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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 25, 2011

A top issue for US church:

TOWSON, MD. (CNS) - John Garvey is convinced that religious freedom will be the most important issue facing the Catholic Church in the United States over the next half century.

"This is so because our culture is evolving in ways that are indifferent and sometimes even hostile to reli-

gion," said Garvey, president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, in a May 10 address.

The sexual abuse crisis has particularly wounded the Catholic Church, he said, contributing to a loss of moral authority.

In the past decade, he said, legal restrictions aimed at

the church garnered a sympathetic hearing. The church now finds itself in the same position as religious minorities, he said.

"In fact, its position is worse," Garvey said, "because when a state like the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacts laws that are aimed at the church, it may

not seem discriminatory to people because a majority of the legislators who passed the laws were baptized as Catholics."

Religious people have traditionally sought shelter in the Constitution, he explained, "and that's an area where the shade has been diminishing in the last decade."

THE JOHN JAY REPORT

Explores causes of abuse crisis



(CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER) Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Spokane, Wash., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, speaks during a press conference to release the results of the John Jay report at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops headquarters in Washington May 18. The report said there is "no single identifiable 'cause' of sexually abusive behavior toward minors and encouraged steps to deny abusers "the opportunity to abuse."

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Knights rally at State Capitol

Hundreds of New York State Knights of Columbus traveled to Albany May 10 for their 9th Annual Prayer Rally at the State Capitol.

The Rally prayers asked God to enlighten the lawmakers. The speakers - including Msgr. John R. Murphy, moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Ogdensburg - reminded the Knights that it is essential that all Catholics make their voices heard.

Among the representatives from the diocese were Father Philip Allen and Father Timothy Canaan who led decades of the rosary.

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The 'tall' and 'short' of it

Two people who are completing the diocesan Formation for Ministry

program reflect on its value

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'BE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop LaValley has confirmed hundreds of young people across the Diocese of Ogdensburg this year including Kellen Munn of St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake. Others who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Bernard's May 15 were confirmandi from Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, Keene, Lake Clear and Bloomingdale.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Seminarian reflects on gift of the priesthood... p. 8

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A day of diocesan joy!

It's been quite awhile since the Diocese of Ogdensburg could celebrate an event like the one that's coming up this weekend.

On Saturday, Bishop LaValley will head down to St. James Church in Carthage to ordain Thomas Higman, our "senior seminarian," as a deacon.

At that point, Deacon Higman will embark on a final year of pastoral service and education before his ordination to the priesthood next spring.

The diocese's last transitional deacon, you'll remember, was Deacon Adam Crowe, who died in January, 2008, just a few months before his expected ordination to the priesthood.

Apart from Adam's family, few people felt this heartbreaking loss more than Tom Higman, one of Adam's closest friends.

We can all imagine that these two young men had shared their dreams about serving the people of Ogdensburg together for decades to come.

But, now, more than two years after this tragic loss to our diocese, we have cause for great joy.

St. James Church will be filled with Tom's family and friends, people who know him as a man of great faith, hope and love.

All will nod at the words of Bishop LaValley: "From the way he goes about his duties, may you recognize him as a disciple of Jesus, who came to serve, not to be served."

About this, we have now doubts!

Through the sacrament of ordination, our new deacon will be able to draw strength from the gift of the Holy Spirit.

He will also draw strength from the prayers of all who love him and love the Church.

We owe our prayers to Tom and to all the young men and women who are preparing to serve the Church with generosity, love and, in Tom's case, at least, a good measure of good humor.

God bless you, Deacon!

**Mary Lou
Kilian****CORRECTION**

In the May 18 article about new scholarships established at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, there were errors in the section about the Walter J. Zapf, Jr. Class of 1951 Memorial Scholarship Fund. Mr. Zapf was in the US Army (not the Air Force); and that not only did Mr. and Mrs. (Walter & Janet) Zapf attend Immaculate Heart Academy (1951 graduates) but all four of their children attended Immaculate Heart Central High School.

The *North Country Catholic* apologizes for the error.

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

The Promise of Eternal PresenceBy Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Director of Evangelization

Today's Gospel offers a ray of hope to the disciples and to the whole Church! There is the promise of the Paraclete (advocate), a counselor, a defender who will guide, support, lead the Church: A Family of Faith to the fullness of eternal life.

Jesus' return to the Father is good news for Jesus because He will be with His Father.

As a family of faith, we need to make the words of Jesus part and parcel of our daily lives through prayer and active works of charity

It is also good news for the disciples and ultimately for us today. He promised that He would never leave us orphans.

Jesus calls Him "the Spirit of Truth" who will lead the community of faith into a deeper relationship with Him and with the community.

This indwelling presence of the Risen Lord comes in three forms.

In the first form Jesus comes through the Spirit who is "in you" (vs. 16-17) and Jesus comes Himself: "I in you" (vs. 18-21). In (vs. 23-24), not read in today's Gospel, the Father comes along with Jesus to make their home in us.

It is in keeping the commandments of love of God and one another that proves our love for God.

As Jesus goes to the Father, the disciples will receive the Spirit who will be "with the disciples" as a dynamic power strengthening their relationship of faith in Jesus.

This is the second form of the indwelling presence of the Risen Lord.

The third form of the indwelling presence is being "in" the disciples, that is, "in" the community of believers.

As a family of faith, we need to make the words of Jesus part and parcel of our daily lives through prayer and active works of charity.

The "coming" of Jesus is related to the presence of the Spirit and yet the Spirit is distinct from Jesus.

It is the Spirit that makes Jesus more present to Christians, to the Church.

The essence of the mission of the Spirit is to strengthen the disciples' faith-relationship with Jesus and help them make His word and message a living reality. By the power of the Holy Spirit that we received in Baptism and in Confirmation, we, as a Church: A Family of Faith, have the same mission to make the presence of the Risen Lord known by word and deed. T

he Spirit is the Paraclete, one who gives assistance in continuing the mission of Jesus Christ "to go out" and "to make disciples."

The Spirit is the Advocate who will act on our behalf, who will guide us to speak Jesus' truth, and who will continue to strengthen and deepen our relationship with Jesus and bring us home to the Father.

The Spirit is the reason for hope in our troubled world. There is no greater cause for joy when we listen to the words of Jesus say to us: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you."

How much do we realize that the Spirit lives and dwells within us and we in Him?

The Advocate will accompany the family of faith, assisting us to seek the just and true and challenge all that brings death.

We are ready for mission. He will be there for us now and always.

Who are today's orphaned? What is one concrete and practical step you can take this week to reach a contemporary "orphan" who needs to hear, "I am there with you"?

Welcome Spring

Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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Hundreds attend 9th annual K of C Prayer Rally in Albany

Knights of NYS rally at State Capitol

By John Ryan
Guest contributor

ALBANY - Hundreds of New York State Knights of Columbus traveled to Albany May 10 for their 9th Annual Prayer Rally at the State Capitol.

The Knights were only a few feet from the officers of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the state legislature as they prayed the four mysteries of the rosary and heard remarks from clergy, legislators and Catholic lay leaders.

Bills have been introduced into the state legislature that would legalize same-sex marriage and further weaken New York's few restrictions on abortion.

The Rally prayers asked God to enlighten the lawmakers and the speakers - including Msgr. John R. Murphy, moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Ogdensburg - said it is essential that all Catholics make their voices heard.

The elected officials supporting traditional values have a lonely fight without Catholic support, the speakers acknowledged.

Prayer Rally Administrative Chairman Bill Ose of Adams explained, "Knights and families attending the rally have been called modern-day apostles and this describes the Knights of Columbus commitment to our God and our Church."

"I want to thank the hundreds of Knights and their families who traveled to Albany by the busload from every corner of our state," he said. "While we were praying other knights visited legislators inside the Legislative Office Building."

David Clark, who organized a group traveling from the Plattsburgh area said, "Our people were renewed by the prayer and enlightened by the speakers. We were strengthened by all those people reciting the rosary."

Ed Mechmann, the Assis-

tant Director for Family Life for the Archdiocese of New York, pointed to several legal ramifications of same sex marriage.

For instance, state law requires that no organization receiving state contracts or grants may discriminate based on marital status. As a result, many Catholic institutions such as hospitals and social service agencies and possibly even Catholic schools receiving textbook or technology aid could lose their state contracts or aid and ultimately be forced to close their doors.

Catholic institutions may also have to hire people in same sex marriages and provide them with the same benefits they provide a spouse today.

