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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JULY 2, 2014

IN SERVICE TO THE POOR



PHOTO SUPPLIED

This summer dozens of students from Immaculate Heart Central Junior and Senior High in Watertown will again be donating hundreds of hours of their time and talent during IHC's 4th Annual Summer Mission, "Building Blocks 2014." Sponsored by IHC's Faith Community Service Program together with Watertown's First Presbyterian Church, IHC students consistently provide the bulk of the "Youth Power" during this weeklong summer service event. From July 28 to Aug. 1 these students will be helping to scrape, paint and restore the homes of local families in need. Mikayla Kolb is shown above during last year's Building Blocks Week. Articles and photos of Catholic efforts to help people in need across the country is the focus of this Week's *North Country Catholic*.

Fortnight for Freedom: the freedom to serve

The theme of this year's Fortnight for Freedom, taking place from June 21 to July 4, will focus on the freedom to serve the poor and vulnerable in accord with human dignity and the Church's teaching.

This is the third year that that United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called upon dioceses to observe a Fortnight for Freedom to highlight the

importance of religious liberty in the United States.

To highlight the "freedom to serve," the *North Country Catholic* has partnered with Catholic Charities to publish this special issue focusing on numerous ways that parishes, schools and Catholic organizations in the Diocese of Ogdensburg serve the poor in the North Country and around the world.

CLOSER TO BEATIFICATION



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Catholic school teacher of the year honored



Michele Bombard of Trinity Catholic School in Massena

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Welcome

Two priests from the Heralds of Good News Mother Theresa Province in India have arrived to serve in Massena and Malone

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NCC summer schedule

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Showing love for God... and neighbor

When Pope Francis calls for “a church that is poor and for the poor,” I think he’d approve of the church he’d find in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

As we join in the national observance of the third annual Fort-night for Freedom - with its theme “Freedom to Serve” - our diocese is taking stock of how we have been serving the poor and what more we can do.

In the pages of this special issue of the *North Country Catholic*, we read about the efforts of parishes and schools across

the diocese to tackle poverty in our region.

We know that we are barely scratching the surface in telling the story of the generosity of Catholics of the North Country.

But, we also need to accept that there is more that each of us can do to take care of the least of our brothers and sisters.

The statistics of poverty are staggering.

In this wealthiest country in the world, one out of every five children goes to bed hungry.

How can we bear that?



Mary Lou Kilian

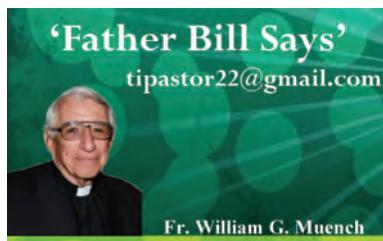
A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Church of the poor – church for the poor

I would like to share with you some ideas I've learned concerning our Catholic Church's efforts to serve the poor. Recently, my friend, Father Phil Allen, encouraged me to read a book by Robert Calderisi, “*Earthly Mission: The Catholic Church and World Development*.” Calderisi, a layman, is an economist and writer. He has been involved with the World Bank and has also traveled throughout the world, interviewing many to discover something of the Catholic effort to help development throughout the world.

I was deeply impressed with this book so I want to share some of these ideas with you. Calderisi mentions several of the Catholic lay movements that have been successful in helping the poor and needy. He makes it clear that prayer is an important part of each of these groups.

One of the groups that he mentions is the Community of Sant'Egidio. I remember attending one of the daily prayer services of this group when I was in Rome. It is held each day at the Church of Santa Maria in Trastevere. Prayer is an important part of this program. They sponsor soup



kitchens, educational programs, interfaith meetings and a continuing program to end the death penalty throughout the world. Their work demonstrates the strength of their Catholic faith in action.

Calderisi points out that there has been a waning in the Catholic Church's social mission. He notes that there has been a trend in our Church to associate “Catholic” with a narrow range of moral issues – even retrenchment – rather than the openness and reforming zeal the Church stood for after the Vatican Council.

He quotes Cardinal Turkson of Ghana: “The Church's social mission should remain central, and not just for priests, brothers and religious sisters – in a sense, this is the vocation of the laity. If Christians don't promote social change, who will?”

The Second Vatican Council established a spirit that there

In New York State, nearly 35 percent of our children live in working families who are in poverty.

In our part of the state, the growing job market won't be found in high paying industrial positions. It's in the service and tourist industry with jobs that tend to be low paying and lacking in benefits.

Across New York State, the percentage of persons living in poverty is 14.9%; in St. Lawrence County, the rate is 18.5% and, in Franklin County it's 17.6%.

That's a lot of poverty in our midst.

Pope Francis, of course, isn't the only pope to put the needs

of the poor in front of us. Back in 1979, St. John Paul came to Yankee Stadium and offered a message Catholics can't afford to forget: “The poor of the United States and of the world are your brothers and sisters in Christ. You must never be content to leave them just the crumbs from the feast. *You must take of your substance, and not just of your abundance, in order to help them.* And you must treat them like guests at your family table.”

The stories in this week's NCC offer many suggestions for the dollars of our sustenance to go. What a perfect way to honor our call to love God *and* our neighbor.

is no difference between service and being Christian. Our Catholic Church must be concerned with solving these urgent problems of people. In these present days, this will necessitate working with other faith communities and the private sector; people of all faiths, little faith and even no faith at all are capable of devoting themselves to the welfare of others, impelled by pure humanity.

Calderisi makes a point here that the Church must manage its wealth more effectively, giving a better opportunity to help where needed.

There is hope. There is a new pastoral spirit in the statements and action of Pope Francis. He has given an image of a Church of the Poor – a Church for the Poor. This would be an important time for our bishops to make a statement concerning development, poverty and the environment. Such a statement and program would put new life and new focus for the parishes of our diocese. Now is the time for Catholics to be recognized for our readiness to deal with the needs of our people – all people – especially the poor and needy.

Our Masses, our liturgies, our

preaching must result in strong action by our people. As Church, we must lead all to go out and live their faith boldly as we bring help to those in need. We must be recognized as true disciples of Jesus – as people of faith who believe in a loving, caring God.

Calderisi quotes an Indian priest: “Amidst globalization, competition and privatization, our faith must inspire us to really serve the poorest of the poor. In spite of all the criticism she received, Mother Teresa was a genius in recognizing this forgotten dimension and restoring dignity to the poor.”

Finally, he quoted Father Bernard Lecomte, from way back in 1965: The Christian is called to join others (including people without labels) in fighting poverty not as Crusaders, but in this present age pursuing scientific and technical progress, our hearts open to the Gospel, demonstrating our commitments to something greater than ourselves.”

The question is - are we ready to continue and reinforce our Catholic and personal commitment to follow Jesus' lead to help the poor and needy?

FOLLOW ME

Fortnight for Freedom: freedom to serve

Encouragement, Faithfulness and Respect are the core values of our Diocesan Envisioning process. They describe how we live out our faith. Our Sacred Purpose finds its roots in a Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled social contract.

This prophetic Diocesan vision of finding your home in Christ, renewing faith, nurturing hope and discovering love correlates well with the theme for the 2014 Fortnight for Freedom (June 21 to July 4): Service of the Poor.

The Vatican II document on Religious Freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae*, provides that "the social nature of the human person and the very nature of religion afford the foundation of the right of the human person freely to hold meetings and to establish educational, cultural, charitable and social organizations, under the impulse of their own religious sense." (DH, 4)

Religious liberty provides each of us with the right to

pray and worship as we choose. We possess the right to develop programs and services that address the needs of individuals and families on the local, national and international levels. We exercise our freedom when we witness to the Gospel values of charity, justice, inclusion, mercy, compassion and respect.

Religious liberty enables us to build intentional communities that promote the sanctity and dignity of all persons. Created in the image and likeness of God, each person has the right to food, housing, education, gainful employment, affordable health care and inclusion in the life of the community.

Our identities as Catholics and as Americans define our behaviors. Thomas Paine, one of our Founding Fathers wrote, "*We have it in our power, to begin the world over again.*" (Common Sense) Jesus already gave us the tools to achieve this goal. The Beatitudes are the

blueprint for authentic Christian living. Welcoming the disaffected, advocating for the marginalized and recognizing the giftedness of all persons flow from understanding the lessons provided in the Beatitudes.

Jesus intentionally focused on the poor, the marginalized and the disaffected. He spoke to the woman at the well. Jesus reached out to the lepers. He opened his heart to the sick, the abandoned and those lacking social status. Living a life based on the Beatitudes is a commitment to be prophetic.

Finding and raising our prophetic voices can change the world. Making a choice to support peacemaking, protection of human rights and justice for all citizens of the world takes courage and prayerful, deliberate action. Respecting the dignity of all human life takes understanding, compassion and a willingness to listen.

Being prophetic means having the vision to see the needs of our sisters and brothers and working to address those needs and accepting the responsibility of working to change unjust

social structures. Being prophetic calls us to acknowledge our common humanity. Through that acknowledgement we commit ourselves to changing the world.

During this year's Fortnight for Freedom, I urge all parishes, families and individuals to do something, big or small, to serve our sisters and brothers.

Being prophetic compels us to restore the social contract based on each person's freedom to live with dignity.

We know these truths. As long as one child remains a captive in the human trafficking trade, we are all captives. As long as one woman or man experiences exploitation due to unfair wages, we are all exploited. As long as the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen, we are all shackled by the suffering of our brothers and sisters. Until every citizen of our world lives in peace and safety we are all in danger.

Religious liberty must allow us to work for the "*Liberty for all captives*" (Isaiah 58).

During this year's Fortnight for Freedom, I urge all parishes, families and individuals to do something, big or small, to serve our sisters and brothers. Help a family member or a neighbor. Be a peacemaker by seeking reconciliation with someone from whom you have been estranged. Organize an extra food collection for a local soup kitchen or food pantry. Develop a creative project that brings people together to build up your local community. Advocate for immigration reform and policies that support the sanctity and dignity of human life at all stages and work against injustices in the workplace.

The prophet Micah summarizes well the prophetic call and responsibility of religious freedom, "Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." (6:8) Together we must exercise our religious freedom to change the world with much *encouragement, faithfulness and deep respect* because we are Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled.

Bishop's column is honored by CPA



Bishop Terry R. LaValley's column "Follow Me" received an honorable mention in the category "Best Regular Column by a Bishop or Archbishop" in the 2014 Catholic press awards of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

The awards were presented June 19 during the Catholic Media Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The judges comments follow:

Bishop LaValley uses events from his pastoral life to enhance his

columns. The reader comes to know him as a pastoral leader. His attributions to Pope Francis remind us of the universality of the Church. And in each concluding paragraph, he invites the faithful to join him -- in thanksgiving, in prayer and at Mass.

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IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

St. Agnes Parish lives out Catholic social teaching

...We are convinced that the local parish is the most important ecclesial setting for sharing and acting on our Catholic social heritage."

