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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 66, Number 1

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

APRIL 6, 2011

Pope: world needs peacemakers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The world needs peace and it needs peacemakers who are strengthened by faith and committed to promoting reconciliation among peoples, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience at the Vatican March 23, the pope contin-

ued his series of audience talks about the doctors of the church, focusing on St. Lawrence of Brindisi, an Italian Capuchin and famed preacher.

Pope Benedict said the priest, who served as a military chaplain at the beginning of the 1600s, "applied

himself heroically to efforts toward peace and reconciliation between the nations and peoples of Europe."

The pope said: "The moral authority he enjoyed made him an adviser who was much sought after and listened to." Pope Benedict told an estimated 10,000 people

gathered in St. Peter's Square for the first outdoor audience of the spring: "Today, just as in the time of St. Lawrence, the world needs peace, it needs peaceful and pacifying men and women. All those who believe in God must always be sources of peace and peacemakers."

Parish life in the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Read what's happening in parishes in Keeseville and Mooers as organizations reach out to serve their communities.

The Altar Rosary Society in Keeseville is welcoming men to its ranks. Members have discovered they bring valuable gifts to the organization - including their talents as cooks!

The Knights of Columbus in Mooers and their families have offered remarkable service in their parish religious education program making up 27 of the parish's 36 volunteers.

FULL STORIES, PAGE 4

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

This week, the North Country Catholic's Facebook page offers full coverage of Saturday's Diocesan Youth Rally

'DUCKING' IN FOR SOME FUN AT SCHOOL



Bishop LaValley "ducked" in to join the Pre-K and Kindergarteners at St. Mary's in Canton March 25 during their "Fun Friday" The bishop visited with all the students at St. Mary's School and then celebrated Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation. Pictured, from left, are Gracie Friot, Laurel Whittier and Grace McDonough. Catholic schools across the Diocese of Ogdensburg are currently accepting registrations for the school year beginning in September. See special features on the Catholic schools throughout this week's *North Country Catholic*. The bishop's message for students appears on page 3.

CLERGY CONFERENCE

Preparing for New Missal

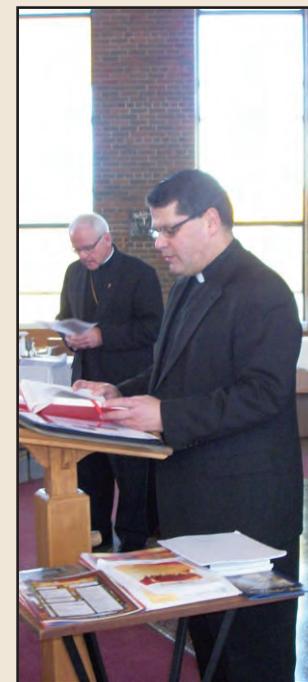


PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN
Bishop LaValley and Father Douglas Lucia, diocesan director of the Worship Office, led the priests and deacons of the Western half of the diocese in prayer March 30 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. The clergyman had gathered for a clergy conference focusing on the implementation of the New Roman Missal. Priests and deacons from parishes in the eastern half of the North Country took part in the same conference March 29 at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh.

FULL STORY, IN UPCOMING ISSUES

WHY BE CATHOLIC?: Young adult writer reflects on her reasons, p. 15

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

And with your spirit!

It was a sound that brought back a million memories...

The chapel of Wadhams Hall was filled with song from deep and prayerful voices.

I could close my eyes and be transported back to the 1970's when the building was filled with seminarians.

Last Wednesday it was filled again with priests and deacons, sharing prayer as they began a day of study.

Many of them had spent years (for the priests) or weekends (for the deacons) in that building. It was fitting for them to return for a little more learning.

By the end of this year, these clergymen - and those who gathered the day before in Plattsburgh - will need to lead their congregations in Mass from the New Roman Missal.

It will be a challenge for everyone, especially for those perfectly content with the language of the last 40 years.

Still, these changes will give us all an opportunity to reflect on the words of our liturgy and embrace a sacredness that we may have taken for granted.

The implementation of the new missal will also be an opportunity for us to grow as a family of faith as we learn and teach the new way of doing things together.

From now until the First Sunday of Advent, we will be offered plenty of opportunities to find out just what's going to happen.

The evangelization office has already held a series of workshops to start the preparation. Most of our parishes will schedule special training sessions and those of us in music ministry can be certain of more than a few extra practices!

Some of the differences will be obvious immediately. We will have to learn new musical settings for the various parts of the Mass. We will learn new words for common prayers, such as the Creed.

When we hear, "The Lord be with you" our old/new reply will be "And with your spirit."

The whole process will require patience and generous hearts from us all. Change is never easy.

But, if we use the time of preparation well, our church leaders hope, "we will make the changes with a deeper understanding of the Liturgy and a renewed reverence for and appreciation of the Mass. We will hear the prayers with new ears and with new hearts. Our Liturgy will be filled with new life and new spirit as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ made present for us." (USCCB document "Embracing Change in the Liturgy.")

Mary Lou
Kilian

Welcome Spring

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

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CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH
Let Yourself Be Unbound

5th Sunday of Lent

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Director of Evangelization

Jesus received the urgent call to go to the house of Martha and Mary because their brother Lazarus was ill. Jesus waited two days before He went to be with Martha and Mary knowing that Lazarus had died.

The cry of "if only..." came from the sisters in their loss of Lazarus.

Jesus asked whether they believed in Him and that even though they die, they would live; and everyone who lived and believed in Him would never die.

Both Martha and Mary acknowledged their faith that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God come into the world.

They understood that their faith in Jesus enabled them to live and that believing in Him, they would never die. Jesus went to the tomb to unbind the wrappings of Lazarus that bound him in death.

The stone is rolled away. Jesus' prayer is one of deep intimacy and communion with the Father, not one of petition.

It is a prayer of thanksgiving because Jesus knows that whatever He asks the Father, He asks in accordance with His will and is therefore heard.

The thanksgiving and joy of Jesus will come because the hearing of His prayer will lead the crowd to believe.

Because the prayer is heard, they will see a miracle which is the work of the Father and will give glory to God.

Lazarus' life is restored through the words and actions of Jesus. It is a sign not only of eternal life which believers receive through faith; it is also a promise that on the last day Jesus will raise believers to eternal life.

When Jesus speaks in a loud voice: "Lazarus, come forth," the loud voice is a way of expressing the power of Jesus.

It is the voice of the Son of Man, the transcendent Jesus who will summon believers "who have done good deeds" (John 5:29) to a final resurrection of life "on the last day" (11:24).

This sign also pointed to Jesus' own death and resurrection!

Our faith tells us that in every celebration of the Mass the death and resurrection of Jesus are being remembered.

We proclaim His death until He comes again. Believing in Jesus is the beginning of living His life, the beginning of eternal life now.

We enter into the glory of eternal life by our Baptism and continue to live the grace offered to us each time we celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

It is through the words and actions of the priest "in the persona Christi" that we are able to draw closer to God through the reception of Holy Communion and to one another as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

Christ unites Himself with each of us but also with the one who is sitting next to us. Christ and my neighbor are inseparable. We are one bread, one body.

As we pray, so we live.

The fruits of receiving Holy Communion fill our Family of Faith with the life-giving qualities of hospitality, self-offering, and thanksgiving.

It is this life of grace dwelling within us that keeps us unbound. God's grace gives us the capacity to hold eternity in the now.

Let us become unbound with God's grace. This is true freedom.

FOLLOW ME

To our students:

Bishop LaValley shares his reflection for the National Honor Society induction at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown March 22 as a message to all students in the North Country:

I am pleased to be with you here tonight to congratulate the newest inductees into the National Honor Society, indeed to applaud all the members of this group of special students. With loving support and the guidance of your parents and of the faculty and staff at Immaculate Heart Central, you have earned the privilege of having your name added to the impressive roster of the National Honor Society.

As you know, back in 1921, the National Honor Society was formed with four purposes in mind: to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to render service; to promote leadership; and to develop character.

Any one of these is a most noble purpose in and of itself. Put the four together and you have something special, something that instills hope within all of us as we open the door, ever ready to greet tomorrow.

Let's take a moment or two and reflect on how these four purposes can be and should be informed by your faith. When it comes to enthusiasm, like never before, you have tremendous reasons to be excited about learning. You have the opportunity to learn about the wonders, the awesomeness of God's creation. There is so very much to take in, to sort through, to study, to wonder about, to revel in, to embrace and enjoy. Your induction into the National Honor Society affirms your desire to learn and challenges you to never lose the hunger to fill your mind

with the knowledge of how much with which we have been gifted by our God.

Given the remarkable progress in communications technology, we are keenly aware of all those who are hurting in our global community. Mother Teresa stands as a heroic model of holiness and sanctity in this respect. And yet, we know that we don't have to go very far from home to lend a helping hand and caring

heart.

The National Honor Society recognizes your service to others. On the day of your baptism, you became a child of God and member of His family of faith. With the gift of the sacramental grace comes the responsibility of being a companion on the journey, a brother or sister with the charge of loving your neighbor as yourself... part of the Great Commandment of Jesus.

Each of us is called to build up the Body of Christ, realizing that nobody is better than anyone else. We remember what Jesus told His followers about how we would all be judged at the end of time: whether we served one another, if we had the vision and the heart to see Jesus in every person we encounter and treated them with the dignity due a child of God.