In addition to Msgr. Murphy, the rally speakers included Bishop Thomas Daily, former Supreme Chaplain and Emeritus Bishop of Brooklyn; Father Brian McWeeney and Father Ralph Fraats, Associate State K of C Chaplains and Sister Margaret of the Sisters of Life.

Elected officials delivering remarks included State Senators Marty Golden (Brooklyn), Catherine Young (Olean), Greg Ball (Westchester/Putnam/Dutchess), Lee Zelden



A group of 4th Degree Knights marched in front of the Capitol Building to open the annual Knights of Columbus prayer rally held May 10 at the State Capitol in Albany.

(Shirley), Joseph Griffo (Utica), Assemblymen Andrew Raia (Northport), Joseph Saladino (Massapequa), Dean Murray (Patchogue) and Brian Curren (Lynbrook).

Catholic lay leaders speaking included Donna Bryon, Past President of the NYS

Columbiettes; Charles "Chip" McLean, NYS President of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians; Patricia Gavin, Vice-Regent of the NYS Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Robert Fallon, Former K

of C Supreme Director and Past New York State Deputy.

Father Phillip Allen and Father Timothy Canaan of the Diocese of Ogdensburg each led one mystery of the rosary.



Roy Garrant, Herling Sorrell, Mary Clark and David Clark traveled from Plattsburgh to participate in the rally. They joined in the recitation of the rosary and heard speeches on issues important to Catholics. The primary focus of this year's event was Gov. Cuomo's proposal in support of same-sex marriage in New York State.

Job Opportunity

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the full-time position of **Plattsburgh Assistant Director of Christian Formation.**

Responsibilities of the Plattsburgh Assistant Director include: organization and oversight of the Plattsburgh Christian Formation Office, implementation of Religion Curriculum in the Catholic Schools, Tools for Parish Catechesis in Parish Christian Formation Programs, oversight and presentation of the *Growth in Faith* Certification Program. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Human Resources Office
Diocese of Ogdensburg
P.O. Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Deadline for application is June 8, 2011.

Along the road - and through the years

Along with presentations in parishes across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the Mystery Players of Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, traveled to other parts of the country with their unique presentation of the Passion Play.

With the Mystery Players of Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown

Here, Deanna Hagan, a former IHC teacher who now lives in Huntersville, NC, writes about the group's 2011 season which provided the opportunity for many former Mystery Players to see the presentation.

The Immaculate Heart Mystery Players evangelized their Way of the Cross on a Lenten tour April 14 - 19 with performances in New Jersey and North Carolina.

In Charlotte, NC, they revisited two churches, St. Mark and St. Gabriel, from their 2000 tour and also presented the Mystery Play at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

One of St. Mark's parishioner, Mary Lou Mc Donald, coordinated many of the details for their stay at St. Mark's School in Huntersville, NC.

She is the mother of two former Mystery Players, John, now an attorney for the McGuire Woods Law Firm, and Cris, systems analytics manager for Electrolux. Cris and his wife, Carmen, director of finance for Electrolux recently moved to Huntersville. John's wife, Amy Nolan McDonald, was also a Mystery Player.

Jen Vespa McGrann was another former member of the IHC group. She and her husband, Adam McGrann, were both recently married at St. Peter's in Charlotte.

Michelle Hagan Shields, daughter of David and Deanna Hagan, was a Mystery Player in 1993. She and her husband Mark Shields, and their two daughters are

members of St. Mark Church.

Colleen Borello, once IHC school secretary, and her husband Pat attended the play as well as Matt Puccia, former IHC grad, who now works for NASCAR.

All the former north country residents remembered the priests who had worked with the group for the past 30 years: Father Michael Gaffney (founder), Father Tim Soucy (deceased), Father Steve Murray, and Father Mark Reilly.

This is the first year there has been no priest involved with IHC Mystery Players.

Terry Burgess, director since 1996 when Father Gaffney left the school, said that working with the students on the Mystery Play has become a vocation.

Despite the countless hours pouring over finances, schedules, and the like, he said that the rewards come in seeing the students drawing close to one another and in deepening their faith.

Jayne Brady, IHC teacher and female leader, has been with the group over 15 years. Pat Fontana, Jr., Immaculate Heart's spiritual director, shared the experience of this tour with his son, Joel, an IHC senior and current Mystery Player.

Tracy Leonard, Dan Charlebois, and Brandon Cooney, once IHC students and Mystery Players themselves, also chaperoned the thirteen students who made the Carolina trip.

The adult leaders agree that it is the students' youthful reverence and enthusiasm for the faith that make the Mystery Play evangelizing so meaningful.

If Catholics in Northern New York are saddened by church closures, perhaps they can take heart in the realization that their special light of faith has expanded to the south where they cannot build churches big enough and fast enough to minister to the ever growing Catholic population of North Carolina.



The Immaculate Heart Central Mystery Players of 2011 are front, from left, Hailey Parsons, Caitlin Stone, Laura DePorrier, Danielle Zimmer, Hannah Powell and Elena Tontarski; back, Joe Majo, Tom Lazore, Joel Fontana, Robert Weldon, RJ Ingerson, Kevin Baaman; missing from photo, Rob Spicer. This year, the Mystery Players presented their interpretation of the Passion and Death of Jesus to congregations in Morrisonville, Black River, Watertown, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg, Brushton, Altona and Potsdam, as well as in New Jersey and North Carolina.



The chaperones who traveled with the Mystery Players to New Jersey and North Carolina were front, from left, Tracy Leonard, Terry Burgess, Pat Fontana, Jr. and Jayne Brady; back, Dan Charlebois and Brandon Cooney.

Lay ministers reflect on what they've gained from their experience in the program

The 'tall' and 'short' of Formation for Ministry

By Dave Clark and Brenda Smith
Contributing Writers

Have you ever met someone so special and had such a great experience getting to know that person that you couldn't wait to tell others about it? And no matter how hard you tried to describe that experience to another person, the words would somehow fall "short" of really communicating that feeling of excitement and discovery?

Well, it happened to us and it can happen to you.

The Person we're referring to is God, the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit. The experience we're referring to is the Formation for Lay Ministry Program.

That experience of getting to know God through study and prayer in such a deeper and richer way is much like what is described above. You might say your understanding rises to new "heights".

It doesn't matter if you're a cradle Catholic or a convert to Catholicism, the process of deepening your faith is an amazing journey.

Everyone knows about the critical shortage of priests and just because there are fewer of them, doesn't change or decrease the needs of people to still be fed spiritually and cared for corporally.

There continues to be REAL needs among REAL people; whether it's sustaining and teaching our faith, reaching out to the sick and elderly, helping families thrive, or addressing social justice issues for all, regardless if they are Catholic or not. We are all God's children and that never changes.

The Church is and has always been Christ centered. Therefore, by its nature there is an innate commitment to meeting the many human needs that must be addressed. In almost every situation, meeting those needs is not an option...it's an obligation. But who will answer that call? Who will say "Here I am Lord?"

With prayer, discernment and the help of the Holy Spirit, it can be and should be up to each one of us to at least consider this program.

One year ago, our own native son, Terry LaValley was ordained as our beloved bishop. We are sure that it was no accident that chose "FOLLOW ME" as his motto in his Coat of Arms. In today's society, that command is not just for our clergy anymore. WE are also called to follow Jesus along with our parish priests leading the way.

We can no longer afford to sit in the pews and wait for someone else to serve.

There's no doubt that when we one considers signing up for this two-year program to be followed by a two-year commitment to your parish in a specific ministry of your choosing, it seems daunting. However, we can assure you; that the time flies by and the personal spiritual growth that occurs is truly worth the time and effort. It can transform you if you let it.

The basic premise of the program is that each candidate attends two years of classes which consist of four eight-week courses each year.



By Dave Clark (6'7"), aka Big D, of St. John's Parish in Plattsburgh and Brenda Smith (4'10"), aka little b, of the Catholic Community of Keeseville, have completed the two-year Formation for Ministry program with classes at the Altona site. They are among 51 who will be commissioned as lay ministers for their parishes in a ceremony to be held June 5 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

The courses are: The Old and New Testament, The Church, Spirituality, Moral Theology, The Sacraments, Social Justice and Christology. Each year begins in the Fall and ends with an awesome weekend retreat in May at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. In return, the candidate promises to give back two years of service in the ministry area of their choice: outreach/family, worship, sick and elderly, catechetical leaders, RCIA or youth. Each candidate has the first few months to decide in which ministry they would like to serve.