(U.S. bishops, Communities of Salt and Light)

Thinking about Lake Placid brings to mind images of the Olympics, lovely resort areas and phenomenal mountain views. Along with great restaurants and intriguing shopping opportunities this area evokes an impressive picture of idyllic living.

Father John Yonkovig and the parish community of St. Agnes are able to appreciate the positive aspects of their community and see the flip side of the coin. Lake Placid is home to individuals and families who live on the margins. The struggle to meet their daily needs challenges these low income households.

St. Agnes Parish hosts a food pantry that feeds 175 to 190 families each month. At Thanksgiving the parish community distributes over 300 full holiday dinners. The parish is also involved with the Inter-faith thrift Shop. This program reaches out to individuals and families in need of clothing and household items.



Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Frances Barnes is shown with young people from Ss. Philip and James Church in Lisbon who took part in the 2013 Harvest Walk in Ogdensburg. In front, from left are Sister Mary Fran, Lexi LaFlair, Maddison Vine, Katie Sovie and Koby Jordan; back, Lorraine Hollis, Kane Jordan, Logan Mathews, Connor Hammond and Tucker Jordan.

Lisbon parishioners serve the poor and vulnerable

By Sister Mary Frances Barnes, DC
Pastoral Associate, Saints Philip
and James Church, Lisbon

LISBON - Ss. Philip & James actively serves those who are poor and vulnerable both visibly and behind the scenes.

The parish has sponsored two students to make the mission trip with the Mission of Hope in Nicaragua. A parent of one of these students will again make the trip next summer. Throughout the year the parish collects toiletries and needed supplies for the mission trips. As a result of a presentation from a mission-oriented Catholic organization, many of our parishioners maintain contact and contribute generously to sponsor a child living in poverty in a third world country.

The Lisbon Churches together sponsor a food pantry that is open twice a month. Our parish con-

tributes in many ways to continue this needed service to the community of Lisbon and the surrounding area. Our Confirmation students have helped with food distribution as well as assembling some of the Thanksgiving baskets that are given out each year. Come to our church on any given Sunday and you will be encouraged to take home a re-usable grocery bag and return it the following Sunday with your contributions.

On a broader scale, our parishioners actively participate in the Lights of the River project as founding members, board members, volunteering during the event, fund raising and having a yearly display.

Each year our parish takes part in the annual Harvest Walk that raises funds for local food pantries and organizations helping poor individuals. Students, parents, staff all collect donations and make the an-

nual walk in Ogdensburg.

Confirmation students help serve at the fund-raising events for the Harvest Walk held throughout the year.

The Altar/Rosary/Outreach Society of the parish also has a focus for the poor and vulnerable. Their fund raising events support their contributions to the Bishop's Fund, Catholic Charities, the Food Pantry and to the annual scholarship to Lisbon community students in memory of Sr. Joan Casey. The group comes together during Advent to make favors and gifts for the elderly and shut-ins of the parish whom they visit for the holidays.

We are grateful for this year's focus of the Fortnight for Freedom that has given us the chance to reflect on our actions in favor of those who are poor and vulnerable and look for ways to continue and expand this mission.



Mary Vasquez and Christina Perez of the Catholic Charities staff in the Watertown office show off their new "Baby Depot" which features items they provide to families in need.

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IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

Catholic Charities partners with parishes

Our parish communities are measured by how they serve "the least of these" in our parish and beyond its boundaries – the hungry, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, the stranger (MT. 25: 31) Our local families of faith are called to 'hunger and thirst for justice' and to be 'peacemakers' in our own communities (Mt 5:6-9).

(U.S. Bishops, Communities of Salt and Light)

By Sister Donna Franklin, DC
Diocesan director, Catholic Charities

The partnership between Catholic Charities and the parishes reaches all the way back to 1917. For over 97 years Catholic Charities has been part of the diocesan family. Acknowledging the primacy of the parish in the evangelization mission of the Church, Catholic Charities continues to search for opportunities to partner with parishes.

The Annual Mother's Day Appeal brings together the parishes and Catholic Charities in assuring that Catholic Charities can continue its mission and Catholic identity. Each year all of the parishes provide financial support for the works and the mission of Catholic Charities. This support is essential and deeply appreciated.

Partnership in Malone

There are multiple additional partnerships existing between Catholic Charities and various parishes.

The Catholic community in Malone partners with Catholic Charities in multiple ways. Catholic Charities programs and services are located in one of the parish community's buildings in the former St. John Bosco area.

Catholic Charities runs the area food pantry and the parish helps to provide a salary for the staff person who coordinates the pantry.



Programs for pregnant and parenting teens, financial assistance, and holiday support programs for individuals, families and the elderly exists all with the support of parishioners and the community.

With Watertown parishes

The parishes in Watertown support the collaborative holiday outreach programs. Catholic Charities provides the parishes with angels for their Giving Trees and the parishes respond generously. Holy Family, St. Anthony's, and St. Patrick's parishes participate in this important community program, providing toys and clothing for over 350 Head Start families.

Holy Family and St. Patrick's parishes include requests for gas and food gift cards. These gift cards provide essential support for families during the winter months. The gift cards are used for medical and employment travel.

St. Patrick's parish provides a welcoming environment for our Ombudsman Program's training sessions.

Altar Rosary Societies

The Altar and Rosary Societies throughout the Diocese hold baby showers and provide the various Catholic Charities offices with clothing, diapers and other infant and toddler items.

Each year Catholic Charities receives a delivery from

the Norfolk altar and Rosary Society's baby shower. These items support many families.

Recently, the Altar and Rosary Society of St. James and St. Ann's in Wells and Lake Pleasant did a wonderful job of handcrafting bags and filling them with personal care items. These bags have been distributed throughout the diocese and have been a great resource for families.

Catholic Daughters

The Catholic Daughters of America provide support to Catholic Charities in many ways. They have provided financial support. Recently, the Catholic Daughters from Saranac Lake visited Catholic Charities administrative offices in Ogdensburg. They brought with them an exquisite array of baby items. Diapers, new clothing and beautiful hand crafted items and a check to support our services to mothers and babies. A few years ago, the Catholic Daughters throughout the State presented a check to each of the eight Catholic Charities organizations in New York State.

St. Peter's Parish in Lowville has been generous in providing space for Catholic Charities Ombudsman Program meetings.

St. Alexander's Parish in Morrisonville provided toys and other presents for Catholic Charities' Christmas outreach program in Plattsburgh. St. Alexander's is a consistent source of referrals to Catholic Charities programs/services.

The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus throughout the Diocese wit-



ness to the two aspects of Christian service: direct aid and advocacy. The various councils provide financial support to Catholic Charities. They advocate for the vulnerable through their work in support of the sanctity and the dignity of human life. This commitment is evident each year as they attend the Catholics at the Capital Day in Albany.

St. Vincent de Paul

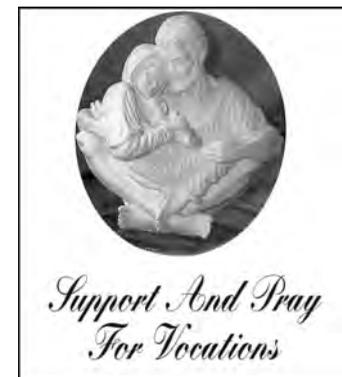
The St. Vincent De Paul Societies in Ogdensburg and Massena provide essential services to individuals and families in need. The Ladies of Charity in Ogdensburg are always there to help the people that Catholic Charities staff refers for clothing assistance.

Each year the St. Vincent DePaul Society makes a substantial donation to Catholic Charities.

St. Peter's in Plattsburgh

St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh has been a tremendous source of support, especially, when disasters have impacted the lives of many individuals and families in Clinton and Essex counties. Catholic Charities was able to begin the disaster response as quickly as possible due to the financial support from St. Peter's. Over 500 people were assisted after a serious hurricane and flooding. Without the help from St. Peter's Parish our response would not have been as rapid or as broad.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

Catholic Charities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Wherever Msgr. Duprey is pastor, he makes sure that his young people learn how to advocate according to the values and principles of the Gospel. Each year he brings a group of students to the Catholics St the Capital Day in Albany.

Passing on the legacy of direct service and advocacy is the responsibility of every Christian and each parish. Along with students from Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown the young people from Plattsburgh are learning the importance of using their prophetic voices.

Advocacy plays a significant part in transforming the world. Many parishes encourage their parishioners to participate in the annual Catholics at the Capital Day. This day highlights the Bishops' legislative agenda. Based on Catholic Social teaching and organized by Catholic Charities, the Catholics at the Capital Day provide the opportunity for Catholic from our parishes to join Catholics from throughout New York State is making our voices heard.

Harvest Walk

The Harvest Walk/Run is an annual event held in Ogdensburg where people of all ages, walk/run to raise money. The funds are distributed to various agencies, food pantries and holiday programs. The success of this fundraiser is due to the commitment made by the members of St. Mary's Cathedral, Notre Dame, St. Raphael's in Heuvelton and Sts. Philip and James, Lisbon. The support of the clergy from all of the parishes plays an important role in encouraging their parishioners to make a difference in their community.

Catholic Charities collaborated with Mercy Care of the Adirondacks and the parishes in Watertown to train 18 nurses for faith

community based health care.

Board of Trustees

Father Patrick Ratigan, Father Scott Seymour, Father Steve Murray, Father Kevin McEwan, Deacon Mark Bennett, Ursuline Sister Teresa Byrne, Grey Nun Sister Barbara Schiavone and St. Joseph Sister Jennifer Votraw, help to shape policy and oversee the mission of Catholic Charities through their service on the Board of Trustees. Father Art LaBaff continues his support of Catholic Charities as a member of the Corporation.

All of the members of the Board of Trustees and the Corporation belong to parishes throughout the diocese. This leadership support from the parishes is welcomed and essential to the functioning of Catholic Charities.

Gratitude

Catholic Charities is grateful to Bishop Terry LaValley for his pastoral leadership and continued support and encouragement. His commitment to building a Diocesan community of compassion, charity and justice creates an environment for the development of both direct aid and advocacy. Catholic Charities is grateful to all of the parishes in the Diocese. Many of our clients benefit from the soup kitchens, food pantries, thrift stores, holiday outreach programs and other parish services.

Parishes are called to reach out to the hurting, the poor, and the vulnerable in our midst in concrete acts of charity. Just as the gospel tells us our lives will be judged by our response to the "least of these," so too our parishes should be measured by our help for the hungry, the homeless, the troubled and the alienated—in our own community and beyond.
(U.S. Bishops, Communities of Salt and Light)



The youth group of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere carries out a variety of service projects during the year, in the parish and the community. The young people have been active in volunteering time at the Urban Mission in Watertown, serving at benefit dinners to help those in need and have been caroling at the senior home.

Catholics of Cape Vincent, Chaumont, Rosiere reach out

By Julie Moot

Religious Education Coordinator,
The Catholic Community of Cape Vincent,
Chaumont, and Rosiere

God calls us to fulfill our Baptismal Call as priest, prophet, and king just as Jesus did. By becoming Jesus to our neighbors, we are making the "least" of our brothers the "first" in God's eyes.

