

Since the establishment of the Review Board, all bishops of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have followed its recommendations.

WHAT'S THE REVIEW BOARD'S ROLE IN HELPING VICTIMS FIND HEALING?

The Review Board supports every person who has been the victim of sexual abuse as a minor by anyone acting in the name of the Church by working to promote justice through fair and thorough investigations. In addition to the Review Board's efforts, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years ago, the diocese will provide a competent Victim Assistance Coordinator to aid in the immediate pastoral care of persons who claim to have been sexually abused as minors. The diocese's outreach shall include the provision of counseling, spiritual assistance, and other social services.

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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AT THE CHRISM MASS

Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Chrism Mass on March 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral. At that Mass, priests of the diocese renew their vows and the Oil of Catechumens and of the Sick and are blessed, and Chrism is consecrated

Photos by Jesse Sovie & Darcy Fargo



CALLED TO SERVE End over end panic

"Don't carry too much at one time!"

Altar server wannabees would hear me say that all the time as they carried sacred vessels and other things from the sacristy to the credence table or back.

That was one of the phrases that flashed through my mind as I watched my iPhone tumble down a carpeted stairway at home a couple of Saturdays ago. I t was a little after 7 a.m. I had my phone, two Kindle e-readers and a prayer book (breviary) in my arms.

Your devious mind has already decided I was 1. asleep or 2. hung over. Neither was true. In fact, I was awake, alert, and anxious to get the day started. I was showered, shaved, and dressed.

It was the first Saturday of the month so I would get to spend some time with the deacon aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. In fact, I was going to share a few pictures from the Holy Land pilgrimage I just returned from with them before launching into the world of public speaking.

The pictures are on the phone. The phone was bouncing, end over end, on the first third of its journey to certain catastrophe on the hardwood landing 12 steps below.

The staircase in our home is steep. I remember saying "Oh NO!"

That's really what I said. There were no cuss words, no swearing. "Oh NO!" is what came out of my mouth. I remem-

ber feeling just a little proud of that. But that did not stop my phone from tumbling on the fourth and fifth steps from the top.



Deacon
Kevin Mastellon

ber feeling just a little proud of that. But that did not stop my phone from tumbling on the fourth and fifth steps from the top. That phone had become an appendage during my trip overseas. We pilgrims had established a group in an app on the phone that allowed us to keep track of each other. That app also allowed us to share pictures, make phone calls and text. The app and the use of it are free. Such a deal.

I even used the app to keep in touch with my wife and family back in the States. Free!

That was one use. The phone doubled as a camera. That's when it became most useful. I must have a couple hundred pictures from the Holy Land on that phone. In fact, the pictures I was going to show the men and their wives at class were on that phone.

The expensive, uninsured phone was in the final third of its journey to oblivion. My breviary was not far behind but that is made of paper. It will survive.

My grandfather used to tell us to keep our el-

bows off the dinner table. I wondered how he would feel about having a phone at the table, or what he would say about the iPhone now priming itself for the final crash.

I didn't run after the fallen items. I approached them serenely, sadly. The phone landed face down. I expected to turn it over to find the screen smashed to smithereens. But it was intact.

My heart skipped a beat. I booted the phone up and it responded... perfectly. As if it had been nestled safely in my pocket for the decent instead of plunging to chaos.

The prayer book was fine too.

I uttered a prayer of gratitude.

Then made some coffee.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown.

He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Bishop's Public Schedule

April 12-13 – Seminararian visit at Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania

April 14 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 15 – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Church in Champlain

April 16 – 11:15 a.m. – Rite of Consecration of Mary Beth Bracy as a Consecrated Virgin in the World at St. Peter's Parish of Holy Cross Parish in Plattsburgh

April 17 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

April 18 – 9 a.m. – Mass at Adirondack Correctional Facility at Saranac Lake

April 19 – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is able to schedule sessions of the training, Protecting God's Children for Adults. To arrange for training, call 315-393-2920 or email jgrizzuto@rcdony.org

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.

Rest in Peace

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

April 13 – Rev. Callistus Scheid, O.F.M.Conv., 1854; Rev. Emil Krancewicz, O.F.M.Conv., 1974; Deacon Richard Warner Sr., 2018

April 14 – Msgr. Richard F. Pierce, 1935; Rev. Alfred Valiquette, O.S.A., 1949

April 15 – Msgr. Peter O. LaRose, 1918; Rev. Alfred J. Chevalier, 1996

April 16 – Deacon Vernon J. Chamberlain, 1993

April 17 – Rev. Peter J. Devlin, 1915; Rev. Vernon L. Doe, 1975; Rev. C. Albert Richardson, 1988; Msgr. Joseph G. Bailey, 2000

Environmental Stewardship

Let there be light

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the priest lights the fire and then lights the Easter candle from it and prays: "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds." During the chanting of the *Exsultet*, we hear, "May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from the death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever. "It is this promise of Christ's light in our lives that fills us with joy, hope and peace.