In addition to the educational and spiritual gains, there are other unexpected benefits coming from the Formation for Ministry program. Since there is so much time spent with the same classmates each week, you get to know each other and soon realize that many of the them have become good friends. Every person in our Altona site is a phenomenal individual and each has much to offer. Over time, we have slowly become united in our thinking and there is also a sense of "purpose and commonality" among us.

Many of us are sad to think our time together is quickly coming to an end.

Another benefit is that some of us have found our spiritual growth and can permeate to others around us.

One of the women in our class told us that her adult daughter, who was an ambivalent about her Catholic faith for many years, has now come become more interested in it. She has grown spiritually because of her mom's involvement in this program and the effect it's had on her family.

Thirdly, many of the men in the program also plan on furthering their studies to become permanent deacons in their respective parishes. We can certainly vouch for all of them...they will make GREAT deacons!

We're all aware that the workload of our parish priests has remained essentially the same but it's being done with fewer and fewer priests. There are many demands and stresses that are inherent in their daily duties.

Decades ago, the laity would never have been asked to get involved with "church duties" but because times have changed, we can and should get involved...and by doing so we can achieve personal spiritual growth at the same time.

Our priests have always served us faithfully and now we can help serve them by reciprocating and "paying it forward."

Any adult regardless of age, size, profession, etc. is welcomed. You don't have to wait for someone to ask you to become a lay minister. Many of the members of this current class are also involved in other parish organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, Altar Rosary Society and others. You'll make new friends and rise to new levels of understanding.

Dave tells us in his own words: "I did not set out to join the Formation for Ministry Program. I wanted to become a Deacon and soon found out that completing the Formation Program was a prerequisite. I am so glad I am in this program! I have learned so much about the Catholic Church that I didn't know before and I have met a great bunch of people.

"There has been some reading and a few papers, but the discussion in the class from the lecturers and my classmates has been invaluable," he said. "I went through an intense catechism when I converted to Catholicism and thought I had a good understanding. I was wrong. I've learned a lot and have found out I still have lots to learn.

"If you want to learn more about your faith and to serve your parish better, consider joining the Formation for Ministry Program.," he said. "It is fun, you learn a great deal, you make fantastic friendships, and you have great snacks during the breaks."

So, cheers to this year's Formation for Lay Ministry's Altona site and the great Class of 2011. For those of you reading this story: never doubt what God can do in your life if you are open to change. Dave tells us the story that as a 6' 7" nurse in the Air Force his nickname was "BUNAF" which he says stood for the Biggest Ugliest Nurse in the Air Force." Bur now, after getting to know this kind and wonderful gentle giant over the last two years we're changing his nickname to "BANIF" which stands for: Biggest Most Awesome Nurse in Formation for Lay Ministry!"

Cathedral parish celebrates women

OGDENSBURG - Gail Barr and Sally Rusaw were 2011 recipients of the Volunteer Service Awards during the May 4 Celebration of Women event, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

"These women have volunteered countless hours of service to the Cathedral parish," said Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, pastoral associate. "The living out of their Catholic faith has prompted them to extend volunteer service, beyond the parish, to local organizations as well."

"Gail Barr, a woman of deep faith, has portrayed true Christian living by lovingly devoting her life to her parish, family, and all who know her," Sister Mary Teresa said.

She has been involved through the following ministries in the parish: census worker, Altar Society, catechist, social committee, hospitality committee, regular choir as well as the funeral choir, and a dedicated member of the annual Coffee



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Gail Barr and Sally Rusaw, the 2011 recipients of the Volunteer Service Awards at St. Mary's Cathedral, are shown with Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, left, pastoral associate at the cathedral; and Father Joseph Morgan, pastor, during the parish's May 4 Celebration of Women event.

House event at the cathedral.

Mrs. Barr has extended herself into the civic community with her involvement in the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary, Pro-Musica, and Showtime.

"Sally Rusaw, a Commissioned Lay Minister and faith-filled, committed member of the Cathedral parish, through her faith in God's power, has been able to balance her responsibilities with

employment, church, and volunteer work," Sister Mary Teresa said.

Her involvements in the parish have included the following: census worker, Extra-ordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist, Lector, and team member for the RCIA process.

Her extension into the civic community has led her to volunteer as a member of the St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy Education Council, music ministry in the prison, and volunteer Archivist for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Rest in Peace

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

May 25 – Rev. J. Hector Migneron, 1958

May 26 – Rev. Thomas J. Kelleher, 1889

May 27 – Rev. J. Rosario Jalbert, O.M.I., 1938; Msgr. Wilfred Allen Nugent, 1991

May 29 – Rev. Arthur C. Kenny, 1945; Rev. Hervé Racette, O.M.I., 1948

May 30 – Rev. J. Heliodore Valois, 1952

May 31 – Rev. John J. Dean, 1930; Rev. Eugene T. Desnoyers, 1993

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

May 26 – 7:00 p.m., Confirmation for St. Mary's, Fort Covington; St. Patrick's, Hogansburg; and St. Joseph's, Bombay at St. Mary's Church.

May 27 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

May 28 – 11:00 a.m., Diaconate Ordination for Thomas J. Higman at St. James Church in Carthage; 4:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

May 30 – 11:00 a.m., Memorial Day Ceremony at the Ogdensburg Cemetery.

June 1 – 7:00 p.m., Confirmation for St. Francis Solanus, Harrisville and St. Hubert's, Star Lake at St. Francis Solanus Church

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information: Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920, ext. 403. Upcoming programs: **May 25**- 6 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact: **Episcopal Vicar for Clergy** - Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the **Victims Assistance Coordinator** - Terrianne Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; Fax 518-561-3003; e-mail: aycsn@westelcom.com

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ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

FACES OF FAITH



Saranac Lake Knights of Columbus Council 599 welcomed four new members and Bloomingdale Council 7803 welcomed one new member May 9 at degree ceremonies hosted by Chateaugay Council 469. The new members include, from left, Gregory Peck, Michael Ward (Bloomingdale), Richard Sayles, John Fehlner, and Michael Mouranie. Both councils look forward to involving these men in service to church and community and in putting the K of C principles of charity, unity and fraternity into action.



Several Seton Catholic Central art students took a field trip to the art show at the NCCCA Arts Center April 19 to view the works of art submitted by Plattsburgh area high school and middle school students. Although all of the Seton students had submitted works of art, one student, Wei Jiang, a 12th grader, won a second place ribbon for her painting "Reflections." The painting is a reproduction of a photo taken by another Seton Catholic Central student, Pablo Gutierrez, while visiting Athlone, Ireland. The picture is of a steeple reflected in a puddle of water on the ground. The painting is currently on display in the main hallway of Seton Catholic Central.



Father Bill Muench, pastor in Ticonderoga, is pictured with Molly Price, a first grade student at St. Mary's School, as they build their own books, an activity offered at an open house, held May 2 at the school. Children and families from the area were invited to tour the school, meet the teachers, speak with parents, build a book, and have refreshments together as they learned more about what St. Mary's School has to offer, from kindergarten through grade 8, and possibly including Pre-K next year.



Members of the Brookside Lenten Longings group of St. Peter's Church in Lowville shared their love, talents and good wishes with the individuals of the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Lowville Dayhab program. Boxes of Easter goodies were presented to the group that visits Brookside Senior Living Community every Friday to volunteer their talents and gifts helping to keep the halls and windows clean. Pictured, from left, are Courtney Hastwell, HSA; Aaron Roggie, resident; Mae Schneeberger, Lenten Longings; Roque Kuntz, resident; Kelly Hartley, HSP; and Nancy Evans and Margaret Douglass, Lenten Longings.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

The priesthood: a gift and a mystery

By Br. John Pietropaoli
Guest contributor

When I was in high school, I had no clear idea what I wanted to do with my life. The only certainty I had about my future - and it was absolute - was that I would not be a priest. I knew many fine priests, but it was evident that the priesthood was not for me.

So why is it that at present I'm finishing my second year of theological studies and, with the grace of God and good behavior, will be ordained a priest in a little over a year? The full story of how the journey unfolded is too long for this article, but the essence of that path - what Blessed John Paul II called the "Gift and Mystery" of the priesthood - is not.