Our youth group does

many hours of service work not just for the parish but have been active in volunteering time at the Urban Mission in Watertown, serving at benefit dinners to help those in need, and have been caroling at the senior home.

We have a social out-reach team that visits those who are sick, elderly, in the nursing home, or just need someone to check on them because they are alone. We make greeting cards for birthdays or special occasions for them as well as bringing holiday cheer, religious reading materials, cookies, and other treats.

Our religious education program runs annual food drives to support the local food pantries in the communities.

The Altar Rosary Society provides Christmas stockings with goodies and home baked cookies to our shut-ins, elderly, sick, or nursing home parishioners.

As a Parish, we have provided numerous Sunday

Brunches open to all after mass; supported the Urban Mission in their capital campaign, hosting dollar dinners, running collections of clothing and other items they need.

The parish has also started a scholarship program to provide funds for youth enabling them to attend Camp Guggenheim.

We have participated in mission support for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and we have helped support the Immaculate Heart Central Faith Community Service program in their right to life initiative providing dignity and sanctity of human life in missions overseas.

Our parish community spends many hours serving those in need. There are so many other little things that individuals in our parish do to help their neighbor that are too numerous to mention but are just as significant. It is through this service that we see the "face of Jesus" in others and remember our Baptismal Call.

Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful wine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me, herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands(3X).

EM

IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

Saint Peter's option for the poor

By Deacon Mark Bennett

Spiritual Life Director, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh

PLATTSBURGH - "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me..." These words from St. Matthew's Gospel clearly define the social justice mission of our Church.

Saint Peter's parish has a long history of supporting the option for the poor. The center piece of our social justice outreach is our Soup Kitchen. The parish has operated a weekly soup kitchen every Monday for the past 16 years. Our kitchen is staffed by over 60 volunteers from the parish, as well as volunteers from the local Rotary club and SUNY Plattsburgh.

We serve the elderly, the working poor and young families throughout the greater Plattsburgh area. We see an average of 73 people per week and last year we served over 3000 meals.

While the soup kitchen is the focal point of our social justice programs, Saint Peter's is committed to many other charitable endeavors. During the past 12 months the parish assisted over 200 with gas vouchers for medical appointments in Plattsburgh, Albany and Burlington. We were also able to help over 50 people with medical co-pays and emergency overnight accommodations.

The annual preparation and distribution of Thanksgiving baskets and our partnership with the Department of Social services "Giving Tree" program are major events for the parish family. Every year our parishioners prepare and donate

over one hundred Thanksgiving baskets to those in need. They contain all that is required for a Thanksgiving dinner.

Last year volunteers from the parish purchased over \$10,000 in Christmas gifts which were then distributed by Social Services. Saint Peter's participates in the Interfaith Food Shelf and delivers eight to ten bags of groceries every week to the local food pantry.

We are currently exploring a ministry to family members of people who are incarcerated in the county jail.

Saint Peter's parish has been truly blessed, and we strive to share our blessings with those who are in need. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Ideas for putting our faith into action

Being Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled communities, we commit ourselves to building the Kingdom of God on earth as in heaven. Jesus Christ taught with His words and witnessed to God's plan by his actions. Words and actions represent the two sides of the same coin. One makes an impact in conjunction with the other.

The following ideas may help you to think of creative ways for putting your faith into action. You may feel affirmed by seeing that you are already doing to build a faith based community.

You may also find in your assessment of your use of your time, talent and treasure, motivation to make some different lifestyle choices.

- Find out about volunteer opportunities in your parish, local community.
- Volunteer at a soup kitchen, food pantry, other program
- Join the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters or other service organization
- Start a Catholic Daughters, St. Vincent De Paul Society or Knights of Columbus in your parish/local community
- Be a peacemaker. Seek reconciliation with a person or group from whom you

have been estranged

- Organize a food drive in your community. Summer months are especially difficult for parents with children. Food pantries needs extra food products
- Organize a group to see/hear the needs in your community...to pray and reflect ... and then to act in deliberate and effective action
- Visit the New York State Catholic conference website: www.nyscatholic.org and join the Catholic Action Network. Raise your voice for public policies that respect the sanctity of human life, support families and build the common good.
- Establish a service group for the youth in your community. Teach them how to be advocates for charity and justice and to use their talents and time to help others,
- BOGO - Buy One/Get One Free - When shopping buy items when you can buy one and get one free. Donate the free item to a food pantry, soup kitchen
- Plant a couple extra rows of vegetables in your garden and donate the fresh produce to a soup kitchen or food pantry. Or take it to the back of church and share it with other members of the congregation.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

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3rd & 4th \$500.00
5th & 6th Prize \$250.00
7th - 11th Prizes \$100.00

Prize amounts depends on 370 tickets sold

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Where: The Town of Clayton Recreation Park Arena
When: Tuesday, August 5 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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Dr. Angela Franks

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- (2) Current Cultural Issues—e.g., hook-up culture, pornography, commitment-phobia, contraception, definition of marriage.
- (3) "Holy Sex"—living and loving God's way, which leads to wholeness, holiness and happiness.

Saturday, July 26, 2014
9:00 A.M. -- 4:00 P.M.

Church of the Visitation, Norfolk (Parish Center)
Sponsored by Family Life, Evangelization & Faith Formation offices
of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York

For more information please contact Angelo/Suzanne Pietropaoli at 518-483-0459 or
apietropaoli@rcdony.org. For online registration please see rcdony.org/BSF

Dr. Angela Franks (<http://www.drfranks.com>) is on the faculty at St. John's Seminary in Boston, where she is also the Director of Theological Programs for the New Evangelization. A graduate of the University of Dallas, Dr. Franks earned an M.A. in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America and a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Boston College.

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Bishop's Schedule

July 2 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

July 3 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 5 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 6 – 8:30 a.m., Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Brownville
10 a.m., Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Brownville
11:30 a.m., Mass at St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor

July 7 – 4:00 p.m., Clinton Deanery Cookout at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

July 8 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg
4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

July 9 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

July 11 – 10 a.m., Mass at Riverledge Health Care and Rehabilitation Center in Ogdensburg

July 12 – 10:30 a.m., Jubilee Mass for the Sisters of St. Joseph at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown.

July 13 – 8 a.m., Mass at Fish Creek
10 a.m., Mass at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake

July 15 – 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim & Dinner with Seminarians in Saranac Lake

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the
North Country Catholic
will be dated July 16

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Rest in Peace

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

July 2 – Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993; Rev. John M. Crable, 2012

July 3 – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954
July 4 – Rev. Joseph L. St. Jacques, 1952

July 9 – Rev. John Rogers, 1887; Rev. Joseph H. Emard, O.M.I., 1924
July 10 – Rev. Mary Ignatius Grom, 1936; Rev. John F. McNamara, 1971; Deacon Victor Fisher, 1999; Rev. James A. Delbel, 2013

July 12 – Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881; Most Rev. Albert Pascal, O.M.I., 1920

July 13 – Rev. George Garand, 1941
July 15 – Rev. John Conlon, 1881; Msgr. Armand Dussault, 1963; Rev. Joseph F. Quinn, 1970; Rev. Joseph F. Dowd, 1983

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 preregister 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 is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.

Upcoming programs:

July 3- 7 p.m., Malone Catholic Parishes

Aug. 20 - 6 p.m., Holy Name School, AuSable Forks

Environmental Stewardship

Water and the Poor

During the weeks since Easter the focus of our environmental stewardship has been on use of the sacred gift of water. This week the focus of the Fortnight of Freedom is on service to the poor. What is the connection between water and the poor?

In the parable on the Last Judgment Jesus says that the Son of Man will say "... when I was thirsty... you gave me a drink; in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brethren of mine, you did it to me." Mt. 25:35, 40

The connection between these words leads us to the question: what will be the availability and quality of fresh water that we have to offer our brothers and sisters? Will it be polluted by chemical toxins from our households and commercial industries, or will it be fresh life-giving water? Will our less fortunate of God's children have access to fresh water at all? The effects of drought and rising ocean waters are already having devastating effects on those most vulnerable and those with the least resources to cope with these changes. Our awareness of these connections can affect the way that we relate to water. The ways that we reverence, conserve and protect this sacred gift of water has profound effects on God's children, especially the poor and all of creation. Take time this summer to enjoy this gift, and choose one way that you can reduce the amount of water you use at home and/or yard. Consider alternatives to harmful chemicals for pest control and household cleaning.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

Mission of Hope rocked by earthquakes

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Evidence of earthquake damage was everywhere when Sister Debbie Blow and two North Country Mission of Hope volunteers visited Nicaragua recently.

Two quakes, both higher than 6 on the Richter scale, had shaken the country in April, and countless aftershocks kept the ground trembling — and the people on edge — for more than two weeks.

They feared another quake like the one that in 1972 killed some 10,000, Sister Debbie said.

"Chinendega Hospital is in ruins," the Dominican Sister of Hope said. "It looks like it's going to fall, has some huge cracks."

Its equipment and furnishings, many items donated by North Country folks through Mission of Hope, was moved out for use in a smaller facility called Espagna.

"There is no way they can serve the number of people they did at the other hospital," Sister Debbie reported.

And Valez Paiz Hospital was also shut down after the quakes, she said.

That facility was also a recipient of assistance through the Plattsburgh-based humanitarian aid group.

Holes in roofs

Sister Debbie, James Carlin of Peru and David Fuller of Schroon Lake toured as many of their project sites as they could on the short trip.

Nino Jesus de Praga School and Church suffered damage, including a partially collapsed wall between the church and convent area and significant trauma to one of the school buildings.

"The other schools have what we would call fissure cracks," the nun said.

And that's what they found at the Mission of Hope compound not far from Nino



PHOTOS PROVIDED

David Fuller of Schroon Lake, above, not only assessed earthquake damage to North Country Mission of Hope facilities in Nicaragua on the recent trip, he bonded with children at El Crucero Orphanage. At right, Xochitl, a 10-year-old orphan in Nicaragua whose life has been bettered by North Country Mission of Hope intervention, poses for a photo with Sister Debbie Blow's translator, Olympia, during the Plattsburgh nun's recent visit to the third-world country.

Jesus — surface cracks that did not pose a danger of structural instability, Carlin said.

"We breathed a sigh of relief from that perspective," Sister Debbie said.

El Crucero Orphanage, which with Nino Jesus was where the mission did major work on its first few trips more than 15 years ago, saw an increase of decay of the metal roofs.

That, Sister Blow said, was due to increased activity of a nearby volcano, likely because of the earthquakes.

Acid from volcanic ash quickly eats through metal, she said, and the sky was clearly visible through huge holes in the roof of the girls dormitory.

It will cost several thousand dollars to replace the roofs, she added.

'Don't forget us'

There was a reunion, too, at El Crucero.

A year or so ago, Sister Debbie met a little girl named Xochitl, whose mother was serving jail time for prostitution and drug crimes.