Jesus uses this symbol of light during his Sermon on the Mount, when he says: "You are the light of the world." (Mt. 5:12) During this Easter Season we are called not only to celebrate the light of His love, but we are called to bring light to the world and like Jesus "shed his peaceful light on humanity."

In this Easter Season, what are some ways we can bring the light of Christ into a weary and burdened world? Pope Francis offers us some thoughts to consider in *THE LETTER: A Message for the Earth*. In this video, we hear from six different individuals from around the world on what is happening to the earth in their regions. The video is being shown in four parishes throughout the diocese. Included in the viewing will be time for discussion and ways to respond with actions. For more information, see the article on page 16.

During this month, we celebrate Earth Day (April 22) by being mindful of the gift of creation and by committing to actions that will protect and care for it. On April 29, we celebrate Arbor Day, which reminds us of the beauty and value of trees. It, too, encourages us to action; i.e. reduce the unnecessary use of paper, plant a tree for the next generations.

Lord, come be our light, and illuminate our hearts and minds that we may commit to one action this month that will bring Your Light to others.



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

PROMISE TO PROTECT



PLEDGE TO HEAL

Dear Friends in Christ:

The protection of minors and vulnerable adults is a matter that must be undertaken with the utmost care and urgency. While this is a year-round effort, we make special note of our safe environment programs during the month of April which carries the national designation of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Victims/survivors of sexual misconduct committed by any representative of our Church, including clergy and the bishop, are directed to contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yanulavich, Ph.D., LMHC. Dr. Yanulavich serves as the point of contact who initiates the reporting process and provides assistance to begin the healing process. Dr. Yanulavich's contact information is listed in every issue of the *North Country Catholic*, on our diocesan website, periodically in parish bulletins, and in all safe environment publications. It is important to note that the Diocese of Ogdensburg will report all sexual misconduct allegations to the local authorities for independent investigation. Victims/survivors are also encouraged to notify the appropriate authorities of the allegation.

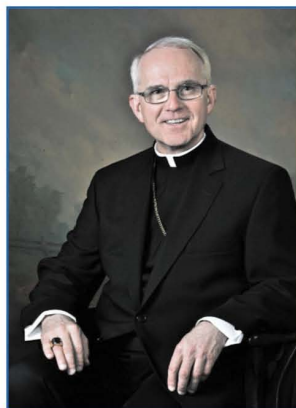
The Director of the Safe Environment Office is Mr. John Morrison, who also serves as Charter Compliance Coordinator. Mr. Morrison is tasked with overseeing all aspects of our safe environment program to ensure our parishes, Catholic schools, and other entities are operating in accordance with national and diocesan policy. We are grateful for his diligence in this most important ministry.

Mr. Morrison is also responsible for the annual submission of the audit information required by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops. While the independent audit process has undergone revision in recent years, the Diocese has consistently been found to be compliant with the established national standards and norms. While this is a testament to our hard work and efforts, we know that we must remain diligent and avoid complacency. We are committed to a zero-tolerance policy with respect to misconduct allegations. The Diocese's next on-site audit will occur in 2024.

As always, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of our clergy, employees, and volunteers. Collectively, they play a vital role in implementing our various safe environment initiatives and I am so grateful for their involvement. By working together, we can protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

With a Shepherd's care and concern,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg



Litany for Healing

- For children wounded and tearful;
- For children confused or alone;
- For children beaten;
- For children who sleep in fear;
- For children afraid to go home;
- For children afraid of their abusers;
- For children assaulted and for children who assault;
- For children whose innocence has been stolen;
- For those who cannot trust;
- For those who cannot love;
- For those whose hearts are filled with fear;

The response is:

**“Save, heal and protect them,
O Lord!”**



**DIOCESAN STATISTICS
2021 to 2022**



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Ogdensburg

- 1910 Students received Safe Environment Training in Faith Formation programs
- 1314 Students received Safe Environment Training in Catholic Schools
- 542 Background checks completed on clergy, employees and volunteers
- 480 Clergy, employees and volunteers completed Safe Environment Training bulletins online through VIRTUS
- 406 New employees and volunteers completed initial Safe Environment training in live sessions or online through VIRTUS.
- 387 Existing employees and volunteers completed Safe Environment refresher training online.
- 0 New allegations of sexual misconduct against clergy