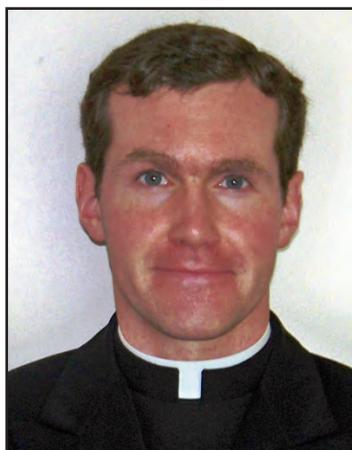
Mystery

At the heart of the priesthood is a call from God. The word "vocation" itself comes

from the Latin vocare, which means to call or to invite. God has created each of us for a specific purpose, and he calls us to fulfill that plan at the moment and place of his choosing. Blessed John Henry Newman put it nicely: "Lord, you have created me to do you some definitive service; you have committed some work to me that you have not committed to another. I have my mission..."

Remember Christ's words in John's Gospel: "It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you." Part of the priesthood's great mystery is the realization that we did not choose it, but it was chosen for us by someone who knows us, loves us, and calls us to share in his life and his mission.

Since the call to be a priest does not come from us, but from God, sometimes he calls the most unlikely people imaginable. Consider the following figures



Brother John Pietropaoli, a native of Malone, is a seminarian in the Legionaries of Christ religious order.

ures before their conversions: St Paul - persecutor of Christians; St Augustine - pagan philosopher of rather loose moral standards; Blessed Charles de Foucauld - army officer living a dissolute life. God chose them, as he chooses every priest, not because of their saintliness, but because of his love.

This reality was brought home to me when I made my perpetual profession within the Legionaries of Christ (promising to live all my life according to the evangelical counsels of

poverty, chastity, and obedience). The priest who gave the homily pointed out that the families of those taking this step towards the priesthood knew these men better than anyone, and therefore knew they were far from perfect. At that point I heard a snort from my younger sister at the back of the church, who could - and still can - attest to her elder brother's imperfection. And yet, in spite of our failings, God still called us and gave us the grace to say yes to his call.

Gift

If God's call is a mystery, it's also a gift; and it's a gift that we can never fully appreciate in this life. As St John Vianney put it, "O how great is a priest! The priest will not understand the greatness of his office until he is in heaven. If he understood it on earth, he would die, not of fear, but of love." And of the many facets this gift contains, two in particular stand out on the threshold of my own priesthood.

First, the priesthood is a gift for the priest himself, since it's a calling to live in special friendship with Jesus Christ, the Priest from whom all priests receive their vocation.

One of the defining memories of my adolescence is the emptiness resulting from living for myself alone. It seemed like the care and attention I lavished on ensuring every whim was fulfilled and every inconvenience avoided was inversely proportional to my own happiness. This stands to reason, since we are created to give ourselves

to God and others out love, a self-giving which is only possible if someone else has the first place in our lives. And no love lasts forever, unless rooted in God. Is it difficult at times? Definitely. But Christ never promised it would be easy - he promised it would be worth it.

Second, but of equal importance, the priesthood is a gift for the Church and the world. As St Paul puts it, the priest is a steward of the mysteries of God, and he makes God's love and mercy present in the world through his prayer, his sacrifice, and through the sacraments.

Nearly a thousand years ago St Norbert asserted: "We should not measure success in the priestly ministry in terms of numbers, since to restore even one soul to the state of grace would be worth all the labor of an entire lifetime." And God has entrusted the gift of his mercy to priests who, though sinners themselves, by the power given them through the Church can bring new life to souls through the sacrament of reconciliation, and give us God himself in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Gift and mystery.

Conclusion

And so, after 11 years in the seminary, I still could not tell you why God would call a self-absorbed teenager with no interest in the priesthood to be his priest forever. I can only say that I am grateful beyond measure for the gift and the mystery, and look forward to serving Christ, and the Church, as a priest.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Mass
Rosary
Fasting
Day Offering
Eucharistic Adoration
Offering of Sufferings
Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him.

May
Our Lady

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY

MAY 2011

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Report on causes of clergy sexual abuse released

By David Gibson
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Because potential sexual abusers of minors cannot be pinpointed through "identifiable psychological characteristics," it is "very important" to prevent abuse by limiting the "situational factors" associated with it, according to a long-awaited report on the causes and context of sexual abuse by priests in the United States.

The report, released in Washington May 18, said there is "no single identifiable 'cause' of sexually abusive behavior toward minors." It encouraged steps to deny abusers "the opportunity to abuse."

Titled "The Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Catholic Priests in the United States, 1950-2010," it reports the findings of a study mandated in 2002 under the U.S. Catholic bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The charter, adopted by the bishops during a historic meeting in Dallas, created a National Review Board and directed the lay consultative body to commission studies of the abuse problem's "nature and scope" and its "causes and context."

The John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York conducted both studies.

The nature and scope study appeared in February 2004. The causes and context study commenced in 2006.

The new report addressed several misperceptions about the sexual abuse of minors by priests. It said:

- Priestly celibacy does not explain this problem. "Constant in the Catholic Church since the 11th century," celibacy cannot "account for the rise and subsequent decline in abuse cases from the 1960s through the 1980s."

- Despite "widespread speculation," priests with a homosexual identity "were not significantly more likely

to abuse minors" than heterosexual priests. Sexual "identity" should be differentiated from "behavior." A possible reason so many male minors were abused is that priests had greater access to them.

Report: there is 'no single identifiable 'cause' of sexually abusive behavior toward minors.' It encouraged steps to deny abusers 'the opportunity to abuse'

- Less than 5 percent of priests with abuse allegations exhibited behavior consistent with pedophilia. Few victims were prepubescent children.

Seventy percent of priests referred for abusing a minor "had also had sexual behavior with adults," the study found. The majority of priest-abusers did not "specialize" in abusing "particular types of victims."

The new study's goal was to understand what factors "led to a sexual abuse 'crisis' in the Catholic Church" and "make recommendations to Catholic leadership" for reducing abuse, the John Jay College researchers explained.

They said their report also "provides a framework" for understanding "sexual victimization of children in any institution" and how organizations respond.

No other institution has undertaken a public study of sexual abuse like this one, they said.

Priests who abused minors were not carbon copies of one another. The report said they constituted a "heterogeneous population." The majority "appear to have had certain vulnerabilities," such as "emotional congruence to adolescents" or difficulty interrelating with adults.

Some priest-abusers were abused as youths. "Having been sexually abused by an adult while a minor increased the risk that priests would later abuse a child,"

the report said.

The stress priests may experience at transitional moments - moving from seminary to parish life; transferring to new parishes; becoming pastors - was cited as a factor that can increase "vulnerability to abuse."

The report indicated that "situational stressors" do not cause abuse, but may serve "as triggers." High alcohol consumption during stressful times can lower inhibitions, it noted.

"The peak of the crisis has passed," the report observed. It said the church "responded," and abuse cases decreased substantially.

A "system of change" has begun in the church, according to the report. However, it said, "organizational changes take years, and often decades, to fully implement."

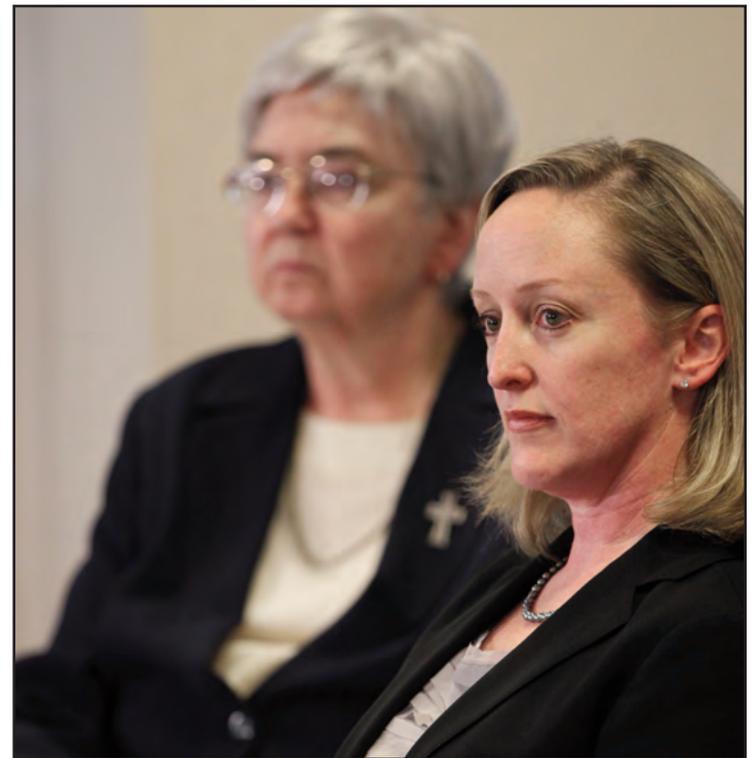
The report called sexual abuse of minors "a long-term societal problem," one "likely to persist, particularly in organizations that nurture and mentor adolescents." It said diocesan leaders "must continue to deal with abuse allegations appropriately."