At Immaculate Heart Central, particularly during Lent, you have ample opportunities to render that service to those who are hurting. For instance, this Lent students at IHC are working diligently to raise funds and draw attention to children suffering from hunger around our world. William Schantz said it so tragically well: "children are competing with vultures for food in garbage dumps."

The National Honor Society sees in you the potential

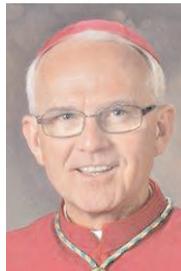
of good leadership. As we study and pray the Bible we find in the tradition of our faith great heroic leaders and leaders who were pathetic, abysmal failures.

Aspire to be Christ-like in all that you do and you will have been a blessing for all

For instance, the great leaders and prophets, Moses and Jeremiah, hesitated when the Lord called them to lead. Their excuses: "No Lord, not me, I'm too young." Some claimed that they stuttered too much when they talked in public. They felt that nobody would pay any attention to them. The leadership you offer is made most effective by your good, mature example.

The fourth of the purposes proposed by the National Honor Society is to develop character. You have been made in the very image, the very likeness of God. Through your own personal prayer life and participation at Mass, your relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church will grow. As it does, the traits that are unique to you will surface and then blossom. They will be blessings to your family, your friends, your world as you walk through life.

As I conclude, I would like to remind our honorees to never take anything for granted, but to continue to grow in knowledge and grace. That means a life of self-discipline, sacrifice and just plain hard work. Never be content with just doing what everybody else is doing. Because, you see, when you are mediocre, you are just as close to the bottom as you are to the top. Again congratulations to all of you and to your parents. Exciting times await you ahead. Aspire to be Christ-like in all that you do and you will have been a blessing for all. God bless you all!



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

DIOCESAN DATES

Ecumenical Service

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at a Lenten ecumenical service April 10 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

The theme for the program, which begins at 2:30 p.m. is Celebrating our Unity.

Further information is available from Father Daniel Chapin, pastor in Croghan and diocesan director of ecumenical ministry, 315-346-6958.

Chrim Mass 2011

Bishop LaValley will also preside at the annual Chrim Mass April 14 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

The liturgy features the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrim for use in all the churches of the Diocese of Ogdensburg..

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PARISH LIFE IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

In Keeseville - Altar and Rosary Society welcomes men

By Brenda Smith
President, Keeseville Altar Rosary Society.

KEESEVILLE- Do you remember the catch phrase from an old TV commercial: "We're looking for a few good men"? Well, we are...and we're looking for women too.

Over the past two years, The Keeseville Altar and Rosary Society welcomed ten new members to its ranks, and five of them are MEN. As of today we have a total of six men in our group. They are all a wonderful addition to our society. They also love Our Blessed Mother's Rosary and as an added benefit...they can cook and clean!

In February of 2009, with the help and support of our pastor, Msgr. Leeward Poissant, the society became a member of worldwide Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God. It is an ArchConfraternity that offers many spiritual benefits

to its members as well.

This centuries-old organization was started by the Dominicans and we learned that initially, women and men prayed alongside each other as equal members. In fact, as some of our fundraisers, we have three summer bake sales and the men contribute in some way. Sometimes their wives help by donating baked goods but for others, they bake their own specialties to be sold. They've shown us they can be good cooks.

When it's time to take care of our churches, especially during Christmas and Easter seasons, they are some of the first to show up to volunteer to clean and help move things from one place to another. At times, you could say the men are faithful in helping with the society's "honey-do" list.

We are also looking to increase our membership in and around our area. Much like we see our churches and parishes merging or linking together, we are also



Among the new members of the Keeseville Altar and Rosary Society are, front, from left Bill Sackett, Joe Kusalonis, John D. Lucero, Jr., Roy Armstrong, Robert Armstrong, Dave Rock

looking to do a similar thing with our religious organizations.

Joining the society does not require any application process or waiting to be invited by a current member to join. It is open to any Catholic wishing to be part of an Altar Rosary Society. If there are parishes in our area that do not have an active Society, people are wel-

comed to join with us. Attendance at our monthly meetings is not mandatory, just encouraged. If there's a society that would just like to link with us and/or co-sponsor an event, that would be a good idea too.

If anyone has a question or would like more information about The Confraternity for their own Altar Rosary Society, please con-

tact Carol at 518-834-7806.

When we think about building up the Church, especially in faith filled events and good works, we are often reminded of what is inscribed in the archway of our 175 year old Immaculate Conception Church that remains true for all of us even today:..."For where they treasure is, there is thy heart also." (Mt. 6:21).

In Mooers - K of C, religious education have strong ties

By John Ryan
Contributing Writer

MOOERS - Ed Polasik, a religious education teacher in

the St. Ann's - St. Joseph's religious education program, is also the Grand Knight of Columbus Council 6136 in Mooers.

As the leader of his organization, he is familiar with the Knights of Columbus members and their families.

Recently as he watched students arriving for reli-

gious education classes Polasik said, "I never noticed this before, but I think almost all the people working in our program have ties to our K of C Council."

Polasik was correct!

Twenty-seven of the thirty-five religious education teachers, teacher assistants and walkers are knights, spouses of knights or children of knights.

Christine Snide coordinates the 160-student St. Ann's-St. Joseph's program, said. "The Knights of Columbus are a good, solid group of individuals. They are very committed to helping the Mooers and Mooers Forks communities."

Snide said young people have regular positive encounters with members of

the Knights of Columbus.

Many Confirmation students satisfy their community service requirements by working side-by-side with the knights at their community dinners and other council activities, Snide told the *North Country Catholic*.

Grand Knight Polasik has been a catechist for 26 years. He teaches three classes and is an RCIA instructor. He has also taken 52 hours of instruction to become certified in theology.

Why does he do all this?

Ed Polasik responds, "I asked myself, What kind of community do I want this to be?" I care about the youth. I'm concerned about our way of life and the future of our Church."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Ed Polasik is shown with his 5th grade class, front, Arleigh Lafountain, Emily Royea, Danielle Rabideau and Thomas Kimbler.; back, Rylee Hollister, Father Gerald Cerank, pastor; Kyle Vassar, Devyn Sample, Brandy Lafountain, Christine Snide, Tristen Wallace, Council 6136 members Loyal McDonald and Eugene Bushey.

Catholic Charities accepting CCHD grant applications

Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant process for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The criteria to be used for submitting a proposal is:

1. Project must be aimed at alleviating the causes of poverty.
2. Project must be a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.
3. Sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization.
4. Project must have the potential to be funded after the CCHD funds have been expended.
5. Projects must be consistent with the teaching of the

Roman Catholic Church. (Applicants do not have to be Catholic.)

This year two grants for \$4,500 each are available. Applications can be requested from Catholic Charities by mail, phone or e-mail.

If you have any questions or to receive an application, please write to: Catholic Charities, 6866 State Hgwy. 37, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669, or call: (315)393-2255 or e-mail your request and mailing address to: ccwinny@wadhams.edu

Grant applications are due back to Catholic Charities by May 20, 2011. Grants will be awarded by the end of June 2011.

Mooers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Christine Snide takes great pride in the St. Ann's-St. Joseph's religious education program.

"We have a very committed group of catechists," she said. "Our pastor Father Gerald Cerank gives us a lot of support. People trust the program. They know what they're getting and that just nurtures it."

Father Cerank is pastor of both St. Ann's Parish in Mooers Forks and St. Joseph's Parish in Mooers. The religious education serving both parishes is conducted in the

St. Joseph's Center, which is located few hundred feet down the street from the Mooers Elementary School.

Walkers supervise the 1st through 5th grade children walking to and from the two Thursday afternoon sessions. Students in grade 6 through 10 have classes on Sunday evenings.

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"the people of the whole earth
who live in a common house"

Lenten Ecumenical Service
Sunday, April 10, 2011
2:30 p.m.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church
Watertown

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



The Way of the Cross will be presented at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga April 11 at 8 p.m. by junior high students from St. Mary's School. A scene from last year's presentation is shown. All are invited to the evening of prayer.

LENTEN GIVING TREE



Parishioners of St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and St. John's in Lyons Falls are devoting efforts in their Lenten Longings program to support their local food pantry. There are food items as well as monetary amounts on each cross of the Lenten giving tree. Above, St. John's parishioners Tammy Camidge, Mary Ellen McManus and Bernadette Law select a cross from the "fill-the-pantry" tree.

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Reservations may be made by phone by calling Sr. Elizabeth Menard at the Plattsburgh Regional Center, (518)563-2022 or e-mail emenard@dioogdensburg.org on or before April 25, 2011



Chrism Mass 2011

All the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join

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

for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ

on Thursday, April 14th at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

It's Time to Register!

The 15 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are accepting registrations for the school year that begins in September

Our 15 Catholic schools have outstanding academic programs, safe and orderly environments which support learning and competent and dedicated administrators, faculty and staff

But there is more!

Catholic schools exist to educate and form students who will learn and live the virtues of the Gospel and, with God's grace, move forward to eternal life.

Catholic schools pursue the goals of happiness in this world and happiness in eternal life

If there is a Catholic school in your area, I encourage you to call the principal, arrange for a visit and consider enrolling your child in the school.