Watch for These Warning Signs of Abuse in Minors

- No longer wants to see a **particular person** they had been close to
- Declining **academic** performance
- Tries to hide use of **technology**
- Changes in **personality**
- Commits physical and emotional **boundary violations**
- Tries to get minors **alone**
- Keeps **secrets** with minors
- Gives lavish **gifts** to minors
- Allows or encourages minors to **break laws** or rules
- Has **inappropriate** or suggestive conversations with minors
- Is overly interested in **spending time** with minors
- Takes **photos** without approval, or asks minors to send them photos
- Does not believe the **rules** apply to them (or, does not follow rules or protocols)
- Demonstrates **aggressive behavior** or constantly angry
- Withdraws from family or friends
- More interested in **activities** they used to enjoy
- Shows **aggressive behavior** or constantly angry

... and These Warning Signs of Perpetrators

IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD HAS BEEN HARMED OR IS AT RISK:

Mandated Reporters
1-800-635-1522

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

Non-Mandated Reporters
(can remain anonymous)
1-800-342-3720

Human Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons by means of force, fraud, or coercion... for the purpose of exploitation.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/human-trafficking.cfm>

NATIONAL TRAFFICING RESOURCE
HOTLINE:
1-888-373-7888

REPORT ABUSE OF VULNERABLE
ADULTS
Local: 518-402-6513

NYS Only
(Adult Protection Services):
844-697-3505

This centerspread is provided by:
Diocese of Ogdensburg Safe Environment Office: 315-393-2920
www.rcdony.org/safe-environment.html

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Dozens still captive in Nigeria after raid on Catholic town

(CNA) – Armed bandits killed one person and kidnapped more than 100 others in a March 14 raid on a predominantly Catholic town in north-central Nigeria, according to a Catholic priest and other local sources. Father Dauda Musa Bahago, a coordinator for the Justice, Development, and Peace Commission, a Catholic aid organization, told CNA the attack took place in his hometown of Adunu, in Niger state, during a memorial Mass in a nearby town for Father Isaac Achia, a Catholic priest who was burned to death Jan. 15. The bandits began attacking Adunu at 9 a.m., then moved to attack the town hosting the memorial service but turned back when they encountered Nigerian army soldiers guarding the town, Bahago said. Three weeks after the attack, 62 people are still being held for ransom by Muslim Fulani bandits, Bahago said. One man, Moses Tanko Arada, was killed March 29 when no ransom was paid, and the kidnappers released three women as part of the negotiation process, he said.

Two more charged in pro-life pregnancy center vandalism

(CNA) – Two more individuals have been indicted for violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act in connection with a string of pro-abortion attacks against pro-life pregnancy centers in Florida. The FACE Act prohibits “violent, threatening, damaging, and obstructive conduct intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with the right to seek, obtain, or provide reproductive health services.” Earlier this year, the Department of Justice brought FACE Act charges against two Floridians, 27-year-old Caleb Freestone and 23-year-old Amber Smith-Stewart, for spray-painting threats on a pro-life clinic in Winter Haven, Florida; an archdiocesan pro-life pregnancy center in Hollywood, Florida. The indictment alleges that Gabriella Oropesa and Annarella Rivera, along with Freestone and Smith Stewart, spray-painted threats on the Archdiocese of Miami’s pregnancy center.

Chinese bishop appointed without Vatican approval

A Chinese bishop was installed Tuesday as the bishop of Shanghai without the Vatican’s approval, according to Asia News. The report says Bishop Joseph Shen Bin of Haimen was appointed to lead the Diocese of Shanghai by the Council of Chinese Bishops, the state-sanctioned bishops’ conference. Shen Bin is also the head of the Council of Chinese Bishops, Asia News reported. Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said Tuesday that “the Holy See had been informed a few days ago of the decision of the Chinese authorities to transfer [Shen Bin from Haimen to Shanghai] and learned from the media of the installation this morning.” He said he had nothing to add to the Holy See’s assessment of the bishop’s transfer for the time being. The Asia News report said the installation of Shen Bin as bishop of Shanghai happened without the Vatican’s approval and therefore in violation of the Vatican-China deal on the appointment of bishops.

Maryland attorney general report claims to identify over 600 victims

By Jonah McKeown
Catholic News Agency

Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore apologized to abuse survivors on Wednesday following the release of a Maryland attorney general’s report chronicling hundreds of alleged abuses committed by clergy in the archdiocese, dating back to the 1940s.

“To all survivors, I offer my most earnest apology on behalf of the archdiocese and pledge my continued solidarity and support for your healing. We hear you. We believe you and your courageous voices have made a difference,” Lori said April 5.

“Through difficult, although deeply meaningful, meetings, I have experienced your brave witness, and the power of your words and testimony compel my personal conviction to ensure we do everything possible to prevent future incidents of abuse and promote healing for survivors.”

Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown on Wednesday released the 463-page redacted report detailing alleged sexual abuse committed by 156 people – most of them clergy – with connections to the Archdiocese of Baltimore, including 10 names that are redacted. The report notes the redactions were made in accordance with a court order because the individuals accused “were not known to be deceased at the time of the report and had not previously been listed as credibly accused by the Archdiocese of Baltimore or otherwise publicly identified.”

The report made extensive use of records provided by the archdiocese as well as information gathered from a timeline, interviews with alleged victims, and public records.

Brown said the report includes information about “every current or former Catholic clergy member, seminarian, deacon, member of a Catholic religious order, or other employee of the archdiocese who has been the subject of credible allegations of child sexual abuse in Maryland known to this office,” including “persons never assigned to the Archdiocese of Baltimore.”

“The report documents a long history of widespread abuse and sys-

temic coverup by clergy and others associated with the Church throughout the archdiocese. Young people in some parishes were preyed upon by multiple abusers over decades, and clergy used the power and authority of the ministry to exploit the trust of the children and families in their charge,” Brown wrote in a press release accompanying the report.

“The report also describes the repeated actions of those in positions of leadership to conceal and cover up the abuse, moving priests to other parishes, failing to investigate or report abuse to civilian law enforcement authorities, and providing financial support to priests in retirement.”

The report, compiled by the office of former Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, claims to identify more than 600 victims. It is currently unclear whether the report will lead to any new criminal charges, though it does note that the report is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a criminal indictment. Frosh retired in January.

Lori noted that instances of clerical abuse in the archdiocese peaked in the 1960s and 1970s, and fewer incidents took place “every year and every decade since then,” alongside the development of canon and criminal law and archdiocesan accountability standards and policies designed to protect children.

“Having spent four years investigating the archdiocese, former Attorney General Brian Frosh signaled that the cultural changes, child protection policies, and accountability measures the archdiocese began implementing more than a generation ago have proven successful,” Lori wrote.

“Make no mistake, however: Today’s strong record of protection and transparency does not excuse past failings that have led to the lasting spiritual, psychological, and emotional harm victim-survivors have endured,” Lori emphasized. “Even if law enforcement does not press charges, the archdiocese still takes seriously our own commitment to zero tolerance by permanently removing from ministry anyone credibly accused of child sexual abuse.”

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh – Divine Mercy services to be held.

Date: April 16

Place: St. Peter's Church

Schedule: 2 p.m. Adoration begins; 2p.m. to 2:30 Confession in chapel; 3 p.m. Singing of the chaplet, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Contact: For more information

Contact: Holy Cross Parish 518-563-0730

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

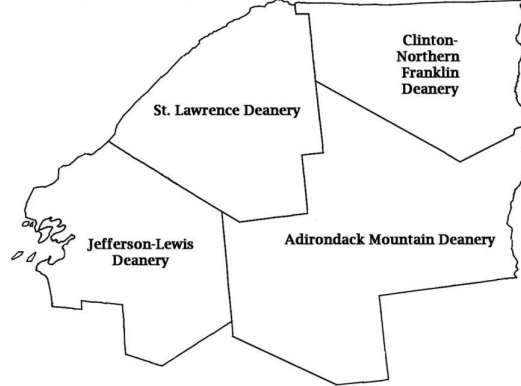
Features: Come to an out of the way place and rest awhile in Jesus' Presence. Experience His healing power, grace, love and mercy for yourselves and loved ones. Pray for the sick, suffering, vocations, our priests, country and peace in the world.

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

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR

St. Regis Falls – All are invited to

the monthly first Saturday Devo- the "Gift Shop". Flexible schedule



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North County Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

tion and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Saturday of the Month

Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Features: Prayer after Mass, Night Prayer, Prayer for All Souls and the Holy Souls, Novena in Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, The Reparation Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary with private meditation on the 15 Mysteries of the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the Tabernacle, and Prayers for the Holy Father and his intentions.

HOUSE SITTERS

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer is looking for many Volunteer "House Sitters".

Time: The responsibility is to arrive by 10 a.m. on your chosen day(s) and remain on premises until 4 p.m. to welcome visitors.

Features: Lunch and snack items on hand along with tea, coffee, soda, and bottled water. Training will be provided on the history of the House of Prayer, its mission, and the various ways to carry out this gentle ministry of hospitality for those seeking time in a home of Mary to listen to our Lord, browse in the library, or visit

(and hours) are fine.

Contact: If interested in volunteering for one day a month, or week, or more, please call Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Watertown – St. John Bosco Preschool program to have open enrollment.

Date: Starts April 3

Features: Must be 4 by Dec. 1

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

DINNER DANCE

Watertown – You are invited to join us for a celebration of 50 years of ministering with People with Disabilities.