Priest-abusers represented only a small percentage of all priests. The researchers judged it "neither possible nor desirable to implement extensive restrictions on the mentoring and nurturing relationships between minors and priests, given that most priests have not sexually abused minors and are not likely to do so."

Because so many abuse cases first were reported to authorities in the early 2000s, some people suspect the abuse remains "at peak levels," the report said. The reality is otherwise.

Sexual abuse of minors by priests "increased steadily from the mid-1960s through the late 1970s, then declined in the 1980s and continues to remain low," the report showed. "Most abuse incidents occurred decades ago."

And "the majority of abusers (70 percent) were ordained prior to the 1970s," the study noted; 44 percent of those accused entered the priesthood before 1960.



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Karen Terry, principal investigator on the John Jay report, front, listens to questions during a press conference to release the results of the report on causes and context of clergy sex abuse at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops headquarters in Washington May 18. The report said there is "no single identifiable 'cause' of sexually abusive behavior toward minors and encouraged steps to deny abusers 'the opportunity to abuse.' Also pictured is Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of media relations for the USCCB.

Social factors influenced the increase of abuse incidents during the 1960s and 1970s, the report said. It found this increase consistent with "the rise of other types of 'deviant' behavior, such as drug use and crime," and changes in social behavior such as the "increase in premarital sexual behavior and divorce."

Those generations of priest-abusers also lacked "careful preparation for a celibate life," the report noted. Moreover, they failed to recognize the harm done to victims.

Awareness of the harm of sexual abuse to minors grew in society and the church during the 20th century's last decades.

An increasing reluctance over time to reinstate priests in parishes after a first accusation may reflect the growth of this awareness, the report suggested.

In the 1990s, it said, "the failure of some diocesan leaders to take responsibility

for the harms of the abuse by priests was egregious in some cases."

The report accented the critical role of what today is called "human formation" in seminaries. It said a gradually intensifying focus on human-formation concerns coincided with a decline of abuse cases.

Human formation addresses matters such as the future priest's relationships and friendships, his self-knowledge, integrity and celibate chastity. The report recommended that human formation continue after ordination.

Removing opportunities to abuse minors, making abuse more difficult and increasing its risks are among prevention steps the report recommended.

Excuses priest-abusers make need to be recognized for what they are, it advised.

The report affirmed the safe environment programs implemented throughout the church in the U.S.

Archbishop Dolan, Rep. Ryan exchange letters on House's budget for 2012

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the chief author of the recently passed House budget for 2012 have exchanged letters discussing the moral implications of the federal budget debate.

Archbishop Timothy P. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, said in a May 18 letter to Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., a Catholic who chairs the House Budget committee, that he was pleased to know that consideration was given to the foundational principles of Catholic social teaching in drafting the budget plan.

The archbishop's correspondence came in response to an April 29 letter from Ryan, who explained that the needs of the poor, the sick and the elderly were not being ignored and that it was a moral imperative to address the growing federal deficit in the budget as passed in the House. The Senate has yet to take up the budget.

Ryan's office released the letters May 19.

The House budget has been criticized by some Catholics who have said that it deviates from the basic tenets of Catholic social teaching.

Specifically, they have raised concerns about how the plan would change Medicaid funding in the future, particularly harming children and women, how it would reshape Medicare and would likely reduce access to health care for the elderly, and how its plan to reduce the tax rate for high income individuals would fuel the federal deficit.

Archbishop Dolan reminded Ryan that any



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York celebrates Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. In his role as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he sent a letter to Rep. Paul Ryan on the moral implications of the federal budget debate.

budget must keep the needs of the poor as a priority.

He reiterated the guidelines he offered in a Jan. 14 letter to all members of Congress as well as those offered by Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, in an April 13 letter to the House as it debated the budget bill.

"In any transition that seeks to bring new proposals to current problems in order to build a better future, care must be taken that those currently in need not be left to suffer," Archbishop Dolan wrote. "I appreciate your assurance that your budget would be attentive to such considerations and would protect those at risk in the processes and programs of such a transition.

"While appreciating these assurances, our duty as pastors will motivate our close attention to the manner in which they become a reality," he said.

Archbishop Dolan took no stance on the House budget,

however.

In his letter, Ryan explained to the USCCB president that he wanted to "provide facts about our budget to help advance an informed debate in light of social teachings about the well-being of the family, subsidiarity, the preferential option for the poor and the dignity of the human person."

The budget "honors responsibility to family and self work, self-restraint, community and self-government both individually and collectively," he wrote.

Ryan said the budget would reduce the country's debt by \$4.4 trillion and prevent Medicare from becoming insolvent. He also said it proposes that tax rates be "flattened and broadened" while closing loopholes that benefit upper income earners.

In doing so, he said, the budget "is intended to restore the confidence of job creators in order to encourage expansion, growth and hiring today."

Archbishop Dolan said he, Bishop Blaire and Bishop Hubbard welcomed further discussion on the budget.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholics in China need prayers, pope says at audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The persecuted Catholic Church in China needs and deserves the prayers of Catholics throughout the world, Pope Benedict XVI said. "There, as elsewhere, Christ is living his passion" because of government restrictions and pressures on the church, the pope said May 18 at the end of his weekly general audience. He asked Catholics everywhere to observe May 24, the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, as a day of prayer for Catholics in mainland China. Pope Benedict established the annual day of prayer in 2007 when he wrote a letter to Catholics in China outlining ways to promote greater unity between those exercising their faith clandestinely and those participating in communities overseen by the government-backed Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. At his general audience, the pope emphasized the need for unity between the church in China and Rome. "Chinese Catholics, as they have said many times, want unity with the universal church, with the supreme pastor, with the successor of Peter," he said.

Vatican calls for solidarity to guarantee access to health care

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Global solidarity is needed so that every country can guarantee all of its citizens have access to health care, a Vatican official told the annual assembly of the World Health Organization. Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, told the World Health Assembly that nations appear "stalled in the status quo where the rich people have higher levels of coverage, while most of the poor people miss out, and (even) those who do have access often incur high, sometimes catastrophic costs in paying for services and medicine." The archbishop's speech to the assembly in Geneva was released May 18 at the Vatican. Under Blessed Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, he said, the Catholic Church has called for "universal access to medical care." The archbishop said: "Despite the progress made in some countries, on the whole, we are still a long way from universal coverage." Reviewing the World Health Organization's annual report and proposed strategies for the future, Archbishop Zimowski also praised efforts to combat HIV/AIDS by stepping up efforts to prevent transmission of the virus to children and by expanding programs that treat children.

English, Welsh bishops reintroduce meatless Fridays

LONDON (CNS) -- Catholics in England and Wales will be obliged to abstain from meat every Friday under a new rule brought by the bishops. The "act of common witness" will take effect Sept. 16, the first anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Britain. The rule, announced at a news conference in London in mid-May, reverses a relaxation of the Friday penance regulations introduced in England and Wales in 1984. This allowed Catholics to choose their own form of Friday penance -- such as offering additional prayers, attending Mass or abstaining from alcohol. But critics have said that the end of a tradition in which Catholics ate fish or eggs instead of meat on Fridays led to a loss of common identity, with many Catholics today abstaining from meat only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The return to an obligation to abstain from meat was a key resolution of the bishops' May plenary meeting held in Leeds, England, May 9-16. "Every Friday is set aside by the church as a special day of penance, for it is the day of the death of Our Lord," said the bishops' resolution. "The law of the church requires Catholics to abstain from meat on Fridays, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the bishops' conference."



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Daily Itinerary

Monday, March 12 - Day 1 - DEPART USA - Today we depart Montreal airport to connect with our overnight flight to Venice via Frankfurt aboard a wide-bodied jet. We are served complimentary beverages, in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast aloft.

Tuesday, March 13 - Day 2 - VENICE - Today, we arrive in Venice, the *Queen of the Cities*, where we are met and transferred to our hotel in the nearby Mestre area for dinner and overnight. The balance of the day is at leisure.