See and experience what a Catholic school is and does.

*Sr. Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Diocesan superintendent of schools*



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Two Rachel's Vineyard retreats offered in 2011

SARANAC LAKE - Two Rachel's Vineyard, after-abortion healing retreats will be offered in the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 2011.

The first retreat will be held May 27-29, (Memorial Day Weekend); the second Sept. 2-4 (Labor Day Weekend). Both retreats will be held at the Guggenheim Lodge.

Rachel's Vineyard is a three-day program, open to mothers, fathers, grandparents and siblings of aborted children as well as those who have worked in the abortion industry. The weekend helps retreatants begin healing from their loss through scripture, group sharing and a memorial service.

Colleen Miner, coordinator of the diocesan retreats, said "It's important for women to know they are not alone in their suffering. On average, women wait 20 years before seeking healing from their loss. Yet in just three days, the transformation that takes place is amazing. God's mercy and forgiveness are such a blessing. I've heard couples say that without this retreat, they wouldn't be married today. It's that powerful."

While the Rachel's Vineyard held in this diocese is a Catholic retreat, people from all faiths are welcome. Around the clock adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered as well as daily Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Father Mark Reilly

will serve as the chaplain for the May retreat and Father Bryan Stitt will be the chaplain for the September retreat.

Further information about Rachel's Vineyard is available from pastors or at www.rachelsvineyard.org. Space is limited so early registration is encouraged. The cost of \$100 covers food, lodging and materials. Scholarships are available. Registration forms, photos of the retreat location and testimonies from former retreatants are available at www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information: Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920. ext. 403. Upcoming programs:
May 16 - 6 p.m., St. Alexander's, Morrisonville

To Report Abuse

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

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

April 6 - 8:45 a.m., Board of Managers of Meeting at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

April 7 - 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 3:00 p.m., Jefferson and Lewis Deanery Priests Gathering at St. James Church in Carthage.

April 8 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

April 9 - 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

April 10 - 9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown; 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown; 2:30 p.m., Ecumenical Service at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Watertown.

April 11 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 3:00 p.m., Essex and Hamilton-Herkimer Deanery Priests Gathering at St. Patrick's Church in Port Henry.

April 12 - 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Rest in Peace

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

April 4 - Rev. Ronald Brabant, 1963; Rev. Francis J. Beyette, 1984

April 5 - Rev. Florence McCarthy, 1901; Rev. Amedee Lacasse, M.S.C., 1941; Msgr. Francis P. Devan, 1992

April 6 - Rev. Joseph E. Berard, 1942; Msgr. Arthur M. Gilbert, 1965

April 7 - Rev. Fabien Barnabe, 1883; Rev. Benjamin Grom, M.S.C., 1893; Rev. Francois Cing-mars, 1902; Rev. James E. Duffy, 1934

April 8 - Rev. Patrick Carr, O.S.A., 1901

April 10 - Rev. Maurice Morin, M.S.C., 1976

April 11 - Rev. John P. Whalen, O.S.A., 1947

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On Ash Wednesday, Deacon Mark Bennett of St. Peter's Parish signed the forehead of Peyton Falb.



The Seton Catholic High School National Honor Society sponsored its annual Blood Drive for CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh March 11.. Above, Shannon Olsen prepares to make a donation.



Jonathan Templin studied how guitars produce musical sound for his project for Seton's recent science fair.



Samantha Bashaw, Ben Caron and Hailey Moore Worked as a team for the school's science fair.



Carson Hynes, right, installed a statue of the Blessed Virgin in front of Seton as part of his Eagle Scout project. The statue was donated to Seton Catholic by St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. Above, Carson gets some help from Caleb Larson.



A group of students from Seton Catholic traveled to Albany March 8 to take part in the New York State Catholic Conference's public policy day "Catholics at the Capitol." In front, from left, are Cara Chapman and Lyndale Nephew; back, Andrew Lauria, librarian at Seton; Tyler Grant, Mary Glynn, Ashlee Fairchild and Kelly Donnelly, English teacher.

Retired Army Lt. Colonel brings his skills to a Catholic school system

At IHC - mapping a strategy for the future

By Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

WATERTOWN - In 2001, Chris Hornbarger was working in the office of the Chief of Staff of the Army. A decade earlier he was leading a platoon of attack helicopters in South Korea.

His career brought him to Fort Drum in Northern New York. He saw duty in Somalia and Haiti while flying for the 10th Mountain Division.

Then his US Army career took a turn to a different kind of work.

He became a strategist, developing plans and strategies for operations, for wars.

In Homeland Security

Eleven days after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the US mainland, President George W. Bush announced that he would create an Office of Homeland Security in the White House. The office would oversee and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard the country against terrorism, and respond to any future attacks.

Chris Hornbarger was moved from the Pentagon to the White House where he became Director for Policy and Plans in the Homeland Security Council.

From his biography we learn he "was a principal member of the policy team that developed the National Strategy for Homeland Security and the President's proposal for the establishment of a Department of Homeland Security."

He left the Homeland Security Council in 2004 to teach at West Point but was also associated with the Combating Terrorism Center at the US Military Academy.

In 2007 Lieutenant Colonel Hornbarker was called to develop the strategy for training and empowering the Iraqi police, army and intelligence forces, freeing 100 thousand US troops to come home.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MASTELLON

Chris Hornbarger, executive system administrator at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, is responsible for the finances, development, marketing, public relations, student recruitment and strategic planning for the school which serves 536 students in grades pre-K through 12.

Then he was called to be Director of Plans and Strategy for the US Central Command-Iraq.

His job, since September 11, has been to stop terrorists.

A new focus

His focus changed this past summer.

At 43, Lt. Col Chris Hornbarger retired from the US Army and moved back to Watertown with wife Elizabeth (Beth O'Brien) and children John Paul, Jacob and Sarah.

For the past year, Chris Hornbarger has served as the Executive System Administrator of the Immaculate Heart Central Schools in Watertown which educates 536 students from Pre-K to 12th grade.

He works with the two principals of the school - Gail Graham in the elementary

grades and Lisa Parson, grades seven through 12 "to advance the mission of the Immaculate Heart Central School System," said St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools.

"The duties of a principal have changed drastically in the last ten years," Sister Ellen Rose explained, "both in the academic area but also in the area of school advancement, recruitment, marketing and enrollment management."

The Education Council of the Catholic School system, selected Hornbarger to take on daily responsibility for finances, development, marketing, public relations, student recruitment and strategic planning.

In addition, Lisa Parsons, the Junior/Senior High School principal, was appointed curriculum coordi-

nator for the system to ensure a seamless curriculum and continuity of instruction throughout the system.

"The Education Council's decision to hire a System Administrator recognizes the expanding role of principals as well as the system's need for a full time person in the vital areas of development, marketing and strategic planning," said Sister Ellen Rose.

Similar stresses

Since his arrival at IHC, Hornbarger has discovered that his former position and new job, "surprisingly, share some similar stresses.

"We are under a lot of pressure of time to produce really significant results under difficult circumstances, he said. "And an entire community is watching with high expectation."

"We are faced with the pressure of time," he told the *North Country Catholic*. "We know that enrollment in Catholic schools has been declining, that's nationwide, that's North Country wide and that's in this school system. That's reality.

"We know that birthrates are declining," Hornbarger said. "We know that attitudes about Catholic religion and Catholic education are changing and parents' expectations of what education is about are also changing.

"So in business terms, the market is changing," he said. "So the core competencies that we have which we cannot lose sight of - a quality Catholic education, a rigorous academic education - is our touch stone. But we also have to recognize a changing market and adapt.

"Short term we have to reach out to individuals and groups we have not contacted before, Fort Drum for example and our alumni," he said.

"We also need to look at the product we offer," he said. "Some parents want us to offer more in a fine arts program for example.

"All new programs have to work congruently with existing and other new programs," he said.

"To ensure that new programs succeed we need to introduce them with stakeholder involvement, parent involvement, the attention of school administrators and we need the perspective of teachers and students, Hornbarger said.

"From them all you develop a plan, a vision and put in place strategies to get there," he said.

These are the words of a planner, a strategist.

Developing a vision

Hornbarger knows the requirements of Immaculate Heart Central's schools in the future have to match a vision for the system and require patience.

Mid-term he hopes to develop an annual fund and an aggressive grant seeking strategy tied to a school vision. The end product will be to develop a vision of IHC five years from now and beyond.

"What do we want our school system to look like for our children and our grand children?" he asked.

He will not be creating the strategy in a vacuum.

"This is my fourth institutional strategy," he said. "Never before when I developed a strategy did I do it on my own. It is a process of guiding stakeholders so that their thumbprints are all over the strategy. It is there strategy, our strategy."

That's what Chris Hornbarger hopes to do for IHC.

"The core of our vision will not change, he says, "a strong Catholic education, a strong academic education, a safe and disciplined environment, values based.

"We have been here since 1888," he said. "I have every confidence we will be here until 2088 and beyond. We need to develop a vision that assures we will be healthy for that period of time."

Trinity Catholic prepares to add seventh grade

By Ed Reyes

Trinity Catholic School, Massena

MASSENA -The Trinity Catholic School cafeteria was full March 15 with people who came to hear about the school's new seventh grade program, opening this fall.