The child, the nun said, "was so tiny, so sickly."

Now, Xochitl ran to Sister Debbie, throwing her arms around her,

"She wouldn't leave my side the whole time I was there," she said. "She's still undernourished, struggles with schooling."

About 10 years old, Xochitl is more the size of a 4- or 5-year-old, Sister Debbie said.

The child's history, she said, "is a gutwrenching reminder of why we do what we do."

"The children always grab your heart — like they're saying, 'Don't forget us; we're still here.'"

And Mission of Hope does not forget them even in the bigger picture of improving their living conditions.

For the projects undertaken at the orphanage, Mr. Carlin said of larger mission contingents, they always assign more volunteers than really needed. "Because we know eventually someone will wander off with the kids" to play with them," he said, "and that's great."

Safehouse

The three missionaries in May did some advance work for the next larger group of volunteers, who will head to



serve the barrio populations and more health care for women.

The nun proposed the van trips, asking whether the women would take advantage of them.

"They said, 'Yes, and we'll be the first to go."

"That's great modeling," she said, "that the leadership women are the first to go. They see this as a great need, as they, themselves, have never had these exams."

And, Sister Debbie added, "as a two-time cancer survivor, I see this as a great step forward for the women of the barrios."

How to help

Mission of Hope is accepting donations to establish an emergency fund for use when such crises arise as earthquakes, for foods, medicines and for sending a large shipping container of goods and equipment to Nicaragua in September.

The cost of food has continued to rise in Nicaragua, so the poor are more hungry, Sister Debbie said.

And there is increased need for medications and first-aid supplies, in part because of the closure of the hospitals, she said.

The group is hoping for donation of two refrigerators in good working order, as those used in the mission meal program have broken down.

Composition books (700) and other school supplies are needed for students sponsored by the mission, along with duct tape and packing tape for use at the Plattsburgh warehouse of the mission, MO-Town, new batteries of all sizes, small tarps and paint supplies such as disposable rollers and plastic liners.

Learn more at ncmissionofhope.org or reach Sister Debbie at 570-5443. Donations can be mailed to North Country Mission of Hope, P.O. Box 2522, Plattsburgh NY 12901.

Nicaragua on July 8. And they got some work rolling on a safehouse for women and children in Managua.

A donation of \$10,000 from a North Country couple has given that effort a jump-start, Sister Debbie said, and she hopes structural repair to the walls and roof may be finished by July.

Next, they will tackle the bedrooms.

And Mission of Hope, working with women's health-care facility Fundacion Juan Pablo II (for Pope John Paul II), has made it possible for more poor women from the remote barrios to access treatment.

A donor contributed enough money for the Mission of Hope van to take at least 15 women a month to Juan Pablo, where they can see a physician and have breast exams and PAP smears done.

Sister Debbie had sat down with the local junta, comprised of 11 women, to ask what their most vital needs are.

"They all rattled off in Spanish at once," she said, listing such needs as more medicines and food for the children, more latrines to

IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

KIDS4:Kids



PHOTO AT LEFT BY SISTER MARY ANN CROITZ
Among the more than 40 students of Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown who took part in a ten-hour Day of Fasting and Service June 7 were, front from left, Erika Elscisin, Theresa VanWormer, Isabella Rondon and Margaret Gonas; back, Lauren Quinn, Justine White and Alicia Bishop. The girls are shown before



setting out on a five-mile solitary walk. Funds raised from the Respect Life Initiative at IHC support local and international charities. Among those receiving donations are children of Batwa in Burundi, Africa. IHC parent Cabot Stone, shown above right with one of the children, travels frequently to the country and assists the IHC community in providing goats to needy families.

IHC's seventh annual Respect Life Initiative

By Patricia Minter-Powell
Moderator, IHC's Respect Life Initiative

WATERTOWN- The plan was simple. Some might even

say divine. They came. They fasted. They served. They walked. And walked. And walked.

On June 7, over 40 Immaculate Heart Central Jr/Sr High students capped off their seventh Annual Respect Life Initiative, KIDS4:Kids, with a ten-hour Day of Fasting and Service that included a five-mile solidarity walk. While local

agencies benefited from their service (The Watertown Urban Mission, Thompson Park Zoo, Habitat for Humanity and The Jefferson County Historical Society to name only a few) the real winners are the children of the Batwa, a largely forgotten people of Burundi, Africa. The children in Batwa have little chance of completing more than a sixth grade education.

IHC's Annual Respect Life Initiative strives to provide a "hand up" rather than a "hand out" to those often struggling just to survive.

This year's initiative is a perfect reflection of that

philosophy.

For every \$20 our service initiative raises a goat will be purchased and delivered to a widow and her children in Burundi.

Our guardian angel for the project is an IHC parent, Cabot Stone, who travels frequently to that country. While some other charitable organizations have the "donate a goat" program, the required donation may be \$75 or more per animal.

Thanks to Mr. Stone, who purchases the goats himself and oversees their delivery to the families in need, the money raised by our IHC community makes the maxi-

mum impact.

With thousands of dollars already donated, these funds will translate into income for school fees and other necessities for countless Batwa children. Just imagine. A brighter future for an entire family. And all for only \$20. Not to mention a beautiful training ground for compassion.

Donations to support our efforts are welcome. Checks may be made payable to Immaculate Heart Central with a notation: 7th RLI and sent to the school, Attn: Patricia Minter-Powell. The address is 1316 Ives Street, Watertown, NY, 13601

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IN SERVICE TO THE POOR

Senior volunteers make a difference

PORT HENRY-The Retired Senior Volunteer Program Clinton County Branch is celebrating 40 years of community service.

Retired Senior Volunteer program is celebrating 40 years of service

This very successful program in Clinton and Essex Counties is sponsored by Catholic Charities. Funding comes from Catholic Charities, United Way of the Adirondacks, State office of the Aging and the National Corporation for Community Service.

The seniors in our community possess talents and a willingness to share their time, their wisdom and their gifts to make their community a better place for everyone. Over 395 volunteers work in non-profit agencies throughout the counties.

RSVP has been named "Agency of the Year 2014" by the New York State Senior Citizens council. RSVP has earned this award and every accolade expressed by supervisors, agency directors and other members of the

community. Volunteers provide over 40,000 volunteer hours of service. They serve at: JCEO, Friendly Visitors Program, libraries, reading programs for the visually impaired, the rural transportation program, elementary schools and home delivery for meals.

Volunteers serve at the American Red Cross. RSVP volunteers assist seniors through the AARP Tax Services and numerous other programs. Volunteers range in age from 55 to 102 years old. Albina St. Germain is 102 years old. She has been a part of RSVP for 36 years. Albina makes lap robes for Veterans at the VA hospital in Albany. Albina is a wonderful example of the determination and compassion that exists among the RSVP volunteers.

One of the RSVP volunteer efforts is the Kitchen Band. This country band consists of talented RSVP volunteers. They entertain at senior centers and events.

If you are interested in learning more about RSVP in Clinton and Essex counties contact Kate Gardner at: (518)566-0944. Join in this successful effort to make a difference in your community.



Kate Gardner, left, director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Port Henry, is shown with Sally Garvey, an aging specialist for the Clinton County Office for the Aging and a member of the Advisory Council of Clinton County RSVP. Sally was in charge of the silent auction at RSVP's 40th Anniversary Recognition Luncheon. She is pictured holding an auction item, an autumn wreath designed by Trudy Sworts, another RSVP Advisory Council member.

GOT SERVICE? IHC STUDENTS DO!



Alex Moots and Erin Fikes, students of Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown joined fellow students in last year's summer mission program sponsored by IHC's Faith Community Service Program. They helped to scrape, paint and restore homes of local families in need. The 4th Annual Summer Mission, "Building Blocks 2014" will be held July 28 to Aug. 1.

Holy Family makes faith visible by its generosity

By Fr. Steve Murray
Pastor, Holy Family Church, Watertown

It is a tremendous honor to be the pastor of such a generous community, Holy Family makes its faith visible to the community by the many charitable works it involves itself in.

In 2013 we contributed \$10,000 to the Capital Campaign of the Watertown Urban Mission, and \$6,000 to the Critical needs program at the Mission. We are also a sponsor for the Dollar Dinner Program.

During the year we gave more than 6,000 items to the food pantry

We sent over \$6,000 to Catholic Relief Services for

the victims of the Super Typhoon.

We provided Christmas gifts for over 200 children and more than 100 elderly received gifts as well.

We gave Catholic Charities more than \$3,200 in gas and food cards.

It is safe to say that this parish does more than tithe because more than 20% OF THE GENEROSITY of this parish goes to other than our own needs.

It is safe to say we recognize our neighbors in need and respond.

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PRIESTS FROM INDIA ARE WELCOMED



PHOTO BY LINDA ROSS

Bishop Terry R. LaValley welcomed two priests from the Heralds of Good News Mother Theresa Province, India, who arrived in the North Country June 25. Father Tojo Chacko, left, has been named parochial vicar of Church of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Massena and Louisville; Father Donald Manfred, pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence is behind him. Father Justin Thomas, who will serve as parochial vicar of St. Andre' Bessette Parish in Malone, is shown with Father Joseph Giroux, pastor, at right. The appointments are effective July 9.

Class leaders for Seton Catholic are announced

PLATTSBURGH - Seton Catholic Central High School has announced the academic leaders of the graduating Class of 2014.

Valedictorian

The Valedictorian for the Class of 2014 is Melissa Whyman. Ms. Whyman, daughter of Kevin and Denise Whyman, is a resident of Morrisonville. She earned a final overall grade point average of 93.85.

Melissa consistently performed at the highest level in all of her endeavors. She has been involved in National Honor Society, Student Council, Model UN, and is an avid participant in the Relay for Life.

Melissa has competed in varsity track and cross country all four years of high school and was a member of multiple championship

teams in cross country and outdoor track and field.

Melissa has been awarded the Rose Rascoe-Maynard scholarship, the New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli Student Achievement Award, New York State Board of Regents Scholarship for Academic Excellence.

Ms. Whyman plans to attend SUNY Geneseo majoring in Biology with plans to become a physical therapist. She will also be a member of the cross country team at Geneseo

Salutatorian

The Salutatorian for the Class of 2012 is Thomas Deon. Mr Deon, son of John and Elaine Deon, is a resident of Plattsburgh. He earned a final overall grade point average of 93.65.

Tom consistently performed at a high level in all

of his endeavors. He has been involved in National Honor Society, Student Council, Key Club, Model UN, and Outdoor Experience.

Tom has competed in varsity soccer and golf, and indoor track.

Tom was awarded the New York State Board of Regents Scholarship for Academic Excellence.

Mr. Deon plans to attend SUNY Plattsburgh studying History.

Other top students

In addition, the following students are at the top of Seton Catholic's Academic Class of 2014:

Kamil Ali, Ashley Carpenter, Ashley Leta, Adam Tedford, Maddison Murnane, Paige Spittler, Lauren Richter, Nicolas Favreau, Evan Page, Cody Quantock, and Natasha Clark.