Wednesday, March 14 - Day 3 - VENICE - Venice, the *Queen of the Cities*! The glories that are Venice have attracted Byron, Goethe, Wagner, Shakespeare and now - you! Following Mass in one of her beautiful churches, time is spent this morning walking the sights of Venice: the splendid Piazza San Marco and the incredibly rich Byzantine Basilica of San Marco. We marvel at the intricate network of elegant squares lined with stately Renaissance villas and palaces. This afternoon, we are free for shopping, personal adventure or an optional romantic gondola ride through the inner canals of Venice. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Thursday, March 15 - Day 4 - VENICE/TUSCANY - This morning, we depart Venice for our journey to Florence. On our scenic drive through this beautiful countryside, we stop at Padua, including Mass and a tour of the Basilica of St. Anthony and the largest bronze work of Donatello. Next we continue to Tuscany and Florence's delightful nearby spa town of Montecatini Terme whose streets invite us to stroll after dinner at our hotel.

Friday, March 16 - Day 5 - FLORENCE - This morning, we start with Mass at a delightful local parish church here in Montecatini. Afterwards, we see the highlights of Florence, the jewel of the Renaissance. We first proceed to Piazzale Michelangelo for a panoramic view of the city. Next we visit the Duomo, the heart of the city with its cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, and its Campanile by Giotto and Baptistery with incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. Next we visit the Medici Chapel in the church of San Lorenzo, to see the tombs designed and executed by Michelangelo. Afterwards, we set out to the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its embattlement crowned tower. Across from the Palace, we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna's the "Rape of the Sabines" and "Hercules". After free time for lunch on our own, we visit to the Basilica of Santa Croce. Among the most famous interred here, lay Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo and Macchiavelli. This is followed by free time for shopping or personal adventure. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Saturday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day - Day 6 - FLORENCE/SIENA/ASSISI - Today we journey through the Italian countryside arriving in the magnificent city of Siena, which invites us to stroll through its Gothic streets converging on the famous Piazza del Campo. We celebrate Mass at the Dominican Church that commemorates St. Catherine. We next continue south through Umbria to Assisi. Our first stop is in the lower town for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis' Church of the Little Portion. We then proceed to the hilltop village of Assisi, the home of Saint Francis for dinner and overnight.

Sunday, March 18 - Day 7 - ASSISI/ROME - This morning, we celebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Francesco. After our visit of the Basilica, we begin our walking tour of the village. Included, is a visit to the Church of St. Clare to view the crucifix that spoke to St. Francis. We pass by the famous Temple of Minerva in the Piazza del Comune. After lunch on our own we depart Assisi and afterwards we travel south to the wonderful town of Sorrento along the Mediterranean for dinner and overnight.

Monday, March 19 - Day 8 - FREE DAY SORRENTO - Today, we will be free to explore the lovely seaside town of Sorrento with its winding streets and coastal shops and restaurants. **OPTIONAL ISLE OF CAPRI** - For those who wish, as an option we leave Sorrento by steamer across the Bay of Naples to the Island of Dreams - Capri. We tour the island including Anacapri and weather permitting, the beautiful Blue Grotto. If possible, following Mass at one of the churches here we return to Sorrento for dinner and overnight. (Excursion cost \$100 per person subject to minimum of 15 participants.)

Tuesday, March 20 - Day 9 - AMALFI DRIVE/POMPEII/ROME - Today, we motor along the Sorrento Peninsula on the famous Amalfi Drive with stops along the way, including the splendid jet set village of Positano. Afterwards, we continue to Pompeii, the Roman City destroyed but yet preserved by the volcanic ash of Vesuvius in 79 AD. We celebrate Mass at the church of the Holy Rosary recently visited by Pope John Paul II here. We continue to Rome for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, March 21 - Day 10 - ROME - This morning, we make our way to St. Peter's for an audience with Pope Benedict XVI if he is in residence. This afternoon, we visit the Holy Stairs and Basilica of St. John Lateran. We continue to St. Paul Outside the Walls. The huge, imposing Basilica, second only to St. Peter's and one of the largest churches in the Christian world, contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 265 tablets portraying the popes of the past. We conclude our day at one of the Catacombs, burial place of early Christians. We view the 2nd and 3rd century fresco paintings. Finally, we celebrate Mass at Casa Santa Maria before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, March 22 - Day 11 - ROME - This morning, we go to the Vatican City, where we celebrate Mass below St. Peter's. Afterwards, we see the treasures of the Vatican Museum. We marvel at Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and the wonders of St. Peter's. This afternoon, we tour Rome's sites; we start with the Basilica of St. Mary Major, then on to the Roman Fora passing the Arch of Constantine, the Coliseum, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Church of St. Peter in Chains to view Michelangelo's possibly most celebrated sculpture, the "Moses." We will have the opportunity to enjoy the culinary delights of Rome tonight as dinner is on our own.

Friday, March 23 - Day 12 - RETURN TO USA - Today we make our way home with memories of a lifetime.



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Christine at 315-608-7556 or email: cward@dioogdensburg.org

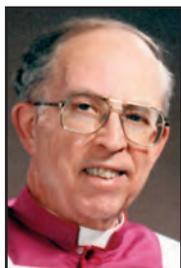
SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church

Although Pentecost is still two weeks away, our Sunday readings today tell us about the work of the Holy Spirit in the early Church.

It was the Holy Spirit who sent the apostles to preach salvation through Jesus not only to the Jews, but to Samaritans and Gentiles as well.

Today's Gospel is part of Jesus' Farewell Address to his apostles at the Last Supper. There, he prepares them for his death, resurrection, and ascension. He tells them they should be happy that He is leaving them, for now God the Father will send them His own Spirit, God the Holy Spirit, as "advocate" or "paraclete."



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

He is the Spirit of Truth who will complete their education, reminding them of all that said while on earth.

He will give them full understanding and skill to preach the Word with power and wisdom.

This Holy Spirit will make it possible for Jesus along with God the Father to come into their hearts and dwell there. In this way,

Jesus will be present to them always. Further, this Holy Spirit will fill them with courage to witness to the Truth. He will console them with great courage and joy, and help them to live always in hope of their own resurrection.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, tells a

story that shows how the apostles, following Pentecost, were able to perform miracles and healings very similar to the ones Jesus Himself worked while yet with them.

These signs gave such strong credibility to their preaching, that crowds of people immediately believed in Jesus, and were baptized. The story itself tells us that Philip, filled with the Spirit, goes to Samaria and there converts these traditional enemies into enthusiastic believers.

When the apostles heard this astounding news, they immediately sent Peter and John to lay hands on them so they could receive the Holy Spirit.

It was in Samaria that a certain magician names Simon, revered there as a god, was converted to

the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

They should have no fear of their enemies, but be prepared to pay the price of discipleship.

If they unite their sufferings to those that Jesus endured, then their personal reward in heaven is assured.

(Are we listening? The words apply very much to us who are modern day apostles and followers).

This Thursday is Ascension Thursday, a Holy Day of Obligation and the beginning of our nine-day preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

As a people of hope, we need to join with Mary and the apostles in prayer, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit which we received in our Confirmation may be renewed and refreshed.

May 29

Sixth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

Jesus. Unfortunately, he made a serious mistake of offering to "buy" Peter's power. Even today, we refer to that as the sin of simony.

Peter excommunicated him on the spot, but invited him to repent of this grave sin. We never do find out what happened to him.

The second reading today from a letter attributed to St. Peter, gives the early Christians a rule of conduct as they set out on their mission of truth and service.

"Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you to account for

RESPECT LIFE

In life and death we all belong to the Lord

Spring could not have come soon enough. It was a brutal winter. After clearing the last vicious gasp of the season – 12 inches of wet, heavy snow that fell fast and furious -- my husband, Joe, suffered a heart attack. Thank God we got him to the hospital quickly and the cardiology team was top notch. A stent was put in, the artery unclogged, blood flowing again, and minimal damage to the heart. Today Joe is eating better, exercising more and



Kathleen
Gallagher

happy to be alive.

But the episode was terrifying for our family. It

demonstrated, up close and personal, the fragility of life.

Joe is a relatively young, healthy and fit man. Any one of us can be here one minute and gone the next. Or we can face debilitating heart failure, stroke, illness or injury.

That's why the latest statement from the Bishops of New York State is such a valuable resource. It's called "Now and at the Hour of Our Death"

and it's a Catholic guide to end-of-life decision making. It's all about planning in advance. Because, truly, we know not the day nor the hour.

Many people may think that end-of-life decision making is for the elderly or terminally ill. Not so. Quite the contrary. Every one of us – young, old, healthy, sick -- should plan now for a time when our ability to reason or communicate is compromised and we are unable to make our own medical decisions.