"It gives me such joy and pride to strongly support and applaud your efforts to make a Catholic school education available here in Massena to seventh, and then eighth graders," said special guest Bishop Terry R LaValley. "What an invaluable gift you are giving your children and the wonderful people of this area.

Along with Bishop LaValley, parents, grandparents, students, alumni, faculty, and local pastors Father Gaffney and Father Donald J. Manfred, listened for over an hour to an overview of the program presented by Principal, Joan Rufa.



PHOTO BY ED REYES

Emily Sullivan, a senior at Massena Central School and graduate of Trinity Catholic, told Massena parents March 15 that she wished that she would have had an opportunity to attend seventh and eighth grades at Trinity. Joan Rufa, Trinity principal is at right.

Mrs. Rufa began by explaining the proposed daily schedule for the new program. Trinity will include the New York State mandated Core subjects of Math, Science, English Language Arts

(ELA), and Social Studies, and a Diocesan required Religion class, with each class lasting 50 minutes daily with a possible extension to up to 100 minutes, if needed.

The proposed core subjects of French or Spanish, home and careers, music, art, technology, and physical education are standard, but there are a few additional electives such as dance, Journalism, theater, chorus, orchestra, and music.

After school, students will be able to take advantage of activities, including chess club, bridge club, debate team, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, robotics, yearbook, golf and tennis.

The school-day time schedule Was Welcomed by parents. Instead of a 7:30 - 2:30 schedule, Trinity seventh grade students will attend from 8:30 to 3.

One parent said, "I commend you for coming up with this schedule, since it is

well-known that adolescents do much better work later in the morning."

Mrs. Rufa agreed and explained that it would also benefit families who might have younger children in the family, and who need to have that older sibling at home to help watch those younger siblings.

"Every Catholic school works to synthesize faith, culture, and life," said Mrs. Rufa. "This will be done by having students identify problems within local and global communities, apply their knowledge and skills to create solutions, develop and design solutions and/or service projects, and then present possible solutions to the community.

"Academic performance and achievement will be linked to real-life experiences," she said.

"The instruction itself will be used to motivate students to learn, by inviting mentors

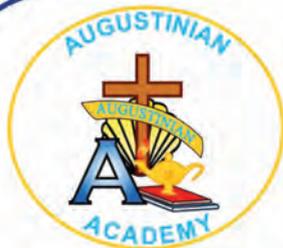
and guest instructors, by going on regular field trips, and having hands-on practice," continued Mrs. Rufa.

One way this will be accomplished is through "culminating projects." These will be projects that will occur every 10 weeks and will encourage students to reach out to others in the community.

Some of these projects include planning, organizing, and preparing lunches or suppers for those in need, planning, planting, harvesting, and distributing food from school gardens, and sewing clothes for children in need.

"I wish this could've happened when I was in sixth grade!" exclaimed Trinity alumni, Emily Sullivan.

"Exciting times await our children here," Bishop LaValley said. "The investment you make today will bear dividends tomorrow, flowing into eternity."



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The first and second graders of Augustinian Academy in Carthage read the intercessory prayers at the opening of Catholic School Week Mass at St. James Church. From left to right, front, are Cooper Lawler, Jaden Thesier, Anna Scott and Katie Richards, back, Harrison Scott, Katherine Morgan, Joseph Nicolle and Gabriel Rhoads.

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CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN TRIBUNE PHOTO

Students from Carthage Augustinian Academy recently competed in the 2011 New York State Regional Science Olympiad at SUNY Potsdam. The team which included twelve students from Grades 6-8 won the Spirit Award and brought home a total of 14 medals. Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. Medalists from the Academy included two first places by eighth graders. In the Dynamic Planet competition, Noah Landers and Kara Marks won gold medals and in the Science Crime Busters category, Sara Weber and Kara Marks won gold medals. Pictured with their coach Mary Ann Margrey in the front row are Courtney Leonard, Kelsey Lawton, Sara Weber and Mia Brown; second row Janice McLaughlin, third row Kara Marks, Evan Vogts and Remington Hanno; back row includes Greg Isenecker, Tyler Luffman and Noah Landers.

A LESSON OF LOVE



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

The traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe from Vermont was brought to St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid March 28. It had been the centerpiece of a retreat at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake the week before. Above, Father Mark Reilly, pastor in Saranac Lake, gives the children of St. Agnes School a lesson about St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each student had an opportunity to venerate the replica of the tilma image. At left, kindergartener Carter Day is touching the image as Andrew Scanio and Bailey Smith wait their turn.



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Archbishop Dolan speaks on behalf of US bishops: Commitment to address clergy abuse remains firm

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The U.S. bishops' procedures for addressing child sex abuse remain "strongly in place" and the bishops remain "especially firm" in their commitment "to remove permanently from public ministry any priest who committed such an intolerable offense," said the president of the U.S. bishops' conference.

"This painful issue continues to receive our careful attention," said Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York.

"The protection of our children and young people is of highest priority," the archbishop said in a statement released March 24.

He added that the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" approved by the bishops in 2002 "remains strongly in place."

He said the bishops who met in Washington for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Administrative Committee meeting March 22-23 asked him to offer reassurances about the church's resolve to address sexual abuse and deal firmly with clergy who abuse children.

The Administrative Committee - composed of the executive officers, committee chairmen and regional representatives of the USCCB - is the highest decision-making body of the bishops apart from the entire body when it meets twice a year in general assembly.

"We bishops recommit ourselves to the rigorous mandates of the charter, and renew our confidence in its effectiveness," Archbishop Dolan said in his statement. "We repeat what we have said in the charter: 'We make our own the words of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II: that the sexual abuse of young people is by every standard wrong and rightly consid-

ered a crime by society; it is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God.'"

The protection of our children and young people is of highest priority...

The "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" approved by the bishops in 2002 remains strongly in place

Archbishop Timothy Dolan

Both the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" and norms the U.S. bishops approved for dioceses to adhere to the charter's mandates have Vatican approval.

The charter, which also established the bishops' Office for Child and Youth Protection, was updated in 2005, the norms in 2006.

The charter mandates that safe environment programs be set up in dioceses and parishes. It also requires an annual audit on how dioceses and religious orders are complying with provisions in the charter.

In the nine years since the charter was first approved, "we have constantly reviewed the high promises and rigorous mandates of the charter, as we continually try to make it even more effective," Archbishop Dolan said.

He said the bishops "keep refining" it based on input from the lay-led National Review Board and from Catholic parents, professionals, the victim-survivor community, law enforcement officials and diocesan victim-assistance coordinators.

"We want to learn from our mistakes and we welcome constructive criticism," the archbishop added.

He said the bishops are to take up a "long-planned review" of the charter during their June meeting.

Archbishop Dolan said the audits will continue in order to check on how well the church is able "to protect our young people, promote healing of victims/survivors and restore trust."

His statement referred to "recent disclosures about the church's response to the sexual abuse of minors by priests" but did not mention the recent clergy sex abuse crisis in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

A Philadelphia grand jury released a report Feb. 10 that called for the archdiocese to "review all of the old allegations against currently active priests and to remove from ministry all of the priests with credible allegations against them."

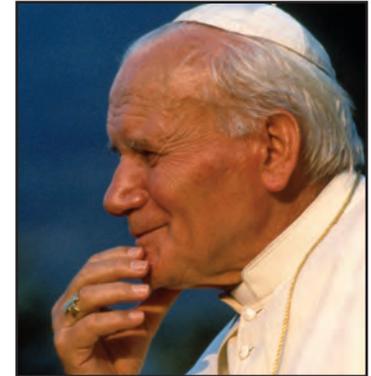
In response, the archdiocese among other things has hired a former sex crimes prosecutor to review personnel files of the 37 priests named in the grand jury's report. Cardinal Justin Rigali has placed 21 priests on administrative leave while any allegations made against them are reviewed.

In his statement, Archbishop Dolan said the progress the church has made in addressing abuse "must continue and cannot be derailed; we want to strengthen it even more; we can never stop working at it, because each child and young person must always be safe, loved and cherished in the church."

Archbishop Dolan said the designation of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month provides the bishops with "the providential opportunity to unite with all Americans in a renewed resolve to halt the scourge of sexual abuse of youth in our society."

Speakers: John Paul II being beatified for holiness, not papacy

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service



CNS PHOTO/CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO)

Pope John Paul, pictured in an undated photo, is set to be beatified May 1.

ROME (CNS) - Pope John Paul II is being beatified not because of his impact on history or on the Catholic Church, but because of the way he lived the Christian virtues of faith, hope and love, said Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes.

"Clearly his cause was put on the fast track, but the process was done carefully and meticulously, following the rules Pope John Paul himself issued in 1983," the cardinal said April 1, during a conference at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

The cardinal said the church wanted to respond positively to many Catholics' hopes to have Pope John Paul beatified quickly, but it also wanted to be certain that the pope, who died in 2005, is in heaven.

Cardinal Amato said the sainthood process is one of the areas of church life where the consensus of church members, technically the "sensus fidelium" ("sense of the faithful"), really counts.

"From the day of his death

on April 2, 2005, the people of God began proclaiming his holiness," and hundreds, if not thousands, visit his tomb each day, the cardinal said. A further sign is the number of biographies published about him and the number of his writings that are translated and re-published.