Date: April 14

Time: 5 p.m. to 8

Place: Elks Club on Bradley Street

Cost: \$30

Menu: Sliced Roast Beef au jus, Grilled Rosemary Chicken, Oven-Roasted Potatoes, Honey-Glazed Carrots, Broccoli au Gratin, Tossed Salad

Features: There will be a dinner, dance, raffle and silent auction.

Contact: Tickets can be purchased at the office of St. Patrick's

or the SSJ Motherhouse between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets will be available until April 3rd.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: April 15

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – All are Catholics, active and fallen-away, are invited to St. Patrick's Church who will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Date: April 16

Time: 3 p.m.

Features: There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed. The Celebration will be approximately 1 hour with refreshments to follow.

Contact: For more information call Judy Boulton at 315-783-7349 or Kim Tyler at 315-486-4542, or by visiting www.thedivinemercy.org

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Houseville – Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration to be held.

Date: April 16

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Schedule: 2 p.m. to 3, Sacrament of Reconciliation and showing "The Miracle Box" video; 3 p.m., Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, Blessing of Holy Cards & Petitions, Homily, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image.

Features: Celebrant will be Fr. Douglas Decker. Reception to follow in the church hall. All are welcome.

Contact: 315-348-6260

SPRING FLING

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central will be having a Kentucky Derby theme Spring Fling.

Date: April 29

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Faichney Business Complex

Cost: \$60

Features: Food will be by Savory. There will be a cash bar by Timewarp and music by Oceans Below.

Contact: To purchase tickets call 315-788-4670 x1 or online at <https://immaculate-heart-central.betterworld.org/events/spring-fling-kentucky-derby-styl-3>

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: May 7

Time: Following 11 a.m. Mass

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Contact: 315-348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

MEAL DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging is seeking drivers for home delivered meals in Brasher Falls, DeKalb, Canton, Gouverneur, Morristown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Star Lake.

Features: These drivers deliver hot, nutritious meals to older adults. Many are homebound and receive a lunchtime meal Monday through Friday. A critical component of this program is the daily wellness check provided by this service. Drivers receive a mileage reimbursement. Typical deliveries take place between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Routes can be between one hour and two hours. Volunteer for one day a week or several.

Contact: If you are interested please contact Danielle Durant at 315-386-4730.

HOLY HOUR

Canton – Holy Hour for Vocations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

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.**ROSARY FOR LIFE**

Canton – Rosary for life to be held.

Date: Every Saturday**Time:** 4:25 p.m. preceding the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass**Place:** St. Mary's Church**ADORATION**

Norwood – St. Andrew's Church to offer Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday.

Time: After 8:30 a.m. Mass until Noon**Features:** Sign up is not needed.**BINGO**

Canton – Bingo to be held.

Date: April 10 (Big Bingo); April 17 and 24**Time:** Card sales start at 5:30 p.m., Games start at 7 p.m.**Place:** Knights of Columbus Hall.**Features:** Bonus games are

rising higher.

ROSARY WITH DEVOTIONS

Ogdensburg – The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for First Saturday.

Date: May 3**Time:** 8 a.m.**Place:** Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg**Features:** Rosary with devotions**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION**

Massena – Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.

Date: May 3**Time:** 3:15 p.m.**Features:** First Saturday Rosary Devotion to OUR Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

Massena – First Saturday of the month, men's prayer group to meet for Mass and Adoration.

Date: May 3**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Church**Features:** Coffee and donuts after service in the parish center**Contact:** Bob Brothers at 315-842-2886**MONTHLY BRUNCH**

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

Date: May 14 (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**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

315-212-5166.

RITE OF CONSECRATION

Plattsburgh – The Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley cordially invites you to a special Mass where Mary Beth Bracy will be admitted in the Rite of Consecration, to a Life of Virginity Living in the World.

Date: April 16**Time:** 11:15 a.m.**Place:** St. Peter's Church**Features:** A Reception will immediately follow the Mass in the Emmaus Room. The Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/live-mass.

mass.

THE LETTERJoin us for a viewing and discussion of *The Letter: A Message for our Earth*. *The Letter* is a documentary about how spiritual values call us to take action on the ecological crisis.**Schedule:** April 15: Plattsburgh Holy Cross Parish Center, behind OLV; April 22: Watertown, St. Anthony Parish; April 29: Waddington St. Mary's Parish Center; May 20: Brushton St. Mary's Parish Center**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**Features:** The Letter follows six leaders from around the world who were invited to the Vatican by Pope Francis to speak about the effects of climate on their communities. We will screen the 80-minute movie in three segments interspersed with discussion. Lunch and refreshments included.**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 presentation from Monet Souza and a 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 the Youth Office, 315-393-2920.**LOVING AUTHENTICALLY**

All are invited to attend this free semina 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, 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 Fehner, Ph.D. Lunch will be provided.**Contact:** to register go www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. For more information contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org**ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD & DIACONATE**

Through the laying on of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg will Ordain to the Order of Priesthood Deacon Lukas Hermann Gruber and to the Order of Deacon Mr. Carter Gabriel Pierce and Mr. Douglas Alexander Schirmer.