The last 'Father's Day' for Father Leeward Poissant

By Patricia Marie
Contributing writer

KEESEVILLE - During the weekend of June 14-15, The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville celebrated its last official "Father's Day" with Msgr. Leeward Poissant as pastor.

Father Lee officially retired June 25, but before he left active ministry, the parishioners wanted to recognize him in a special way.

He has served the community for the past dozen years and Keeseville is his last parish home.

Father Lee celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood and his 75th birthday Dec. 18, 2013. On that evening, the parish hosted a celebration commemorating both events.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and a number of area priests attended the Mass of Thanksgiving as well as a dinner in his honor. However, there was a special gift (which had been ordered months in advance) that was supposed to be presented at that evening's events, but it did not arrive in time.

The gift was a Papal Blessing acknowledging Father Lee's milestone, complete with a picture of Pope Francis, the Pontifical seal and congratulatory message of gratitude for Father Poissant's lifelong ministry to the church.

Father Lee began his formal priestly service in Rome where he was ordained in 1963 and now, a half century later, it is fitting that he retires with formal blessings from

Rome.

Since the Holy Father's acknowledgment didn't arrive until February, the Keeseville parishioners decided to keep the Vatican letter and present it on a special day or event. It seemed most appropriate to give it to him just before his retirement. What better day than Father's Day?.



Fr. Lee
Poissant

On behalf of the entire parish, Deacon John Lucero presented the Papal Proclamation to Fa-

ther Lee at each of the Masses at St. John the Baptist and Church of the Immaculate Conception.

In joyful support, the parishioners applauded him as he accepted the framed document. He was somewhat surprised but quite pleased to be given such a gift and he assured us that he had a perfect place to display it.

Although Father Lee is looking forward to retirement, he will be staying in the area and we will likely see him again. Like many other retired priests, he is more than willing to help the local priests still in active ministry who occasionally need help in covering some daily and weekend Masses.

Father Lee is known for his great homilies and for 12 years he has finished every one with the same signature closing prayer, which was "God Bless."

It seems most appropriate that now, his friends in Keeseville return the same sentiment.

We wish him good luck in health, spirit and to you, Monsignor Leeward J. Poissant we say with a collective, heartfelt goodbye prayer, "God Bless!"

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Synod document cites cultural and economic threats to family

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The working document for the October 2014 extraordinary Synod of Bishops offers a picture of the Catholic Church today struggling to preach the Gospel and transmit moral teachings amid a "widespread cultural, social and spiritual crisis" of the family. The 75-page "instrumentum laboris," published by the Vatican June 26, is supposed to "provide an initial reference point" for discussion at the synod, whose theme will be the "pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization." The document is based principally on comments solicited in a questionnaire last November from national bishops' conferences around the world. But it also reflects comments sent directly to the Vatican by individuals and groups responding to the questionnaire, which was widely published on the Internet. Topics in the working document include some of the most contested and controversial areas of Catholic moral teaching on the family, including contraception, divorce and remarriage, same-sex marriage, premarital sex and in vitro fertilization.

Church is essential for faith; there are no 'free agents,' pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Christians are not made in a laboratory, but in a community called the church, Pope Francis said. At his weekly general audience June 25, Pope Francis continued his series of audience talks about the church, telling an estimated 33,000 people that there is no such thing as "do-it-yourself" Christians or "free agents" when it comes to faith. Every Christian, he said, can trace his or her faith back to parents, grandparents, teachers or friends. "I always remember the nun who taught me catechism. I know she's in heaven because she was a holy woman," he said. In the Old Testament, the pope said, God called Abraham and began to form a people that would become a blessing for the world. "With great patience -- and God has a lot of it -- he prepared the people of the ancient covenant and in Jesus Christ constituted them as a sign and instrument of the union of humanity with God and unity with one another." Pope Francis described as "dangerous" the temptation to believe that one can have "a personal, direct, immediate relationship with Jesus Christ without communion with and the mediation of the church."

Pope condemns mafia, says members are excommunicated

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In the stronghold of an Italian crime syndicate believed to be richer and more powerful than the Sicilian Mafia, Pope Francis said, "Those who follow the path of evil, like the mafiosi do, are not in communion with God; they are excommunicated!" During a Mass June 21 in the southern region of Calabria, Pope Francis made clear that even if the mob families continue to go to Mass and decorate their homes and hideouts with religious pictures, they have cut themselves off from communion with the church and with God. "When instead of adoring the Lord, one substitutes the adoration of money, one opens the path to sin, personal interests and exploitation," Pope Francis said to applause from an estimated 250,000 people gathered in a field near the town of Sibari. "When one does not adore the Lord God, one becomes an adorer of evil, like those who live lives of crime and violence. Your land, which is so beautiful, knows the signs and consequences of this sin. This is what the 'Ndrangheta is: the adoration of evil and contempt for the common good," Pope Francis said. The 'Ndrangheta is a crime syndicate based in Calabria

Archbishop: Catholics should be free to serve with 'eucharistic heart'

By Maria Wiering
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) - The Eucharist conforms Catholics to "the pattern of Christ's self-giving love" and compels them to see the dignity of the poor and perform acts of mercy, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori said at the June 21 opening Mass for this year's Fortnight for Freedom.

The Mass coincided with the feast of Corpus Christi.

"By entering the dynamic of Christ's self-giving eucharistic love, we are impelled ... to work for a loving and just society where the dignity of human life is respected from conception until natural death and all the stages in between," he said in his homily.

More than 1,000 people packed the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the opening of the third annual Fortnight for Freedom, two weeks dedicated to prayer, education and advocacy for religious freedom.

Archbishop Lori is the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, formed in 2011.

In 2012, it published a letter titled "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty" and launched the Fortnight for Freedom event in response to government infringement on religious freedom rights in the United States and abroad.

Chief among those perceived threats are the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate that most employers, including religious employers, provide insurance for artificial birth control, sterilization and abortion-causing drugs.

Archbishop Lori and the Archdiocese of Baltimore are among plaintiffs in 100 lawsuits nonprofit and for-profit organizations and businesses have brought against the federal government over the mandate.

In his homily, Archbishop Lori criticized the mandate, as well as state laws criminalizing churches that serve immigrants living in the country illegally and "discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services because they refuse to provide so-called 'services' that violate Catholic teaching."

Archbishop Lori acknowledged that in other countries, people are killed for professing their faith. In the United States, he said, the challenges to religious freedom are more subtle yet "very real."

"Increasingly, government at all levels is asserting itself in the internal life of churches, telling them that houses of worship are fully religious, whereas religious schools and charities that serve the common good are less so, and therefore less deserving of religious freedom protections," he said.

The 2014 fortnight theme is "The Freedom to Serve" to emphasize the charitable works of Catholic organizations and individuals. During the Mass, Archbishop Lori distinguished the church's work from that of non-governmental agencies, as Pope Francis has done, adding that Catholics "are to be more than an NGO" by virtue of a "eucharistic heart."

"We are seeking for the church and for church institutions no special privileges," he said. "We are seeking the freedom to serve, or as Pope Francis once put it, the freedom to proclaim and live the Gospel

'in its entirety.'"

He asked Catholics to keep "in the forefront of our hearts" people whom U.S. Catholic humanitarian agencies, parishes and individuals serve.

"Let us look at them not merely as statistics but as persons created in God's image and called to enjoy friendship with God," he said.

Catholic parishes and organizations throughout the country have planned events celebrating religious freedom and charitable works to coincide with the fortnight.

In addition to participating in these events, Archbishop Lori urged Catholics in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to take "The Freedom to Serve Pledge," found at www.archbalt.org.

Among the Mass attendees were members of the Baltimore-based Little Sisters of the Poor, plaintiffs in a well-publicized lawsuit against the federal government over the HHS mandate. The U.S. Supreme Court granted the sisters a temporary injunction in January.

In an interview after Mass, Mother Loraine Marie Clare Maguire, the Little Sisters' provincial superior, urged Catholics to pray for religious freedom.

"Religious freedom is very important to us and to our mission of caring for the elderly," she told *The Catholic Review*, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper. "You can't do anything without prayer, and the Eucharist is the summit of our prayer life. It's what brings us together as a community to pray."

The Fortnight for Freedom will culminate with a July 4 Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Supreme Court strikes down 'buffer zones' at abortion clinics

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - In a June 26 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that 35-foot buffer zones around abortion clinics - meant to keep demonstrators away - violates First Amendment rights.

The decision, a victory for pro-life groups, reversed an appellate court decision upholding a 2007 Massachusetts law that made it a crime for anyone other than clinic workers to stand within the yellow semicircular lines painted 35 feet from entrances of Planned Parenthood clinics in Boston, Springfield and Worcester.

Eleanor McCullen, lead plaintiff in the case, *McCullen v. Coakley*, said she

should be able to speak and offer advice to women going to these clinics. McCullen, a 77-year-old who attends Mass at St. Ignatius Church at Boston College said when the case was brought to the Supreme Court that she had helped many women decide against abortion.

The Supreme Court, in its opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, said the state law blocked public sidewalks that have been traditionally viewed as open for free speech. It also said the government's ability to limit speech in those places is "very limited."

The law in question was put in place in an attempt to prevent violent demonstrations or protests outside clinic entrances. It replaced a 2000 state law that kept protesters from approaching

within 6 feet of a person who was within 18 feet of an abortion clinic -- similar to a 2000 law in Colorado that the Supreme Court upheld that year.

The court's decision "has affirmed the American tradition of basic constitutional rights for all," said Boston Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

He said that the now-overturned legislation "reflects an ominous trend in our society" because it reveals how abortion supporters seek to deny Americans who "seek to protect the unborn" their right to freedom of speech and association as well as the "right to participate in the public square and serve the vulnerable in accord with our moral convictions."

Pope: Peace can prevail despite 'grievous attacks'

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Despite "grievous attacks" around the world, peace can always flourish through God's grace and people's loving generosity, Pope Francis said.

He urged Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere to continue to have hope and to "never falter in their conviction that the fire of Pentecost, the power of love, can halt the fire of arms, hatred and vengeance."

Meeting June 26 with members of ROACO, a coalition of funding agencies coordinated by the Congregation for Eastern Churches, the pope told them he was "grateful that

you continue to 'make peace grow' through charity."

Even though true peace is a gift from God, he said, "with unity and charity, Christ's disciples strive to be peacemakers everywhere, in all peoples and communities, and to overcome persistent forms of discrimination, starting with those based on religion."

The pope said that "first among those called to be peacemakers are our brothers and sisters of the Eastern churches, together with their pastors."

"Hoping at times against all hope," those Christians who remain in the lands where the Gospel was first proclaimed need the support of the universal church, he said.

"Their tears and their anguish are ours, as well as their hope!" Pope Francis said. "We can express this through our solidarity, if it is one which is concrete and effective, capable of ensuring that the international community upholds the rights of individuals and peoples."