In their new document, our Bishops provide a great service by spelling out for us, in clear and familiar terms, precisely what our Church teaches about the end of life. It's not what you might think. Contrary to common perception, Catholics are not morally bound to use every possible medical treatment available to prolong life. Discontin-

ing medical procedures that are burdensome, dangerous, extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be morally legitimate. It is an acceptance of natural death. And as Catholics, we believe death is a doorway to eternal life. In both life and death we belong to the Lord.

The Bishops' statement guides us through the differences between "ordinary" medical treatments and "extraordinary" care. In general, we have a moral duty to provide ordinary care like food, water, bed rest and basic hygiene. We are not obliged to offer extraordinary means which offer no reasonable hope of benefit or involve excessive hardship or burden. But each case is different and must be examined on its own set of circumstances. What's extraordinary in one situation may be ordinary in another.

The new booklet is divided into two sections: the first explains the nuances of Church teaching in this area of medical/moral decision-making, and the second explains the legal options available in New York State for advance care planning. The Bishops caution against the so-called "living will" because it requires us to put down in writing today our wishes and desires for a future time, with unforeseen circumstances, conditions and technologies. It is far more prudent, Church leaders suggest, to appoint a "health care agent" under New York's health care proxy law. The booklet contains an actual proxy form, with specifically Catholic language, that you can complete, tear out and use.

The Bishops suggest that your health care agent be someone you trust who knows you well, who under

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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AT THE MOVIES

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES

By John P. McCarthy
Catholic News Service

The fourth movie in the series inspired by the Disneyland attraction, "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides" (Disney), spins a yarn that leads to the Fountain of Youth. No wonder it makes the popular franchise feel long in the tooth. While not a bust or a bore, "On Stranger Tides" would benefit from more vim and vigor.

After 2007's convoluted, never-ending installment "At World's End," producer Jerry Bruckheimer hired director Rob Marshall to do just that. Known for big-screen adaptations of the musicals "Chicago" and "Nine," Marshall is an odd choice to helm an adventure-comedy set on the high seas. In exchange for a leaner, more compact entertainment, this picture lacks awe-inspiring visuals and a grand scale -- notwithstanding copious digital effects and it being the first in the series photographed in 3-D.

"On Stranger Tides" amounts to miniaturized hokey -- the cinematic equivalent of a ship in a bottle. There's not much memo-

rable swashbuckling and the humor isn't particularly jolly. Johnny Depp doesn't appear enthused about reprising the role of foppish Captain Jack Sparrow, despite being given a worthy new love interest played by Penelope Cruz.

In mid-1700s London, we learn of Jack's interest in finding the Fountain of Youth discovered by explorer Ponce de Leon two centuries earlier. Reluctant to join his rival Captain Barbosa (Geoffrey Rush) on an expedition backed by England's King George (Richard Griffiths), Sparrow is conscripted by sword-wielding old flame Angelica (Cruz). Angelica's father is the malevolent pirate Blackbeard (Ian McShane), a character schooled in the dark arts and the only one wearing more eye mascara than Jack. They set sail aboard his vessel Queen Anne's Revenge, crewed by zombie officers.

Meanwhile, the Spanish crown has dispatched three galleons to the island where the font of eternal life is supposedly located. The ritual necessary to unlock its regenerative powers entails obtaining a mermaid's fresh tear. The movie's center-

piece is an aquatic melee involving a host of these enticingly beautiful yet predatory creatures. Philip Swift (Sam Claflin), a missionary clergyman in Blackbeard's custody, falls in love with one, whom he dubs Syrena (Astrid Berges-Frisbey).

Their romance adds a youthful note to "On Stranger Tides," but Swift's faith also affords screenwriters Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio the chance to fortify the plot by contrasting his theistic worldview to one rooted in magic, including voodoo, and a pagan belief in Fate. There's considerable banter about the salvation of souls promised by Christianity and the fountain's superficial kind of redemption. This includes some mildly provocative comments regarding religion, and Catholicism in particular. They needn't deter potential viewers, however, especially since the values of compassion and kindness championed by faithful agents are appropriately affirmed.

And yet plotwise, the tension between theology and magic does end in a sort of a stand-off. As regards the handling of almost any sub-



(CNS PHOTO/DISNEY)

Johnny Depp, center, stars in a scene from the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides."

stantive topic in a mainstream summer movie, "On Stranger Tides" hedges its bets, taking great care not to offend -- or to say anything of real consequence.

The film contains recurring action-adventure violence and peril, including nongraphic knife play and swordplay; some lightly suggestive humor and innuendo; several scary sequences; one rude expression; and frequent alcohol consumption.

The Catholic News Service

classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

In life

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

stands and respects your religious and moral beliefs, such as your spouse, adult child, sibling or friend. Your agent's voice will become your voice should you become incapacitated and unable to decide for yourself. Talk to that person now, while you are competent, about your faith and beliefs about the end of life. Don't wait until it's too late.

Sitting for hours in the hospital waiting room, a

million questions raced through my mind: Was it too late, or did we get Joe to the emergency room in time? What exactly are they doing to his heart? Will he survive? Will he be able to do all the things he used to do?

Fortunately, "Can I legally make medical decisions for my husband?" wasn't one of them. Joe and I completed our health care proxies years ago and named each other as our agents. Thankfully, we

still haven't had to use them. But they're there, just in case.

Life is fragile. Handle with care.

Single copies of the NYS Bishops' statement are available free from the New York State Catholic Conference by calling 518-434-6195 or emailing kgallagher@nyscatholic.org.

Mrs. Gallagher is the Director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference.

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CLINTON

HEALING MASS

Ellenburg Center – OLA House of Prayer to have special Healing Mass.

Date: June 4

Time: 10 a.m.

Features: Father Doug Decker will once again join us in this life-giving ministry of Jesus' healing power available to us even today. RSVP to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or by calling 594-3253 if you plan on staying for a light lunch. Donations appreciated.

ANNUAL BAZAAR AND DINNER

Mooers Forks – St. Ann's Parish is to host its 35th Annual Bazaar and Roast Beef Dinner.

Date: June 5

Time: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Features: Parade at 11a.m. Entertainment all day. Noon to 2 p.m. talent up to 16 years old; 2 p.m. to 6 Adult Country Music. Boots, games, Large Ticket Drawing at 5:30 p.m.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ellenburg Center – OLA House of Prayer to have Day of Reflection on the topic Jesus the Harlequin.

Date: June 10

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

Features: Father Gilbert Boisvert will give a reflection on the many faces of Jesus, incorporating his marionettes into the presentation. Mass, Confessions, the Rosary, and Adoration will be included. Lunch provided. RSVP by June 7 to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253. Donations appreciated.

ANNUAL SPRING SALE

Peru – St. Vincent de Paul Society will be holding its Annual Spring Sale.

Date: June 3 and 4

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

Place: St. Augustine Parish Center
Features: Toys, household items, shoes and gently used summer clothing.

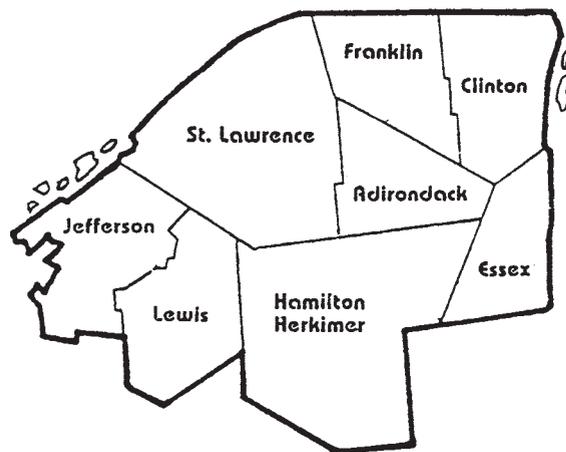
GOLF TOURNAMENT

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host its 25th annual golf tournament.

Date: June 17

Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club
Features: The four-person scramble will feature a "New Car Hole in One" prize sponsored by Bill McBride Chevrolet and other great prizes. The entry fee is \$260 per team until June 10th and \$280 per team thereafter. Spouses are invited to attend the dinner at \$15 each.



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

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

Contact: Obtain entry forms and information by contacting Bill McBride Jr. at 643-6678; email Scar6064@charter.net

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

Keeseville – The Keeseville Altar Rosary Society to sponsor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St John's Holy Family Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

Contact: For more information about spending a special hour with Jesus weekly, or becoming a substitute, please call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

ESSEX

RETIREMENT PARTY

Ticonderoga – Come Join us at father Bill Muench's Retirement Party.