Date: May 27**Time:** 11 a.m.**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral**Features:** A Reception will immediately follow the Liturgy downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass may be viewed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Liturgy.**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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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!

Ray Hoode
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.

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.



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

BARSTOW
AN AMERICAN
R-**EVOLUTION** GMC SUBARU
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page
at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY 4 (315) 265-8800
Your NNY Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

Film about St. Joseph to play in Watertown

"A Father's Heart: The Miracles of St. Joseph Today," a film by Goya Producciones, will have a limited showing at Regal Theater in Watertown on May 1 and 2.

According to Goya Producciones, the movie is a journey in search of traces of Saint Joseph.

"After almost a year of research, we selected ordinary and extraordinary testimonies of simple people marked by the saint's action," the production company states. "The journey takes us to little known places such as Cotignac in France or Tuscania in Italy, where Saint Joseph appeared in the past. In Spain, we discover the special presence of Saint Joseph in Toledo, Ávila and Barcelona, where scenes were filmed both in the



FILM PHOTO PROVIDED BY GOYA PRODUCCIONES

St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal is one of the locations highlighted in "A Father's Heart: The Miracles of St. Joseph Today." The film will have a limited showing in Watertown on May 1 and 2.

temple of the Sagrada Familia (Holy Family) and in the Sanctuary of Saint Joseph in the Mountain." There's also a visit to

St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, the largest shrine in the world dedicated to St. Joseph.

"A Father's Heart" highlights the special "activity" of Saint Joseph in our time, which is justified by the current crisis of the father figure and the need to rebuild the family unit.

The figure of the Patriarch has been promoted by recent popes, from Pius IX, who named him Patron of the Church, to Francis, who has declared 2021 to be the Jubilee Year of St. Joseph. Pope Francis is known to place small pieces of paper at the feet of his sleeping statue with the intentions he entrusts to him.

To see the trailer or to learn more about the film, visit saintjosephthemovie.com.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

at cmminer@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 Griz-zuto at 315-393-2290 ext. 1413

LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT

Ogdensburg – Retreat for adults

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex

 #Pontifex

whose parents separated or divorced and also for those who grew up in single-parent families.

Date: Aug. 11-13

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$200 for a shared room or \$250 for a single room.

Features: Financial assistance is available...do not let cost prevent you from experiencing the healing you deserve.

Contact: For more information or to register for the retreat, please contact Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920.

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is open.

Schedule: Aug. 17-20; Aug. 24-27; Oct. 6-8

Features: Family Guggenheim welcomes families of all dimensions to come enjoy a special weekend in the beauty of the Adirondacks. Expect fun family workshops and activities that will have you working, laughing and praying together. Celebrate Christ's presence in your lives!

Contact: For more information and to register, go to www.rcdony.org/family-life/fg.html or contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920, startaglia@rcdony.org.


RHINE RIVER CRUISE
Join Father John Yonkovig of Lake Placid on the Rhine River with Viking Cruises from Amsterdam, Holland to Basel, Switzerland in the spring of 2024.

Date: May 30 – June 6, 2024
Contact: For information call Deb Rothermel at 800-223-3884 or BTAGROUPS@gmail.com



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Taking up His mission

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! Our joy is not just for a day...it's for a lifetime.

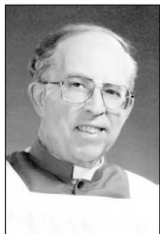
The Easter season has the most exciting Scripture readings of the year. They take us from the empty tomb all the way to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. On Easter Sunday, we left the apostles huddled in fear in the empty room. They weren't so sure that the women's report was believable. They weren't singing for joy! Now, a whole week has gone by. They still felt "rocky" about their future.

In today's Gospel, Thomas wasn't the only one who had doubts about Jesus. In today's

Gospel, they were still huddled behind locked doors, pondering the shocking experience of a week before. Jesus had broken through those doors to assure them that He was alive. And His message must have troubled them: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Just when they were planning to go back to their former occupations, Jesus wants them to continue the message...to take up His mission.

While on his earthy ministry, He had preached with mixed success. Would they have any better results? The Resurrection made all the difference, of course. Was it really



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

April 16

Second Sunday of Easter & Divine Mercy Sunday

READINGS

Acts 2:42-47

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

true?