"In the course of a beatification cause, there is the vox populi," he said, which must be "accompanied by the vox dei (voice of God) -- the miracles -- and the vox ecclesiae (voice of the church)," which is the official judgment issued after interviewing eyewitnesses and consulting with historians, physicians, theologians and church leaders to verify the candidate's holiness.



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A papal message to young people:

Don't abandon God because of 'attacks of evil' in church

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI urged young people not to abandon their faith in God because of the "attacks of evil" within the church.

"Carry intact the fire of your love in this church every time that men have obscured her face," he said in a foreword to a new catechism edited specifically for young people.

The new "Youth Catechism," also called "YouCat," will be included in each pilgrim backpack for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid.

The pope said he wanted to supplement the Catechism of the Catholic Church by translating it "into the lan-

guage of young people and make its words penetrate their world."

In the foreword, the pope urged everyone to study the catechism "with passion and perseverance" either alone, in study groups or in exchanges with others online.

Today's Christians really need to understand their faith more than ever before in order to resist modern day challenges and temptations, he wrote.

"You have need of divine help if you do not want your faith to dry up as a dewdrop in the sun, if you do not want to succumb to the temptations of consumerism, if you do not want your love to be drowned in pornography, if you do not want to betray the weak and the victims of abuse and violence," he

wrote.

"You must know what you believe; you must know your faith with the same precision with which a specialist in information technology knows the (operating) system of a computer; you must know it as a musician knows his piece," the foreword said.

While not specifically mentioning the clerical sex abuse crisis, the pope acknowledged the effect it has had on the faithful and said "the community of believers has been wounded in recent times by the attacks of evil" and sin in the heart of the church.

"Do not take this as a pretext to flee from God's presence; you yourselves are the body of Christ, the church!" Pope Benedict told young people.

Rome expecting 300,000 pilgrims for beatification

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - Church and local government organizers are planning to accommodate at least 300,000 people in St. Peter's Square and the surrounding area for Pope John Paul II's beatification Mass May 1.

Msgr. Liberio Andreatta, head of Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi, the Vatican-related pilgrimage agency, told reporters March 29, "Rome is ready to welcome every pilgrim who wants to come. Earlier, newspapers published megalithic numbers and said every hotel is booked. That's not true."

Father Cesare Atuire of Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi said as soon as Pope Benedict XVI announced the beatification date, travel agents

and others booked large blocks of hotel rooms. Now that the beatification is just a month away, they have a more precise idea of how many rooms they will need and so they are freeing up the extras.

In addition, he said, two campgrounds outside of Rome will be reserved for pilgrims who want to keep their costs to a minimum. The commuter trains, which usually do not run on weekends, will be on a special schedule to get them to the prayer vigil April 30 in Rome's Circus Maximus and to the Mass May 1.

Because the pope is the bishop of Rome and the pilgrims will spend most of their time in Rome, not at the Vatican, the Diocese of Rome is responsible for much of the cost of the event, Msgr. Andreatta said.

The diocese is passing the collection basket to large Italian companies to come up with at least \$1.7 million to cover the costs of handling 300,000 pilgrims for the beatification.

Although the city of Rome and its hotels, restaurants and shops will benefit financially from the pilgrims, Msgr. Andreatta said the financial crisis still weighing on Italy made the diocese look to donors instead of the government for funding.

The money will cover building a stage and installing a sound system and lighting at the Circus Maximus, running extra buses, covering the cost of the bus and subway tickets included in the pilgrim's package, renting and erecting crowd-control barriers and renting dozens of large video screens.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope appeals for suspension of fighting in Libya

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI appealed for a suspension of fighting in Libya and the immediate start of a serious dialogue aimed at restoring peace to the North African country. Speaking at his weekly blessing March 27, the pope said he was increasingly concerned at the news from Libya, where rebels supported by U.S. and European airstrikes have battled the forces of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. "My fear for the safety and well-being of the civilian population is growing, as is my apprehension over how the situation is developing with the use of arms," the pope said. "To international agencies and to those with political and military responsibility, I make a heartfelt appeal for the immediate start of a dialogue that will suspend the use of arms," he said. The pope said that in moments of great international tension, there was more urgency for diplomatic efforts that take advantage of "even the weakest sign of openness to reconciliation" among the parties in conflict. Solutions should be "peaceful and lasting," he said. The pope offered a prayer for "the return of harmony in Libya" and throughout North Africa.

Worldwide concern, prayers helping Japanese to cope, US priest says

SEATTLE (CNS) -- Despite the devastation caused by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Catholics and others there are buoyed by the support they are receiving from around the world, according to a U.S. priest who has lived there for decades. "The prayers and support from around the world are a great source of strength and reinforce the image of us all sharing a common humanity under God our Father," said Maryknoll Father Jim Mylet in an email to The Catholic Northwest Progress, Seattle archdiocesan newspaper. Father Mylet, who grew up in St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Seattle and graduated from O'Dea High School, first went to Japan as a seminarian in 1970. He is now the pastor of two parishes in the Diocese of Sapporo on the northern island of Hokkaido, Japan's second-largest island. "All the parishioners here and I are physically OK but depressed by the overwhelming devastation dealt to our nation," he wrote. The two dioceses most affected by the earthquake and tsunami, he said, are Saitama and Sendai. "Because the church tends to build on hills everywhere, only two places were affected by the tsunami, although there was damage from the earthquake," he added.

Father John J. Dietzen, leading question-and-answer columnist, dies

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) -- Father John J. Dietzen, the foremost question-and-answer columnist in the Catholic press for 35 years, died March 27 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was 83. A priest of the Diocese of Peoria whose weekly "Question Corner" columns have been offered through Catholic News Service since 1975 and were later compiled in book form. The column appeared in the North Country Catholic for several years. Father Dietzen had been hospitalized since suffering a heart attack March 6 at his Peoria residence. Following the Second Vatican Council, Father Dietzen in 1968 began a question-and-answer column in The Catholic Post called "The Question Box" to help readers understand the changes taking place in the church. Letters began coming in on all aspects of Catholic life, ranging from marriage and family issues to ecumenism, Scripture, the sacraments and more. After the column was syndicated by CNS, Father Dietzen would regularly receive hundreds of questions each week.

OUR TURN

Why be Catholic?

By **Therese J. Borchard**
Catholic News Service

You never really know when you're going to be called on to defend your Catholic faith.

I certainly wasn't prepared for it as I sat down at a job interview.

Here are eight grounded reasons!

However, two minutes after my interviewer reviewed my resume, he looked me squarely in the eyes and said, "Religion is evil."

"Are you a relative of Bill Maher?" I asked him.

The conversation digressed from there, and I had to hear all of the same arguments as I did when I was on the set of Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect": the sex abuse scandal, the wars, the deaths caused by the Catholic faith. Yada, yada, yada.

I made the mistake of mentioning the book that I co-edited with Michael Leach called "I Like Being Catholic" (my interviewer loved the title), and he asked me what the premise was, why I liked being Catholic.

I would love to report that I had an eloquent response detailing the top five perks of the Catholic faith, but instead I said a lot of "umms."

But I did say this: "Being Catholic is a way of seeing the world. It's in the small things. It's inescapable."

"Yeah, whatever," his grimace clearly communicated as we proceeded with the rest of the interview.

The conversation made me go back and read the book "Why Be Catholic?" by Franciscan Father Richard Rohr with Joseph Martos, so that I am better prepared next time.

They list eight grounded reasons to be Catholic:

1. The appreciation of creation.

We Catholics are fundamentally sacramental. The Catholic faith uses gifts of creation in its most important rituals: water and oil, bread and wine, human touch.

2. A universal vision.

The Catholic Church has a worldwide faith, with many different cultures and customs. We are Christians and Catholics first, and Americans second. Ours is not a national church, which means that, if we are truly Catholic, we need to look at the world from God's perspective and his concern for all human beings.

3. A holistic outlook.

I guess this is what I was trying to get at through all of my "umms." To be Catholic means to connect your faith with your life experience. Everything is interconnected. Catholic mystics such as Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross articulate this divine arrangement of God or interconnectedness.

4. An invitation to holiness.

I don't know about you, but I find that the serious Catholics in my circle of friends are pretty darn holy ... much holier than, say, my atheist friends. They aren't concerned so much about

happiness, wealth, power and success; just peace and goodness.

5. An experience of community.

Father Rohr and Martos wrote: "It is hard to get a sense of God's promise of fulfillment unless we experience that promise being fulfilled in the lives of people around us. It is even harder to do the 'not doing' of personal surrender to the Lord without the guidance of others who have done it."



Therese
Borchard

6. A call to social transformation.

I have found that whenever you throw out Mother Teresa's name, people tend to stop their arguments about why they hate the church. They do this because she is just one example of the church's commitment to social transformation.

7. A profound sense of history.

Father Rohr and Martos make a good point. The Catholic Church has been around for 20 centuries. That's four to five times the age of the oldest Protestant denominations and 10 times the age of the United States!

8. An optimistic attitude.

You know, our belief in an afterlife really does come in handy on a bad day.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus calls us *loudly* to come forth from death

The fifth Sunday of Lent carries with it an alarm bell - there are only two weeks left until Easter!

We need to "get serious about clearing out of our souls any lingering affection for fleshly distractions that keep us from prayer and other works of the spirit.

The readings this week are all about overcoming death through resurrection - both death of the body and death of the soul.