Date: June 26

Time: Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's, Reception Noon to 3 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall

JEFFERSON

CAR WASH

Watertown – The Watertown Special Religious Education Program will be

having a car wash.

Date: June 4

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's Church Parking Lot

Cost: Donation

HEALING MASS

Clayton – St. Mary's Church will be celebrating its Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

Date: June 11

Time: 11 a.m.

Features: The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered during Mass. The Celebrants will be Father Arthur LaBaff, pastor in Clayton and Father Douglas Comstock, pastor, Catholic Community of Alexandria. After Mass there will be prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A social time to meet the Tetrault family, to share testimonies of healing to be held in the Parish Center along with refreshments.

Contact: If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 686-3398.

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

LEWIS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Harrisville – St. Francis Solanus Church will be having a Pancake Breakfast.

Date: May 29

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$5; Under 5, Free

Contact: parish office, 543-2421

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions to be Held.

Date: June 5

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Program: Vespers, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung) and Benediction.

Contact: Mary Ann 348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Winthrop – Brasher Falls K of C is hosting a golf tournament to benefit handicapped and needy children

Date: June 11

Time: 9 a.m. shotgun start

Place: Meadowbrook Golf Course

Features: Four person, scramble, men, women, seniors and mixed teams welcome. \$15 per person, includes \$5 for skins and \$5 for 50/50 raffle. Green fees and cart are not included. Over \$800 dollars in prizes will be awarded.

Contact: Galon Eldridge at 315-842-9277 or e-mail gandumeld@gmail.com by June 7.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: June 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16

FIDELIS CARE OPEN HOUSES

Fidelis Care, the New York State Catholic health plan, is partnering with two St. Lawrence County Hospitals to help uninsured residents of apply for quality, free or low-cost health care coverage

Massena: Fidelis Care representatives will be on site at Massena Memorial Hospital (downstairs conference room); 1 Hospital Drive, Massena, on Fridays, beginning May 27, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm..

Gouverneur: Fidelis Care representatives will be on site at E.J. Noble Hospital; 77 West Barney Street, Gouverneur, on

Wednesdays, beginning June 1, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Features: Fidelis Care offers free or low-cost health insurance through New York State's Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, and Medicaid Managed Care programs. Members are covered for regular checkups, preventive care, routine screenings, hospital and emergency care, eye exams, dental care, and more. Fidelis Care also offers a variety of benefit options for seniors through Fidelis Medicare Advantage, Dual Advantage, Medicaid Advantage Plus, and Fidelis Care at Home programs, available in select counties. To apply for enrollment in Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, or Medicaid Managed Care through Fidelis Care, please bring proof of age, income, and address.

Contact: For more information, call Fidelis Care toll-free at 1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547) or visit fideliscare.org.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's Church has scheduled Eucharistic Adoration every Saturday.

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

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel

Date: Tuesday evenings

Time : 6:30 p.m.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

MEDICAL DIRECTOR NEEDED

Camp Guggenheim is currently in search of a Medical Director to work at our camps in Saranac Lake this summer. June

Features: This is a 7 week paid position which requires a RN, LPN or EMT license. Included in this position is optional free room and board, and meals.

Contact: Deacon Brian Dwyer at 315-393-2920 or email bdwyer@dioogdensburg.org

SERRA CLUB PILGRIMAGE

The Serra Club of Ogdensburg has announced its Annual Fall Pilgrimage.

Date: Oct. 4

Place: Lake Placid

Features: Bishop Terry LaValley will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Agnes Church, lunch will be at the Crown Plaza and a Holy Hour will follow.

Contact: For more information please contact John and Sondra Castle at 315-265-3578.



The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Maryknoll visitor to Catholic schools

By Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Mission Director

Earlier this year, I invited Father Kevin Hanlon, a Maryknoll priest, to address some students on Holy Childhood Association. He gladly accepted our invite and spent three days traveling in our Diocese. Below is a synopsis of his brief visit up North.

I am very grateful to Sr. Mary Ellen for inviting me, a Maryknoll priest, to participate in promoting the missions and the Holy Childhood Association in Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Schools. Although you might think my words perfunctory, it was truly a joy to be able to visit six of the finest Catholic grammar schools in the Northeast of the United States, located in the towns of Massena, Malone, Champlain, Plattsburgh, Champlain, Saranac Lake and Lake Placid.

Without exception, all of the principals, teachers and students received my missionary message with attention and interest. All of the schools I visited participate in collecting for the "kids helping kids" fund of the Holy Childhood Association (the 'HCA'): donations from schools here go to the neediest children's projects in overseas missions.

In a way, I was personally able to thank them for their donations, for I know firsthand of the projects of the HCA, and how much they mean. Although I have worked in a very poor mission in Mexico for two years, most of my 19 years on the missions has been spent in Japan. I was moved by how devoutly the kids joined me in prayer for Japan. And we even had a little fun together. I taught them how to write some simple Japanese characters, and was surprised at how quickly they caught on.

Although our Maryknoll mission is to preach the Gospel in foreign lands, I am grateful to all parents who participate in the mission of keeping our Catholic schools alive and well; these Northern Catholic schools play a large part in our life and in our future. In the United States, well over half of the young who become priests, Brothers and Sisters today went to Catholic schools for at least part of their education. These schools stand as a beacon of hope and faith in a world becoming more and more secular. It is an honor for me to at least be a small part in the education of these children.

I was also grateful to be able to meet your new Bishop! I stayed for two nights as Msgr. Duprey's guest in St. Peter's, and after visiting a school in the afternoon, I came back to find the Bishop and many priests from the eastern part of the diocese assembled for a Liturgical conference. It was a real honor to meet the Bishop and many of the priests. They have a very fine esprit de corps, a sense of enthusiasm for their work about them.

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks – Ruth Elizabeth (Guinn) Longinetti, 70; Funeral Services May 20, 2011 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Brasher Falls – Marion M. (Snyder) Cootware, 87; Funeral Services May 19, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Canton – Lorraine M. Primeau, 77; Funeral Services May 14, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's cemetery.

Croghan – Rita M. (Aucter) Muncy, 80; Funeral Services May 14, 2011 at St. Stephen's Catholic Church; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Houseville – Rebecca Ann Szalach Bergeron, 51; Funeral Services May 19, 2011 at St. Hedwig's Catholic Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lisbon – Marion B. (Bradley) Driscoll, 83; Funeral Services May 14, 2011 at SS.

Philip and James Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – James W. Dowd, 93; Funeral Services May 16, 2011 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Emma E. (Durham) Dominie, 89; Funeral Services May 19, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Roger J. Defayette, 72; Funeral Services May 20, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Louis de France Cemetery, Sciota.

Plattsburgh – Yvonne L. DuBrey, 85; Funeral Services June 24, 2011 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh – Lenet T. (Carter) King, 80; Funeral Services May 21, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

Plattsburgh – Alice L. (LaPoint) Prenoveau, 98; Funeral Services May 21, 2011 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Thomas M. Callahan, 74; Funeral Services May 20, 2011 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Roberts S. McKillip, 79; Funeral Services May 21, 2011 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Eleanor O. (Wozey) Pabins, 87; Funeral Services May 21, 2011 at St. Bernard's Church.

Saranac Lake – Fraser John Sturgeon, 85; Funeral Services May 19, 2011 at St. Bernard's Church.

Waddington – Frank J. Samphier, 95; Funeral Services May 20, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

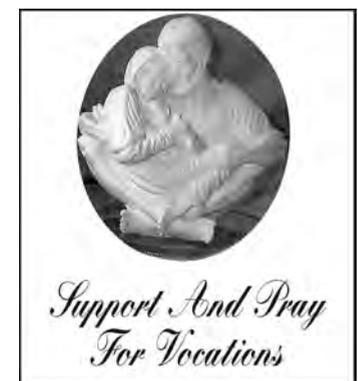
Watertown – Carmeline J. (Guardino) Carpenter, 86; Funeral Services May 19, 2011 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in N. Watertown Cemetery.

West Chazy – Rickey James Renadette, 52; Funeral Services May 21, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church.

A SPECIAL VISITOR AT SETON



Father Kevin Hanlon, a Maryknoll missionary priest, recently visited the students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh and told them about some of his experiences in Mexico and Japan. He taught them five words in Japanese and recited the Hail Mary in Japanese for them. He is shown above with some of the second grade student, Victoria Defayette, Yamuna Turco, Ingrid Baggett, and Kolbee LaPointe. In the background is a scroll with Japanese characters on it. Father Hanlon reflects on his three-day visit to schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in this week's mission column, at left.





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