Pope Francis told the participants that his May pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories "was a great source of consolation, but also of encouragement and a renewed sense of responsibility for the advancement of full unity among Christians and of dialogue between religions."

He said he hoped his journey would, "like a good seed, bring forth abundant fruit."

Archbishop Sheen closer to beatification

PEORIA, ILL. (CNS) - The possible miracle needed for the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen took another step toward papal recognition June 17 when a panel of theologians met at the Vatican, the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation announced.

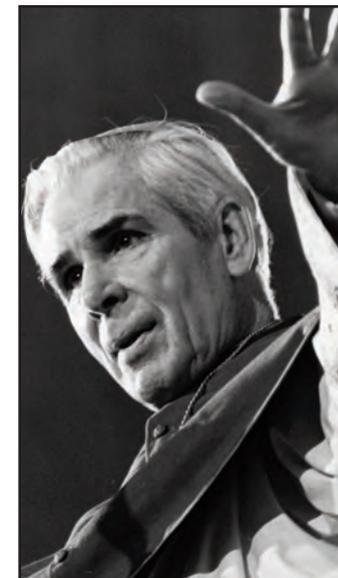
As a normal part of the sainthood process, the theologians met to consider whether or not the promoters of Archbishop Sheen's cause demonstrated that the proposed miracle -- the survival of a child delivered stillborn -- occurred after prayers for the intercession only of Archbishop Sheen.

In March, a seven-member board of physicians convoked by the Congregation for Saints' Causes agreed there was no natural explanation for why the boy's heart started beating 61 minutes after his birth.

The child, James Fulton Engstrom, is now 3 years old and developing normally. His mother, Bonnie Engstrom, had said she had no pre-composed prayer asking for help from Archbishop Sheen. "I just kept repeating his name over and over in my head: Fulton Sheen, Fulton Sheen, Fulton Sheen."

Archbishop Sheen was a Peoria diocesan priest who gained fame for his 1950s television show "Life Is Worth Living" and for his 16 years at the helm of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The archbishop died Dec. 9, 1979, in New York.

In a statement June 17 from the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria said, "With the recommendations of the medical experts and now the theologians, the case will



CNS PHOTO

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is pictured in an undated file photo. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., president of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Foundation, said early March 6 he received word that the seven-member board of medical experts who advise the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes has unanimously approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen.

next be reviewed by the cardinals and bishops" who are members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

"Finally, the miracle would be presented to Pope Francis, who would then officially affirm that God performed a miracle through the intercession of Fulton Sheen. There is no timeline as to when these next steps might move forward," Bishop Jenky said.

If Pope Francis formally issues the decree recognizing the miracle, the bishop said, "Sheen could then be declared 'Blessed' in a ceremony that could be celebrated in Peoria, Sheen's hometown."

Another miracle would be needed for Archbishop Sheen's canonization.

A STORY OF FAITH

Dad: reflection of God's love for his children

By Kristina Dean
Staff Writer

Learning to ride a bike was hard for me. A clumsy kid, I had no sense of balance and an overwhelming fear of falling. I was probably difficult to teach. Lots of patience was needed.

I remember my parents bought me a beautiful, BIG purple bicycle. I wanted to ride it badly. For weeks I had scraped knees and hands.

Finally my dad took pity on his clumsy daughter and offered to help. He'd run behind me, holding up my bicycle with one strong hand. I'd hear his footsteps and feel confident I wouldn't fall.

To this day, that memory is strong in my mind. My father's footsteps. His presence, holding me up. Protecting me.

A dad's role in his daughter's life is so important. Every relationship she has with a male will be measured against it. Part of her sense of self-worth is related to it. If she is blessed enough to have a good father, as I was, then she can experience a small piece of heaven, as our heavenly Father's love is mirrored in her earthly father's love.

My dad, while not perfect, was a great dad.

Growing up, he had a difficult relationship with his own father, who passed away before my parents were married. Much of what I learned about my paternal grandfather is from my mother. My dad didn't talk about him.

Apparently, my grandfather never told my father or his siblings that they were loved. Ever. So, when my mother was expecting me, the first-born, my dad vowed to her that he would be different. His children would never wonder if they were loved. He vowed to hug them, play with them, love them. They would never wonder about their place as a cherished son or daughter.

My dad was a good as his word. I have pictures of him on the floor, holding me high above his head, smiling and acting as silly as can be. There are pictures with funny hats on his head, with inflatable bears hanging over his shoulder, handkerchief "bunny rabbits" he made talk with funny



Kristina and her dad at her college graduation

voices.

Every picture showed his absolute delight in me. I knew I was loved unconditionally. Our Heavenly Father's love is much the same way. It is unmeasurable. He treasures us. We are his joy.

I loved my dad so much. Through him, I saw a small slice of how to love others. He gave me a pattern to follow. Through our conversations, I could see how important his faith was to him. Together, we discussed scripture passages and what it would have been like to live when Jesus

was alive. We visualized paradise.

We pondered the question of animals going to heaven (as a little girl, I insisted I wasn't going to go to heaven if my beloved dog wasn't going to be allowed in, either). We were amazed together at God's gift of creating this beautiful world for us.

As a meteorologist, my dad's eyes, which always contained wonder and awe, were focused on the heavens. We would gaze at the clouds, and he would quiz me on their type and names. His favorite word was "fascinating."

Years later, when my own children were born, I saw the same joyful, loving man, now a grandfather, play with his grandchildren. Nothing was too silly for him. He would allow his grandsons to put funny clown noses on him, he'd mess up his hair and put on a ridiculous face.

Years later, as my father lay dying in the hospital, in pain and knowing things weren't going well, he made my then four-month-old son Alex, giggle a great, big belly laugh. He also laughed out loud in delight. "I made him laugh, I made him laugh!" he shouted.

After his death, at his calling hours, more than 1,200 people came to pay their last respects. I heard stories of how my father impacted their lives positively. They said, 'he listened to me when I was upset. He hugged me when I cried. He told such funny stories and jokes. He was so special.'

A nurse from radiology, who'd only known him a few weeks, gripped my hands tight, telling me what a wonderful man he was. I never knew so many people experienced him and the joy he carried within.

Dad, I didn't know it then, but what a wonderful example of a father's love you were. You were a mirror, a reflection of God's love for his children, for everyone. You are still teaching me. Although I am no longer a little girl learning to ride her bike, I still feel your absolute and unconditional love for me, holding me up, never letting me fall. Protecting me.

God, both spiritual and physical, radiate your unconditional love for their children.

OUR READERS WRITE

Thanks from CVRTL

Champlain Valley Right to Life wishes to thank the people in our diocese for so generously contributing to the Respect Life Sunday Collection.

We sincerely thank Bishop LaValley and the Respect Life Grant Committee for selecting our Billboard Project for diocesan funding. Attached is a photo of the billboard which is on Route 22 from June 2nd until July 27th.

We also appreciate the donors who have provided additional funds for our project. These donations will enable us

to put a similar billboard on Route 3 from July 28th - August 31.

We hope our billboards will capture people's attention and that we will be able to provide help for those in need. We will be sending individuals to our new Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center, Birthright, Catholic Charities, or Gabriel Project.

May our billboard be a message of hope and lead to a greater respect for life.

KITTY ST. DENIS
CVRTL SECRETARY

Appreciating priests

Your May 21 article on Priests of the Diocese was super. It was nice to see so many priests celebrating an anniversary. They deserve a special thanks and all too often I believe they are taken for granted. And, it was nice to read about my own classmates at Wadhams Hall who are celebrating anniversaries and new Pastoral appointments.

I am so glad I have stayed in touch over the years with former faculty, like Monsignors Paul Whitmore and Peter Riani.

During my time as a trustee of Wadhams Hall, I recall various discussions on what is the key to vocations to the priesthood?

The board concluded that it was "a



mother's prayer."

JAMES A. DONOVAN, CLASS OF 1972
LAKE MONROE, FLORIDA

Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love toward me and my love ones.

EM

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Keeping hope for God's dream of peace

After such a long, cold winter, we welcome the warmth of summer and the brighter evenings. Yet, the shadow of a world coming apart at the seams hangs over us like a dark cloud. There is no peace in the Middle East, and in parts of Africa.

Peace seems like an impossible dream.

In today's first reading, Zechariah prophesies a coming Messiah who will bring universal peace and harmony. Of course, Zechariah was ridiculed and thought insane in his time.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

It wasn't any better when the Prince of Peace actually came into the land of Israel.

In today's Gospel, Jesus laments the blindness and rejection of the learned ones—pharisees, scribes, sadducees. Jesus was hurt and angered by their hostility. Only the simple and uneducated seemed to believe His words and His mighty deeds of healing.

Jesus loved ordinary people, and He loved children, their innocence and their incredible openness to the things of God. They readily believe in angels and the beauty of art and music much more than adults do.

He had come to fulfill the people's dreams of peace.

It's no different in our times. After all, our country was founded on a dream. Otherwise we would not be celebrating the Fourth of July this weekend.

America's dream is very like God's dream, His Providence. We are all entitled to be dreamers. We must never give up hope that God's dream of peace will come true. Freedom for all, born and unborn.

Why are politicians so afraid of giving life a chance? God gave us a chance before we were ever born!!

We are also celebrating Fortnight for Freedom this July 4th. Religious freedom is at risk, the freedom for

JULY 6

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings

Zechariah 9:9-10

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30

the various churches to take care of the sick and the elderly without penalty for living by the principles of their faith. We need to speak out and demand our rights to believe and to act according to our faith.

Our second reading urges us to live in the Spirit. As members of Christ, every good individual action strengthens the whole body. We need to faithfully pray

for freedom and peace, to respond with courage to the many frustrations and "downers" in our lives, and influence others to do the same.

Of course, we live in the flesh—from hugs to hot dogs -- but its so easy to let our desires get out of hand.

More prayer, more getting out of ourselves to think of other people brings lightness of heart and freedom of Spirit.

When we're scared and think that it's just too hard, think of the Lord's words in today's Gospel—"Come to me all you who labor and are heavily burdened and I will refresh you"

In other words, Jesus says to us "Here, give it to me. I'll carry it for a while".

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Fresh look at Pope Benedict's valuable gift to us

By Tony Magliano
NCC columnist

Catholic social teaching is unfortunately the church's best kept secret.

But because it directly addresses the world's most pressing social justice and peace issues, Catholic social teaching instead needs to come out of hiding and be discovered, read, preached, proclaimed and lived in our parishes, schools, universities, media, homes and society.

Five years ago, a very valuable contribution to Catholic social teaching was

given to the church and world by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

In service to the poor

His encyclical letter *Caritas in Veritate* ("Charity in Truth") was given a respectful but short hearing, and then put on the shelf to gather dust.

Let's shake off five years of dust, and really begin to appreciate this gem.

Foundational to all just solutions to the world's ills is unconditional love. And as our retired Holy Father wrote, "Love – caritas – is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of

justice and peace. It is a force that has its origin in God, Eternal Love and Absolute Truth."