The first reading from the great prophet, Ezekiel, takes us back to the time of Israel's captivity in Babylon.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Ezekiel has a vision of dead bones strewn all over the desert. God asks him if he thinks these bones will ever come to life again.

God tells Ezekiel to challenge Him, and tell the bones to put on sinews and flesh. He does so. Then He asks Ezekiel to further challenge Him to put His spirit into those bones.

When Ezekiel obeys, the dead bones come fully alive!

Today's reading is the conclusion of this Vision, in which God tells the Is-

raelites that He will do for them what He did for those dry bones - raise them from the death of bondage to freedom in His Spirit.

Today's Gospel narrates the last of the seven signs that John tells us about by which Jesus makes clear that He is the long-awaited Messiah.

It's about His raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. He has known for some days that Lazarus is very ill, but instead of hurrying to his side, he deliberately delays until Lazarus is dead. When Jesus finally arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead four days.

He is reproached by both Martha and Mary who are

APRIL 10

Fifth Sunday of Lent
READINGS

Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

not quite convinced that he is the Messiah.

As he approaches the tomb, he weeps not only for Lazarus, but even more for the disbelief of so many.

He calls loudly, "Lazarus, come out".

When Lazarus emerges, Jesus tells those standing by to "Unbind him and let him go free". Many more believe, but many do not.

The second reading shows St. Paul's firm belief that, if we live in the Spirit, then our dead bones will rise by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

To live in the Spirit, however, demands that we sincerely repent of our sins and let God change whatever needs changing in our lives. During this fifth week of Lent, we need to let the power of Jesus' spirit work freely in us.

The vision of Ezekiel and the raising of Lazarus from the dead should be proof enough for us. Jesus is calling loudly to us this Sunday to come forth from whatever darkness and death that still clings to our spirit.

OUR READERS WRITE

Family Rosary Crusade

Hello my dear friend in Christ.

I am an artist, high school art instructor, and parishioner of St. James church in Carthage, NY. I am writing to inform you of the upcoming 9th Annual Family Rosary Crusade which I created and organized through the inspiration of the Blessed Mother.

This Crusade is based on praying the Rosary for seven straight hours (three complete Rosaries per hour) in honor of our Lady's Seven Sorrows.

Although parishioners from various Congregations meet together at St. James Minor in Upstate NY, I am asking that you join us in spirit the same evening and to spread the word for others to join us.

On Friday May 20th, we will gather for Mass (the most perfect prayer) at 5:15 p.m. (Standard Eastern time), followed by Exposition and praying the Rosary at the top of every hour until 1 a.m., when the evening of prayer will conclude with Benediction.

I pray that you will consider my offer, as I do each year, to pray the Rosary with us at some point during this time.

Let us storm Heaven with our prayers to let our loving God know that in the midst of a world gone crazy, we still care.

Each hour of the Crusade is designated for specific intentions.

Visit St. James' webpage (www.catholicsofcarthageopenhagen.org) so you may see more information, including the specific intentions each hour and the paintings I have painted each year for this event which I pray sets a theme for us to contemplate.

For those who pray here at St. James for at least three hours (in honor of Our Lord's suffering for us) I give them a print of the year's painting as a gift. This year's painting is still on the easel, but I will share it with you when completed.

Let me know if indeed you plan on joining us again for this ever growing event MAY 20th.

Hope to hear from you soon and may God and His Blessed Mother continue blessing you and all your prayerful efforts.

To Jesus Through Mary,

BOB RENAUD
CARTHAGE

The drop off in confessions

I found your recent article on the state of confession (Priests Assess the Current State of Confession, 3/16/11, p. 14) very disconcerting for multiple reasons.

No thoughtful Catholic can deny the troubling decline in participation in this sacrament. But the article ignores the most basic and obvious reason for the drop off in confessions: the fact that the requirement for Catholics to confess

their sins, at least one per year, is simply not emphasized from the pulpit much anymore. In fact, in a way, an article like this is part of the problem, because it ignores the main reasons we must sacramentally confess.

Catholics must go to confession at least once per year (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1457), but more frequent confession is advised (CC #1458). Sin removes sacramental grace from one's soul, and if one should die in a state of mortal sin, by not having sacramental grace by confession and absolution, they will go to hell and suffer "eternal punishment" (CC #1472).

While special arrangements "communal" reconciliation may be allowed under "grave necessity", individual confession to a priest remains the ONLY way for a faithful person to reconcile themselves with God and the Church (CC #1482-84).

The Catechism makes the point that frequent and regular confession is essential and that one is unworthy and not allowed to receive Holy Communion if they have not been absolved of a mortal sin in confession. Yet, as the article mentions in passing, almost half of (American?) Catholics never confess. And at nearly any Catholic church in America, its obvious that many more people are lining up to receive the Body of Christ on Sunday morning than are preparing

themselves to receive the mercy of Christ on Saturday afternoon.

The sad fact is that most of us stop bothering to learn our faith after Confirmation and too many priests neglect their duty as pastors to remind us of the requirements of our faith.

Unfortunately, at most masses one is much more likely to hear glib emphasis on the good news arising from the Church than to ever hear admonishment and strict guidance of what we must do to participate in the gifts of that church, such as how, when, and why we must confess. Your article meekly encourages us to consider the "pluses" of confession, but never once points out that it is an absolute necessity and that one is not in good standing with the Church if they have not been to confession in over a year.

Like many problems with the Church today, priests' lack of willingness to challenge their congregations to live up to the required standards most likely stems from the concern that admonishing the congregation will drive some people away. In the modern day, with many parishes struggling, risking the alienation of some by lecturing them on what they have to do to live faithfully may seem unwise. But if our priests do not act like our fathers and scold us for doing wrong at least as much as they encourage us to be good, they are failing

in a vital aspect of their ministry. Frankly, we need faithful and steadfast priests to stand up and tell us that if we haven't been to confession for a long time, we shouldn't presume to receive communion, and exactly why.

Such scolding and education in Catholic dogma from our parish priest may be a tad uncomfortable, for them and for us, but it is exactly what we need to maintain sanctifying grace in our lives. If more priests don't risk pushing us away by calling us in closer, confession will continue to decline and be misunderstood as a relic of the past. Confession is vital to living a faithful Catholic life. Sometimes we just need a stern reminder of that.

YOURS IN CHRIST,
BRIAN E. STRANSKY
WATERTOWN

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

•Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
•We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

AT THE MOVIES

HOP

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Prepare to fall into a sugar coma if you choose to swallow the empty cinematic calories of "Hop" (Universal), the story of an AWOL Easter bunny set against a kaleidoscope of every colorful confection imaginable.

While this comedy from director Tim Hill ("Alvin and the Chipmunks:") is generally -- dare we say it -- sweet, and its blend of live action and computer animation impressive, the script's pun-filled and vaguely coarse humor is geared more toward adults, leaving this a not-so-tasty morsel for the younger set.

Where are the sweets made for all those Easter baskets, you wonder? Why, in a top-secret, Willy Wonka-like factory deep inside Easter Island, of course. Here bunnies labor beside chicks, while taste-testers shout orders like, "More marsh, less mallow!"

(The refrain of the film's throbbing theme song, "I

Want Candy," by the way, will likely thrill theater concession-stand owners everywhere.)

Lording over it all, and dressed like Lewis Carroll's White Rabbit, is the Easter Bunny (voice of Hugh Laurie). Bunny Senior is concerned, though, about his son and "hare" apparent, E.B. (voice of Russell Brand).

"You must pick up the Egg of Destiny and receive the magical powers of the Easter Bunny," Papa insists. But E.B. has his own dreams -- he wants to be a rock star -- and the thought of succeeding Dad fills him with dread.

We know E.B. is a special bunny because his, ahem, droppings are jelly beans (watermelon flavor, to be exact).

Bunnies quarrel, and E.B. goes rogue. He runs away to the place where dreams come true: namely, Hollywood. His first stop is the Playboy mansion where, as a cute bunny, he expects hospitality. He is not admitted.

E.B. is then hit by a car

driven by aptly named human Fred O'Hare (James Marsden). Fred is also misunderstood and he, too, is running away from his relatives. But in Fred's case that means house-sitting at a fabulous Beverly Hills mansion.

E.B. moves in with Fred, and what follows is a predictable round of errors and mistaken identities, as rabbit and human learn lessons about family and the need for reconciliation.

Sadly enough, though, "Hop" has nothing whatever to do with Easter itself, the real meaning of which is never so much as mentioned.

Indeed, we're told that the Easter Bunny has been making deliveries for 4,000 years - some two millennia before the Resurrection.

The only Christian reference occurs when the wicked chick Carlos (voice of Hank Azaria), intent on impressing the Easter Bunny with his egg-decorating skills, paints himself into Michelangelo's Creation of Adam from the Sistine



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

A rabbit voiced by Russell Brand and James Marsden are seen in the movie "Hop."

Chapel.

The Easter Bunny is not impressed.

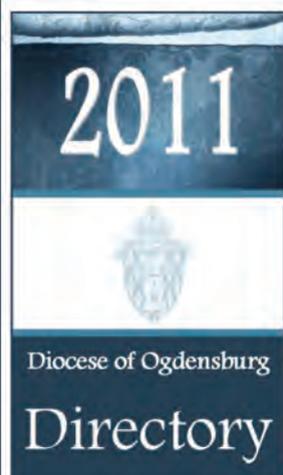
The film contains some mildly rude humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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CLINTON

PORK ROAST DINNER

Rouses Point – The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Pork Roast Dinner.