When Jesus showed Thomas the wounds in his hands, his feet, and his side, not only Thomas but the rest of the apostles were strengthened in their faith and trust in the Lord. And the Gospel hints at many more miraculous events and appearances.

In today's first reading from Acts, we see what life was like in the early Christian community. Their faith was firm, and they were unified in their faith. They catechized all

who would listen. Their fears and doubts were replaced with joy.

The second reading describes for us an early sermon of Peter, written down a few years after he had already been martyred for his staunch faith. He is writing to a group of churches in Asia Minor to whom the Good News has already been preached. His prayer speaks of the promise of Eternal Life and salvation at the end of time. He speaks of the suffering they will have to endure, but the reward of praise, glory and honor that awaits them.

Today is also Divine Mercy Sunday. It is quite appropriate that today we celebrate the canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II who estab-

lished this feast based on the appearances of the Lord to a Polish nun, Blessed Faustina Kowalska.

Christ's message to her was (and is for us today) that, if we trust in His Divine Mercy, He will transform us sinners through His merciful love.

As Pope Francis directs us, we must courageously reach out to so many doubters among us and assure them of the great mercy of Jesus, His great love for them. Our world is hurting as never before in our lifetime.

We must all seriously take on ourselves the obligation Jesus gave to the Apostles in that Upper Room: "As the Father has sent me, I also send you." With Thomas may we respond, "My Lord and my God!"

Cornell rejects call for 'trigger warnings'

By Kevin J. Jones
Catholic News Agency

Citing the need for the free exchange of ideas, the leaders of Cornell University have rejected a student resolution advocating that the university mandate "content warnings for traumatic content in the classroom."

"We cannot accept this resolution, as the actions it recommends would infringe on our core commitment to academic freedom and freedom of inquiry, and are at odds with the goals of a Cornell education," university president Martha Pollack and university provost Mi-

chael I. Kotlikoff said in an April 3 response.

The Cornell University Student Assembly resolution recommended warnings for content including but not limited to "sexual assault, domestic violence, self-harm, suicide, child abuse, racial hate crimes, transphobic violence, homophobic harassment, xenophobia." It contended that "exposure to triggering content" can negatively affect students with post-traumatic stress disorder, and the content warnings would respect and acknowledge this.

The addition of content warnings "makes

the discussion of sensitive academic topics more predictable, therefore balancing the academic freedom of instructors to teach with the needs of the student body."

The resolution also recommended that students who "opt out of exposure to triggering content will not be penalized" provided they can make up any missed content.

Pollack and Kotlikoff's response to the resolution said faculty members have the right to determine what and how they teach in their classrooms, provided they teach competently and follow professional

ethics. The recommended content warning policy would have "a chilling effect" on faculty and faculty would avoid spontaneous, challenging discussion for fear of censure. The policy "would unacceptably limit our students' ability to speak, question, and explore, lest a classroom conversation veer into an area determined 'off-limits,'" the response said.

In their response, Cornell's administration acknowledged that faculty should show "common courtesy" and give notice if potentially "challenging or painful" topics are anticipated. However, the university

president and provost also rejected allowing an opt-out for students who say the content is traumatizing.

"Learning to engage with difficult and challenging ideas is a core part of a university education: essential to our students' intellectual growth, and to their future ability to lead and thrive in a diverse society," their statement said. "As such, permitting our students to opt out of all such encounters, across any course or topic, would have a deleterious impact both on the education of the individual student and on the academic distinction of a Cornell degree."



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

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(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

National meeting 2023



Pontifical Mission Society representatives from around the nation gathered recently in San Antonio.

This past March, we were happy to send one of our staff members to the Pontifical Mission Societies (TPMS) national meeting in San Antonio, Texas. We were graciously sponsored by the national office and were able to attend at nearly no cost to our local branch.

The Pontifical Mission Societies is an international organization under His Holiness Pope Francis. Through the efforts of the faithful around the world, TPMS is able to provide for the daily activities of dioceses across all of Africa (excluding Egypt), all of Asia (excluding the Philippines), all of Oceania (excluding Australia), and 60-70 dioceses in Latin America.

Every year, the October World Mission Sunday (WMS) collection and our Lenten and Christmas appeals go directly to this cause. Money raised for the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) directly helps the children in these dioceses with food and water, as well as assisting in funding schooling and faith formation. Finally, the Saint Peter Apostle Appeal (SPA) directly supports the 75,000 seminarians in those mission territories.

We are grateful to all those who live out their baptismal call to be missionaries by supporting TPMS through their time, prayers, and monetary donations. Every dollar allows us to continue to help those in the mission territories fulfill their material and spiritual needs.

To be added to our mailing list or to learn more please feel free to contact us at amichael@rcdony.org. More information can also be found on our website www.rcdony.org/mission. And as always, please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.



WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT

A large crowd gathered at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown on March 31 for a Women's Healing Retreat featuring Sister Mary Michael Fox, a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia. Sister Mary Michael, who traveled to the North Country from Nashville, Tennessee, also conducted a Day of Reflection in Ogdensburg on April 1.



OBITUARIES

Cadyville – MaryAnn St. John Carroll, 83; Mass of Christian Burial April 3, 2023 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Pamela Jean (Belrose) Baker, 63; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Colton – Jane (Christy) Fallon, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Julia David, 94; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2023 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Long Lake – James H. McIn-

tyre, 89; Graveside services April 4, 2023 at Long Lake Town Cemetery.

Lyons Falls – Elizabeth "Betty" L. (Broe) Green, 93; Mass of Christian Burial April 11, 2023 at St. John's Church; burial in Wildwood Cemetery.

Massena – Viola (McGrady) Podgurski, 87; Mass of Christian Burial April 4, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Joyce E. (Warriner) Reynolds, 84; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2023 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Stanley G. Compo Jr., 81; Funeral Services April 10, 2023 at Frary Funeral

Home.

Peru – Mae E. (Jaquish) Mero, 88; Funeral Services April 1, 2023 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – John P. Gibson, 95; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2023 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Louis of France Cemetery, Sciota.

Rouses Point – Lucille L. Monette; Mass of Christian Burial April 5, 2023 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Homer Joseph "Bucko" LaMare, 90; Mass of Christian Burial April 10, 2023 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Committee to host four screenings of film

By Marika Donders

Office of New Evangelization

It's an opportunity to learn and talk about the impact of climate change on a handful of communities and individuals around the world.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg's Laudato Si' Committee will screen a film, *The Letter: A Message for our Earth*, in four events around the diocese.

The Letter follows five protagonists who are invited by Pope Francis to the Vatican to share how climate change is impacting their local way of life, culture, economy and future. We hear from a leader

from the Borari tribe in Brazil and how logging is destroying the old growth forests and the life of the people who live off the land who are threatened not just with destruction of their ecosystem but also by violence by those wanting to profit off the logging and mining.

Another voice comes from a refugee from Senegal whose family had to flee the drought and who can no longer make a living from the land and small goat herds. Having fled to the coast, now he is in danger from storms and rising seas which are eroding the refugee camp.

Also invited by the

ATTEND A SCREENING

The Diocesan Laudato Si' Committee will be screening the movie *The Letter: A Message for our Earth* in four locations around the Diocese on the following Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:

- April 15: Plattsburgh - Holy Cross Parish Center, 4917 South Catherine Street Behind OLV Church
- April 22: Watertown - St. Anthony Parish, 850 Arsenal Street
- April 29: Waddington - St. Mary's Parish Center, 34 Oak Street
- May 20: Brushton - St. Mary's Parish Center 769 Gale Road

The 80-minutes-long movie will be screened in three sections interspersed with time for reflection, discussion and sharing. A light lunch will be provided.

Holy Father is a young girl from India who advocates for the rights of the child as well as the protection of the wildlife, especially elephants, in her region.

A fourth voice comes from a couple of marine biologists from Hawaii who work to increase coral reef resilience and how the changing climate is impacting marine life on which so much of the world depends for food and livelihoods.

The last voice is from the president of the Laudato Si' movement who work to inspire the Catholic community to care for our common home and build a sustainable and just economy.

The movie also highlights the spiritual

underpinnings of the Laudato Si' message by Cardinal Cantalamessa and Pope Francis who called the protagonists together via a Letter but who has called us as well by the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si': on the Care of our Common Home.

The power of this film comes from seeing the impact of climate change on individuals giving faces to the abstract ideas of global warming. Thinking of a planetary crisis can be overwhelming and so big that we are either overwhelmed by the problem or do not see the spiritual, physical and cultural impacts of climate change. This movie allows us to reflect on the fact that global warming is a result of a broken system

that results in extreme weather, hunger and migrations of large numbers of people leading to conflict as well as a loss of biodiversity that threatens God's creation which we are called to steward and protect.

We are part of a greater world-wide community who are called, for love of neighbor, to care for our common home. We all have a part to play to care for one another, our neighbor next door, and our neighbor on the other side of the world. Together we can build a system that is just and sustainable, improving lives, building up and strengthening resilience of communities to reduce violence, and preventing the chaos of uprooting of cultures and peoples.

We hope that many of you will join us in this opportunity to learn how we can build a better future, strengthening our local community, sharing our faith and praising God for his gift of creation.

Register for one of the screenings at <https://www.rcdony.org/theletter>. For more information email mdonders@rcdony.org



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