Benedict insists that authentic charity or love needs the assistance of truth. "Without truth, charity degenerates into sentimentality. Love becomes an empty shell, to be filled in an arbitrary way," he wrote.

He taught that the truth contained in the values of Christianity, are "essential for building a good society and for true integral human development."

He emphasized "the truth of Christ's love in society." And added, that "Development, social well being, the search for a satisfactory solution to the grave socio-economic problems besetting humanity, all need this truth. ...

"Without truth, without trust and love for what is true, there is no social conscience and responsibility, and social action ends up serving private interests and the logic of power, resulting in social fragmenta-

tion, especially in a globalized society at difficult times like the present."

Pope Emeritus Benedict's insights are right on the mark.

Because the quest for love, a love influenced by truth, is not on the agenda of so many individuals – especially so many individuals who hold political and corporate power – social action is indeed largely serving private interests and the logic of power.

Just consider how income and wealth over the last 30 years have dramatically increased for a tiny percentage of the population, while the working-class' share of the economic pie has stagnated, and various programs to assist the poor have significantly been cut.

While some claim that the Great Recession is over, that claim is of no consolation to countless human beings who are struggling with poverty, hunger, homelessness, unemployment and underemployment. And all of this painful injustice con-

tinues while corporate profits are at or near all time highs, and CEO's are racking in astronomical salaries.

A greedy, unjust toxic economic atmosphere is suffocating countless brothers and sisters. Social conscience and responsibility are not in the air.

Although the atmosphere is foul, as disciples of the Lord we are called to be men and women of hope.

For just as air pollution can be reversed, so too, economic pollution can be cleaned up. As Christians, we have the ultimate remedy: the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For as our retired Holy Father wrote: "The Gospel is fundamental for development, because in the Gospel, Christ, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, fully reveals humanity to itself."

Christ became human to show us what true humanity should reflect: Divine Love and Absolute Truth.

Novena to St. Theresa

St. Theresa, the little flower, please pick me a rose from your heavenly garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore. And tell him I will love him each day more and more. Say the above prayer plus 5 Our Father's, 5 Hail Mary's and 5 Glory Be's.

EM

St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, forever and ever, Amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the homeless, pray for us. Say prayer 9 times a day for 9 days.

EM

GUGGENHEIM 2014 - MEET THE STAFF

Visit www.rcdony.org/youth for information about Camp Guggenheim and registration forms
THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR A WEEK AT CAMP!



Matt Conger

My name is Matthew Conger I grew up in Ogdensburg and my home parish is Notre Dame.

Currently, I go to school in Pennsylvania at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Some day God willing I will become a priest for our diocese.

I am so excited to be working at camp this summer to be able to bring the faith to the campers. I hope to see you all there this summer.

Pat Knight

Pat Knight is from Peru, NY, and attends Franciscan University of Steubenville.

A Guggenheim camper since he was 12, this is his first year on staff!

"My prayer is that the campers learn to spread more love than you receive to those around you," he said.

"God's love is infinite - if you live your life full of love then you will always be re-filled."



Joey Izzo

Joey Izzo grew up in Lake Placid and is currently attending Berklee College of Music in Boston majoring in Music Production and Engineering.

He is an experienced composer and pianist.

Camp Guggenheim has been an important part of his life for many years, having been a camper for several seasons.

This is his second year on staff and he feels very blessed to return to the best job in the world for another summer.



By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

There may, no doubt, be circumstances that would justify a film having a running time close to three hours.

Some lavish adaptation of a Dickens novel, perhaps, or a sweeping historical epic might be expected to sustain prolonged viewer interest. A set of outside Hasbro toys come to life, on the other hand, not so much.

Still, that's what audiences will find waiting for them in the interminable 3-D action sequel "Transformers: Age of Extinction" (Paramount).

Such self-indulgence on the part of director Michael Bay is all the more regrettable because his fourth installment in this popular popcorn franchise is initially somewhat more engaging than its predecessors. The bond uniting small-time inventor, young widower and over-protective dad Cade Yeager (Mark Wahlberg) with his teen daughter, Tessa (Nicola Peltz), for example, gives us slightly more substantial human interest than was previously evident.

The rural setting of the Texas farm on which Cade and Tessa -- routinely joined by Cade's surfer sidekick, Lucas (T.J. Miller) -- live out a cash-strapped but mutually caring existence, moreover, makes for some pleasant visuals. Less welcome is the wayward relationship between Tessa and her clandestine boyfriend, Shane (Jack Reynor).

Once the alien robots from whom the series takes its title show up, however, it does turn out to be a good thing that Irish-born Shane makes his living as a racecar driver. These me-

AT THE MOVIES

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION



CNS PHOTO/ANDREW COOPER, PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Mark Wahlberg and Jack Reynor star in scene from movie 'Transformers: Age of Extinction'

chanical beings are capable of changing shape at will, and do so most often by shifting into the guise of speedy vehicles. So it helps the humans who get mixed up with them -- as Cade does by buying a long disused truck -- to have some velocity of their own.

For those not fluently familiar with Transformers lore in all its manifestations, the briefest of explanations: the good, i.e. human-friendly, guys are called Autobots and are led by Optimus Prime (voice of Peter Cullen). Their adversaries -- and ours -- are known as Decepticons. The whole point of plunking down your dozen or so dollars at the box office is to watch these guys magically morph -- and noisily duke it out.

Stacked up against the endless shape-shifting and cacophonous combat, neither Wahlberg's strong presence nor an amusing turn by Stanley Tucci as Joshua Joyce, a Steve Jobs-like tech pioneer stands much of a chance. Also lost along the way are scattered religious references -- do Transformers have souls? --

and a more sustained theme about the dangers of overreacting to terrorism.

That tendency is embodied by Harold Attinger (Kelsey Grammer), a top-ranking CIA agent for whom the only good automaton is a dead one.

Besides sometimes ridiculous dialogue, Ehren Kruger's script also includes a heavy dose of vulgarity.

Together with the benignly treated behavior between Tessa and Shane mentioned above, such verbal lapses make this sci-fi slog an inappropriate one for those youthful viewers who might best be able to endure it.

The film contains relentless, though largely bloodless, violence, an implied premarital situation, at least one use each of profanity and rough language and numerous crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

ADIRONDACK

ADULT SUMMER RETREAT

Saranac Lake - A summer retreat in the Adirondacks has been planned

Date: Aug. 22-24

Schedule: begins with supper on Fri and concludes supper on Sun.

Place: Guggenheim Lodge

Speakers: Paul Gibaldi, wilderness guide for 25 years, nature photographer, and Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSI, spiritual director and adult faith educator.

Cost: \$150 Register no later than August 20. (Limited to 10 adults - first come basis) Registration fee of \$25 is due with registration.

Features: There will be times to reflect, pray and to share with each other the spiritual wisdom revealed to us by God. Mass will be offered by Fr. Paul Kelly on Sun. afternoon before dinner.

Contact: call 315-212-6592 or email sr-beth@cit-tele.com.

CLINTON

INORABRASS CONCERT

Plattsburgh - Inorabrac concerts to be held.

Schedule: Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. Waitsfield Union Church, Waitsfield Village, VT; Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. St. John the Baptist Church, Plattsburgh.

Features: InoraBrass, named for the Goddess of Mountain Snow, celebrates the parallel between the majesty of brass music and the natural beauty of Vermont and Northern New York. Free admission, donations welcome!

Contact: In VT contact: (802) 595-0601 InoraBrass@gmail.com; In NY contact: (518) 846-3211 destinobrass@twcny.rr.com

LOST SHEEP QUILT SHOP

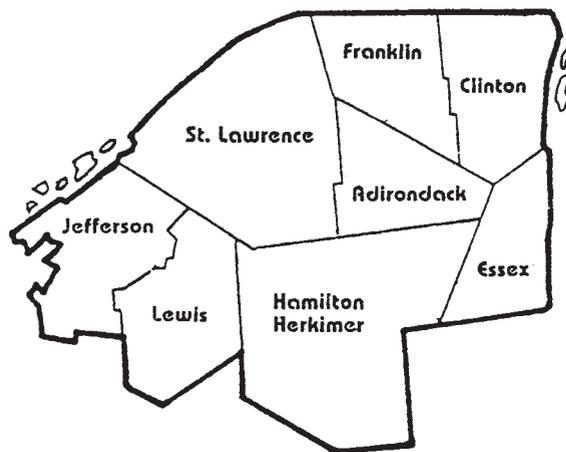
Ellenburg Center - The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop at Our Lady of Adirondacks House of Prayer is hosting several programs during the upcoming weeks.

Take 4 Placement Class: July 12 from 9 a.m. to 3, cost - \$15. This class uses 4 fat quarters plus backing material.

Sew Together: any Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3. This is a quilting group designed to share ideas, help fellow quilters, teach beginners. Bring your own projects to sew.

Place: The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop, Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer (The shop is open Tues. - Sat, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Evenings and other times by appointment.)

Contact: 518-594-3253 Website: th-elostsheepquiltshop.weebly.com; th-elostsheepquiltshop@gmail.com



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

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

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

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: call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

Keeseville - There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

HEALING MINISTRY

Morrisonville - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's holds Living Waters Healing Ministry

Date: First Thursday each month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, individual prayer.

FRANKLIN

LATIN MASS

Constable - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Friday at 5:30 p.m. beginning July 4 with Fr. Howard Venette as the celebrant. Mass will also be celebrated every first Saturday at 9 a.m.

Place: St. Francis of Assisi Church

JEFFERSON

HOLY HOUR

Adams/Henderson - Parish holy hour s to be held.

Schedule: July 2, 6:30 - St. Cecilia; July 10, 5:30pm - Queen of Heaven; July 24, 5:30pm - Queen of Heaven; Aug 6, 6:30pm - St. Cecilia; Aug 28, 5:30pm - Queen of Heaven; Sept 3, 6:30pm - St. Cecilia; Sept 25, 5:30pm - Queen of Heaven

Features: Praying for vocations and the needs of our Church.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Watertown - Holy Family Church is holding holy hours of Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Schedule: Monday through Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.),

Contact: 348-6260.

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June to be held.

Date: July 6

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. Contact 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

BRUNCH

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

Date: July 13

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs

FEAST DAY OF SS PETER AND PAUL

South Colton - Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Colton and St. Mary Parish in Potsdam, will be celebrant of a vigil Mass of the Feast Day of SS Peter and Paul

Date: June 28

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: St. Paul's Oratory

Features: Procession to the Sacred Heart Shrine after Mass. An Ice Cream Social will follow; bring a lawn chair.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BREAKFAST

Norwood - First annual St. Andrew's Parish Independence Day Breakfast and 50/50 raffle.

Date: July 4

Time: 8 a.m. to 11:30

Cost: Adult, \$6-advance, \$7 at the door; age 6-12, \$4-advance, \$5 at the door.

BIBLE STUDY

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's Cathedral is hold an eight session program "A Quick Journey Through The Bible."