Date: April 9

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: American Legion Post, 912 Pratt Street

Cost: \$9 per person

Features: Take-outs are available. You can reserve or purchase tickets in advance by calling Claude Dessureault at 297-3526; Ben Arno at 297-6465; Bill Irwin at 297-2187 or Jo-Ann (St. Patrick's Rectory) at 297-7361.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST BUFFET

Champlain – St. Mary's Academy will be having an "All You Can Eat" Pancake Breakfast Buffet.

Date: April 10

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: There will be raffles, Gift Baskets, Lottery Trees and much more. For take outs please call 298-5158.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Date: May 1

President: Msgr. Dennis Duprey

Schedule: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12:15 p.m. to 3; Sacrament of Reconciliation in the chapel 1:30 p.m. to 2:30; Video "Tell All Soul's About My Mercy" at 12:30 p.m. and "Extreme Mercy" at 1:45 p.m.; Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Prayer Service begins at 3 p.m.; Blessing of Religious objects will take place after the service.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

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

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

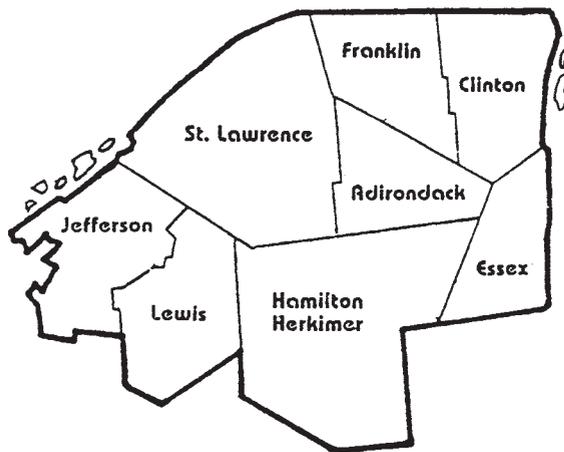
LENENT ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Come spend an hour with the Lord during the season of Lent.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Schedule: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after 7 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m. and Wednesday only, after 7 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m.

Contact: To sign up for Adoration for one hour a week or for more information call St. Peter's at 563-1692 or contact Ceil Johnson 566-0527 or e-mail kjeleshouse@verizon.net.



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

PRAYER VIGIL

Plattsburgh – A Helper's of Gods Precious Infants prayer vigil will be held the first Sunday of the winter months.

Place: St. Peter's Chapel

Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh - Plattsburgh area pro-life advocates will once again join together with people of faith and conscience from many other communities for the area's third 40 Days for Life campaign.

Place: Plattsburgh Planned Parenthood

Features: 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. **Contact:** Nancy Belzile at 518-593-6024

EUCHARISTIC 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.

Theme: "Learn from Jesus by often being in his company." (St. John Baptist de la Salle)

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

FRANKLIN

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Brushton – St. Mary's Event Committee will be sponsoring a breakfast buffet.

Date: April 10

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, free

LENENT MEAL

Constable - The Catholic Community of Constable, Westville & Trout River is sponsoring Lenten Meal after the Lenten Liturgy on Wednesday's.

Dates: April 6 & 13

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Francis Church

Features: On Friday during Lent at Our Lady of Fatima Church will be offering Stations of the Cross at 5:15 p.m. followed by Mass at 5:30

CAMP BEDFORD OPEN HOUSE

Lake Meacham – Join other Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers at Camp Bedford's open house and Beaver Day.

Date: May 7

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

Place: Located 23 miles south of Malone on US Route 30 (3/4 mile north of Meacham Lake State Campground access road).

Features: Highlights from the day will include: Cleaning up campsites, trails and other areas of the camp. Tour of the camp including visiting a campsite. Have a chance to meet the staff and Gate Keepers. Enjoy lunch in the dining hall with a dish to pass and your own place settings.

Contact: Pre-Register the number of youths and adults that will attend by E-mail by May 1 with Cory Haynes: clhaynes14@gmail.com, 518-856-9656

JEFFERSON

MINISTRY TO THE MINISTERS

Watertown – All Commissioned Lay Ministers of the Jefferson Deanery are invited to a special presentation.

Date: April 14

Time: Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Mass with a light meal at 6 p.m. and presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's, Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: \$10 each

Speakers: Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank from Family Life

Contact: Rose Morgan for more information at 583-5101 or rosetmorgan@hotmail.com

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus.

Date: April 9

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adult, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Cape Vincent/Clayton – The Franciscan Mystery Players of Clayton will present "The Sorrowful Mysteries", a dramatic multi-media presentation of the passion and death of Jesus.

Schedule: April 17, 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent of Paul Church in Cape Vincent
April 22, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Clayton

Features: Through the use of special lighting and sound, this dramatic meditation on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary promises to be a high point in your Lenten journey. For more information visit www.mysteryplay.org or call St. Mary's at 315-686-3398.

INTERFAITH RETREAT

Watertown – A men's and women's interfaith retreat to be held.

Date: April 16

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

Place: St. Anthony's Church

Theme: "Looking Through the Eyes of God"

Presenters: Ian Banks and Eileen Banks "Just Lean Ministries"

Features: Please bring a bag lunch. Soup, beverages & dessert will be provided. Come join us! Bring family and friends and together be faith lifted through scripture to Look Through the Eyes of God in your daily lives.

Contact: Debbie Cavallario, 782-5888; Kay Arthur, 782-0084 or Eileen Adderly, 654-3703.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – St. Patrick's Church will observe a Holy Hour for Vocations on two occasions during this Lenten season.

Dates: March 31 from 4 p.m. to 5 and April 14 from 7 p.m. to 8

Features: St. Patrick's hosts Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday following Noon Mass until 8 p.m.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.

Date: Divine Mercy Sunday is May 1; a novena Will begin April 22 at 3 p.m.

Features: On May 1 at 3 p.m. there will be Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & Special prayers for Healing your family tree, Blessing of the Divine Mercy image (you may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed) and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Further Information: The Divine Mercy Devotion consists of making a Novena by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday; celebrating the Feast of Mercy, the 1st Sunday after Easter; Being merciful to others, Placing our complete trust in Jesus & making a good confession, eight days before or after that Sunday and receiving Communion on the Feast of Mercy Sunday without the stain of mortal sin.

Contact: For more info on how to prepare for Mercy Sunday... call Judy at 315-783-7349 or 315-788-2388, or visit www.divinemercysunday.com

LIFERIGHT MEETING

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

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

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

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

LEWIS

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Lyons Falls – There will be a chicken barbecue at St. John's Catholic Church.

Date: April 12

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. John's Church Hall

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

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622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Great strides for HCA at Holy Name

From the Director's Desk,
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Mission Director

The Children and Faculty of Holy Name School in Au Sable Forks, NY, are working very hard this school year for the Holy Childhood Association (HCA). To date, their school which consists of roughly 70 students has raised \$564. Under the loving guidance of Mission Moderator Sister Yvonne Therese, SSJ and Principal Christine Reynolds, they are showing their Missionary Spirit by raising both funds and awareness for HCA.

During Valentine's week this February, the second and third grade students at Holy Name School sold carnations to support their Mission Club. The students raised \$36.50 and presented to Sister Yvonne

Therese. To see the spirit and enthusiasm of these children and children throughout the Diocese both in Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs everywhere shows the love, compassion and commitment that children have to fulfilling the Mission of HCA.

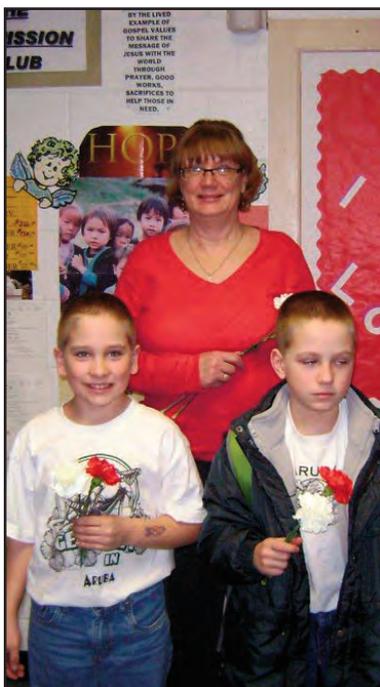
The Holy Childhood Association (HCA) has a dual mandate of educating children about their part in the Church's mission work and challenging them to share what they have with children growing up in developing countries.

We are thankful for all the efforts of the students in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for their funds raised for the Holy Childhood Association. Their efforts help to ensure the continuation of our mission of bringing love and the Good News of Jesus Christ to the poorest of the world's children.

www.hcakids.org.

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

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice



Holy Name teacher, Mrs. Confoy is pictured with students her students Seth Bushey, left, and Conor Bushey.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Valda R. (Booth) Sheffield, 96; Funeral Services March 31, 2011 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Bloomington – Patricia "Patty" J. (Goldner) Farmer, 59; Funeral Services March 31, 2011 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Merrillville Cemetery, Loon Lake.