Date: Starting June 25 for 8 Weeks

Place: Bishop Brzana Hall

Features: Deacon Dave Sandburg will be presenting the program created by Jeff Cavins, a renowned bible scholar and former Baptist pastor,

Contact: www.saintmaryscathedral.net/bible-study.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.

Date: Tuesday afternoons

Time: 1:30 p.m.

LATIN MASS

Potsdam - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday

Time: 11:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

DIOCESAN EVENTS

BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES

Norfolk - A workshop to be held, "Building Strong Families: Marriage, Sex, and the Church.

Date: July 26

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

Place: Church of the Visitation Parish

Center

Cost: \$20 (Includes lunch)

Features: Dr. Angela Franks-- author, professor, speaker, television host— brings vast experience to this topic. Using the wisdom of the Church, Dr. Franks will consider current issues that threaten marriage, including commitment-phobia, hook-up culture, pornography, definition of marriage, and unintended consequences of contraception. The day will include prayer, discussion, and practical guidance for strengthening marriages.

Registration: Register at rcdony.org/BSF

Contact: Angelo/Suzanne Pietropaoli, apietropaoli@rcdony.org, or at 518-483-0459.

PRAYER RALLY

Ogdensburg - The third annual prayer rally to show support for life, traditional marriage and other Catholic Values has been planned.

Date: Aug. 3

Time: 2 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Mary's Cathedral

Features: There will be speakers, including Bishop LaValley, a prayer service and recitation of the Rosary. We will also have a small ceremony at the Monument of the Unborn on the grounds of the Cathedral. A reception will be held afterward, place to be announced.

JOURNEY TO EASTERN EUROPE

Father Amyot will be leading a pilgrimage visiting the land of St. John Paul II.

Date: November 3- 14

Cost: Only \$3129 from Montreal (Air/land price is \$2449 plus \$680 government taxes/airline fuel surcharges) Visiting: Warsaw, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna, Prague

Features: First Class/Select Hotels, most meals with comprehensive sightseeing

Contact: For a brochure and more information contact: Fr. Andrew Amyot at (315) 384-2064

or mail: P.O. Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667 e-mail: fraamyot2@twcny.rr.com Space is limited! Call today!

10 DAY ADVENT PILGRIMAGE

Father Donald Robinson, pastor St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Watertown, will be hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Date: Dec. 1-10, 2014

Cost: \$2997

Features: Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem.

Contact: 782-1190 for brochure



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

This summer we will help people who are in need

By Molly McKee Ryan
Diocesan mission office

You could call in Christmas in July.

The summer months are here, finally. Logically it starts. The fun begins. We plan and anticipate such wonderful gatherings as graduations, weddings, festivals and reunions. It is so easy to make plans for a barbecue or a pool party. Maybe we take it for granted a little bit. Summer will be fun. It always is.

But just like at Christmas, it's a time to reflect, be grateful and give of yourself unconditionally if you can.

It's not always that easy for those in the Missions. The children in places like Peru, Nicaragua and Ecuador do not have the luxury of knowing that tomorrow will even include a meal, a warm bed to sleep in or even necessary medications. Just like at Christmas.

The Mission office does what it can to help those in need.

Every summer the Missionary Cooperation Campaign introduces parishioners to a real – life missionary who represents a mission cause from a faraway place.

The missionary makes the needs of the missions more real and more personal, as the faithful become personally involved in learning about the missions and in responding to their needs.

It has been an appeal that has been worth cultivating and nourishing in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

This summer, the Missionary Cooperation Appeal is planned for the East Side of our Diocese during July-August.

The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal will be taken up in the St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries on the weekend of July 26-27.

This appeal will be used to provide continued financial support of our former mission in Mollendo, Peru, to support the U.S. Bishop's annual appeal for Latin America and to help any other missionary projects throughout the world that the Diocese of Ogdensburg might deem appropriate as part of its evangelization effort. Please consider contributing with your prayers and sacrifices.

So, just like at Christmas, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith too has plans to give and celebrate.

Please consider giving this summer to our appeals that will be held in your parish here but will help those far away and in need.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – William David Cordick, 61; Funeral June 23, 2014 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

AuSable Forks – Mark S. "Dan" Cross, 59; Funeral Services June 19, 2014 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

AuSable Forks – David A. Smith, 49; Funeral Services June 16, 2014 at Holy Name Church; burial in Clintonville Methodist Cemetery, Clintonville.

AuSable Forks – Joseph F. Shambo, 87; Funeral Services June 26, 2014 at Thwaites-Zaumetzer Funeral Home; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Black River – Marjorie Delight "Dee" (Davison) Schneider, 76; Funeral Services June 17, 2014 at St. Paul's Church; burial Black River Cemetery.

Canton – Gerald M. Bessette Sr., 81; Funeral June 23, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Canton – Doris E. (Viancour) Dominie, 101; Funeral Services June 24, 2014 at O'Leary Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Michael R. Forcier, 58; Funeral Services June 25, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Philip Neri Cemetery, Westport.

Clayton – Michael F. Knill, 51; Funeral Services July 1, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan – Maketa Rodgers, 66; Memorial Services June 18, 2014 at the Adirondack Funeral Home.

Hogansburg – Michael G. "Minnows" Sunday, "Ohserase", 77; Funeral Services June 26, 2014 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid – Ellis H. Smith, 65; Funeral Services June 26, 2014 at the M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Louisville – Laurie A. (Kerr) Hollander, 50; Funeral June 23, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville – Olga (Samsa) Iszyani, 91; Funeral Services June 18, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Helen J. (Pivetta) Tolosky, 84; Funeral Services June 22, 2014 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in

parish cemetery.

Massena – Frederic E. Charter, 82; Funeral Services June 28, 2014 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Carville Cemetery, Helena.

Massena – David E. Fish, 59; Funeral Services June 19, 2014 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Catherine (Whalen) Portolese, 83; Funeral Services June 17, 2014 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena – Shirley A. (Forbes) Premo, 84; Funeral June 20, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moors – Violet R. Rascoe, 88; Funeral Services June 23, 2014 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

Moors Forks – Victor Joseph Decoste, 80; Funeral June 21, 2014 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Norfolk – Gerald P. Fleury, 75; Funeral Services June 19, 2014 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norfolk – Eileen J. (Villnave) Murray, 94; Funeral Services June 18, 2014 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Lawrence – Earle G. Hastings, 75; Funeral Services June 21, 2014 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Dickinson.

Ogdensburg – June F. (Conroy) Amo, 89; Funeral Services June 16, 2014 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Thomas P. Murray, 57; Funeral Services June 23, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Pearl "Betsy" M. (Gregg) Luce, 88; Funeral Services June 19, 2014 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Peasleeville Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Sonya (Horvath) Haggerty, 77; Funeral Services June 21, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Dr. Orlando J. Martelo, 78; Funeral Services June 21, 2014 at St. John's Church.

Port Henry – Stephen J. Montagnola, 88; Funeral Services June 20, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Thomas C. Mauchly, 82; Funeral Services June 23, 2014 at St. Mary's Church.

Redford – Raymond A. Archambault, 88; Funeral Services June 21, 2014 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Mausoleum, Plattsburgh.

Redford – George W. Waldron, 84; Funeral Services June 26, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Assumption of Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Alice M. (Douglas) Bourquin, 74, Funeral Services June 18, 2014 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Holly J. Walsh Gardner, 51; Funeral Services June 25, 2014 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Watertown – Bernard J. Beck, 83; Funeral Services June 21, 2014 June 21, 2014 at Cummings Funeral Service Inc.; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Watertown – Victor D. Fralonardo, 98; Funeral Services June 19, 2014 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – William J. Flynn Jr., 86; Funeral Services June 21, 2014 at Sacred Heart Church.

Watertown – Margaret "Peggy" Ann Martin, 65; Funeral Services June 28, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Clelia M. (Frattali) Navarra, 90; Funeral Services June 16, 2014 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Joan Richey, 83; Funeral Services June 19, 2014 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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Teacher of the Year

Michele Bombard named the 2014 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the diocese

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

OGDENSBURG - Michele Bombard, a teacher at Trinity Catholic School in Massena, has been named the 2014 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

She was honored June 20 during a luncheon hosted by Bishop Terry LaValley at the Bishop's residence.

Ms. Bombard began her teaching career in 1987 at Trinity Catholic. In her application for the position at Trinity Ms. Bombard wrote, "I welcome the opportunity to teach in a school in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It is the perfect place for me to begin a career as a dedicated teacher. I believe that the caring, Christian environment of a Catholic school inspires both students and teachers to work to full potential in all academic areas and to grow in faith."

For 28 years, Ms. Bombard has remained at Trinity Catholic leading hundreds of students to Christ and lifelong learning.

Ms. Bombard currently teaches fifth and sixth grade ELA and Social Studies. In



PHOTO BY VALERIE MATHEWS

Michele Bombard, a teacher at Trinity Catholic School in Massena for the past 28 years, was honored as the 2014 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. She is pictured above at a June 20 luncheon at the Bishop's House in Ogdensburg with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, members of the diocesan education office and the Trinity principals with whom she has worked. From left are Bishop LaValley, St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, assistant superintendent of schools; Joan Rufa and St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, former principals; Ms. Bombard, St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, director of education and superintendent of schools; and Kathleen Behrens, current Trinity principal.

past years, she has taught Math, ELA, Social Studies and Religion in a self-contained fifth grade classroom.

In addition to her teaching

responsibilities, Ms. Bombard has demonstrated her capacity for leadership. She is a presenter at that annual Diocesan New Teacher Ori-

tation program and regularly shares her expertise with the members of the Trinity faculty.

Since 2012 she has served

as the assistant principal at Trinity. She also plays an integral role in the life of her parish serving as a wonderful role model for her students.

Ms. Bombard graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a BA in History/Education. She has a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and is permanently certified in N-6 elementary education with a Social Studies extension for grades 7-9.

She regularly participates in continued professional development workshops and training sessions which include but are not limited to the incorporation of technology across the curriculum, mentoring of new teachers and leadership skills through Cognitive Coaching.

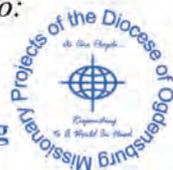
In nominating Ms. Bombard, Kathleen Behrens, Trinity Catholic principal, stated: "Michele Bombard possesses all the qualities one looks for in an effective and outstanding teacher. . . . She has selflessly served students, colleagues, parents and parishioners; not caring about money, promotions or adulation.

"Michele chose a teaching vocation, not a career, only wanting to share the hope and love of Christ in the best way she knows how - as a Catholic school teacher," Mrs. Behrens wrote.

Ms. Bombard was joined at the bishop's luncheon by Mrs. Behrens, St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction; Pam Ballantine, assistant director of Catholic Education for Christian Formation and Catholic Schools, Joan Rufa and St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon, former principals at Trinity Catholic and St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, director of education and superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Yes, I would like to contribute to the M.P.D.O. I wish to help by enclosing the following gift to:

Missionary Projects of the
Diocese of Ogdensburg
Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669



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