Brownville – Betty J. (Zaremba) West, 75; Funeral Services March 26, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Champlain – Myrtle Frances (Puttock) LaBelle, 89; Funeral Services March 22, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chateaugay – Garth A. Dragon, 68; Funeral Services March 31, 2011 at Chateaugay Funeral Home.

Colton – Kathleen Teresa (McIntyre) Manor, 73; Memorial Services March 31, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church.

Croghan – Helen R. (Zehr) Coakley, 93; Funeral Services March 21, 2011 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Naumburg Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery.

Croghan – Katherine M. (Yousey) Monnat, 104; Funeral Services March 22, 2011 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Harrisville – Edward C. Baker, 61; Memorial Services March 21, 2011 at Adirondack Funeral Home.

Hogansburg – Alex A. David, 73; Funeral Services March 23, 2011 at St. Regis Catholic Church.

Keeseville – Diane M. (Blaise) French, 60; Funeral Services March 24, 2011 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

Keeseville – David H. Rock, 75; Funeral Services April 1, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Lowville – Viola G. (Gokey) Fogarty, 95; Funeral Services April 2, 2011 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Virginia M. (Beehler) Marlow, 88; Funeral Services April 1, 2011 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Joseph P. Kish III, 28; Funeral Services March 24, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

Massena – Loretta M. (Saucier) Lazore, 90; Funeral services March 25, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – June E. (Marlow) Perry, 93; Funeral March 22, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – James F. "Jim" Prashaw, 51; Funeral Services March 21, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Norwood.

Massena – Ethel M. (Szaybel) Sharlow, 87; Funeral March 29, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Geraldine M. (O'Neil) Geoff, 84; Funeral Services March 31, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Norwood – Doris E. (Spencer) Laramay, 43; Funeral March 21, 2011 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Thomas W. Gilbert, 69; Funeral Services March 31, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Shirley A. (David) LaRock-Ramie, 76; Funeral Services March 23, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Gilbert M. McWilliams, 85; Funeral Services in Spring at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru – Ruth Margaret (Irwin) Boswell, 96; Funeral Services March 23, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Grace M. (Burt) Lucia, 83; Funeral March 25, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Andrew Clayton Rascoe, 85; Funeral Services March 22, 2011 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – John Denis Tessier, 85; Funeral Services April 16, 2011 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Karen Marie (Tolosky) Bingle, 61; Funeral Services March 21, 2011 at St. John's Church.

Plattsburgh – Wayne A. Jiguere, 73; Funeral Services April 1, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Henrietta M. (Gowett) Lamoy, 67; Funeral Services March 28, 2011 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry – Robert Jay Gibbs, 91; Funeral Services March 21, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Redford – Anna E. "Betty" (Facteau) Dubray, 83; Funeral Services March 28, 2011 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Rouses Point – Barbara (Arno) Sterling, 68; Memorial Services March 30, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church.

Star Lake – Mary Kaye Caulfield, 73; Funeral Services April 2, 2011 at St. Hubert's Catholic Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – William M. McCaughin, 59; Memorial Services April 1, 2011 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Tupper Lake – Pauline Marie (Levesque) Dewyea, 61; Funeral Services March 28, 2011 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown – Beatrice G. "Midge" (Backus) Bellman, 77; Funeral Services April 1, 2011 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Thomas G. Heiler, 73; Funeral Services March 25, 2011 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Hazel L. (Reynolds) Wilder, 92; Funeral Services March 28, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Rosie R. (Viver) Bedard, 81; Funeral Services March 24, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church.



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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

Preparing for Easter – a sacred journey

By Zack Leader

Parishioner, St. James, Gouverneur
Freshman, Franciscan University of Steubenville

I once heard from someone that Jesus wandered throughout the desert for 40 days (and Moses for 40 years) because they, like all other men, refused to ask for directions.

Of course, while this may be humorous, the complete opposite is true of the season of Lent.

Lent is a time of prayer, sacrifice, preparation, and receiving direction.

As we continue our Lenten journey, each of us should stop, taking a moment to ask ourselves: "Where exactly am I on this journey?"

Many of us dove into this fasting season, giving up chocolates, alcohol, or Facebook.

Others challenged themselves to take on promises such as going to Mass more often, listening to Christian music daily, or putting a little more focus and time into our prayer life.

Whatever our sacrifice may be, we are all preparing for Easter together.

We are on a sacred journey, and we are most likely all at very different points on this journey.

Some of us may be walking in a pretty straight line, staying true to our Lenten sacrifices and promises. Others may be somewhat wandering through the season, falling short of where we should be, and still others may never have even taken that first step of the journey at all.

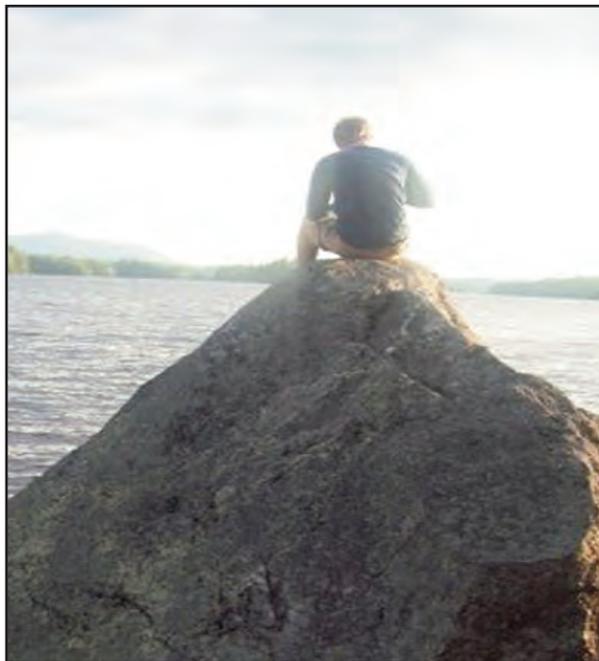


PHOTO PROVIDED

Zack Leader spends some time on a Guggenheim rock, one of his favorite places for prayer.

Whatever point we may be at, we can always begin, or continue, to move forward toward Christ Jesus. We must persevere, striving to keep these forty days holy.

It's not too late to start, in fact, it's never too

late, and it's definitely not too late to push a little further, dig a little deeper, or pray a little harder.

Determination, strength, and prayer.

That's what it's all about.

This journey does not begin with ashes simply to end with the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Instead, we are called to continue this journey daily, throughout the year, and throughout the rest of our lives.

It may not be giving up that certain something for a whole year, but challenging ourselves, every day, to grow deeper in holiness, charity, and love, closer to others - closer to Christ.

This journey is sacred and, at times, is not easy. Yet, we can find comfort in the Word of God, for 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 states:

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

We know that at the end of this somber season, there is joy. Lent, and life itself, may be, at times, an ongoing struggle.

Although, we can, and must, always be sure to find a sense of peace, joy, and hope in Christ - in looking toward his cross and sacrifice for guidance and direction throughout these forty days - and all the days of our lives.

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; under 5, Free; Chicken half, \$5

Features: Chicken will be cooked at Stewart's and will be ready by mid-afternoon. Take-outs and deliveries are available by calling 348-6738. Proceeds are for St. John's Church.

ST. LAWRENCE

LASAGNA DINNER

Lisbon – SS Philip and James Church will be having a Lasagna dinner.

Date: April 7

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

Place: American Legion Hall; take-outs available.

Cost: Adults, \$7; Sr. Citizens (60+), \$6; Children 5-12, \$5.50; under 5, Free; Parents and 3 or more of their children (5-12) \$25

MYSTERY PLAYERS

Potsdam – The Immaculate Heart Cen-

tral Mystery Players will present The Way of the Cross at St. Mary's Church.

Date: April 10

Time: 8 p.m.

Cost: There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be taken

Features: Through the use of special lighting, music, pantomime, and paratiturgical readings, this group of high school seniors and adults presents a moving, dramatic meditation that promises to be the highlight of the Lenten season. While this event is described as a presentation, it is really a prayer to focus our attention on the meaning of Christ's Passion. The Mystery Play is a powerful meditation on the events in the life of Christ.

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Canton – St. Mary's School to have a spring rummage sale.

Date: April 15 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and

April 16, Bag sale from 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Mary's School Gym

EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST

Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will host Breakfast with the Easter Bunny.

Date: April 17

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3.50; under 5, Free

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus to sponsor a brunch.

Date: April 10

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

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

ROAST BEEF & ROAST PORK DINNER

Brasher Falls – A Roast Beef & Roast Pork Dinner will be held.

Date: April 9

Time: 5 p.m. to 7

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children under 5, Free

Features: Save \$1 per person by purchasing pre-sale tickets by calling Phil Davis at 315-389-4627 or Rayona Thompson at 315-389-4584. A pre-sale ticket must be purchased by April 4th.

FISH FRY BUFFET

Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus to hold a Fish Fry Buffet during Lent.

Date: Fridays

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

Place: K of C Hall; Eat in or take out.

Cost: \$9 per person, Children 6-11, \$4.5; under 5, free; Desserts, \$1 extra

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School will be having a Fish and Shrimp Fry every Friday through Lent.

Date: March 4 through April 22

Place: St. James School; Take-out available, phone ahead for faster service and deliveries, 287-0130.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 12 and under,

\$5; under 5, Free

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Nocturnal Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues through the night, concluding with Benediction at 7 a.m. Friday.

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

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

Date: Tuesday evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m.