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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 11, 2011

## Why we pray...

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - People of every epoch and in every culture have prayed because human beings have always recognized that there is something greater than themselves in the universe, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Human life is a mix of good and bad, of undeserved

suffering and of joy and beauty, which spontaneously and irresistibly push us to ask God for light and interior strength," to save us in this life and assure us that there is life beyond the grave, the pope said May 4 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Under a banner of Blessed Pope John Paul II still hanging from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Benedict began a new series of audience talks about prayer.

"We want to learn to live more intensely our relationship with the Lord" through prayer, he said. "Even those

very advanced in the spiritual life feel a constant need to put themselves in the school of Jesus to learn how to pray."

Pope Benedict began the series by explaining that examples of attempts to pray can be found even in classical pagan cultures.

## MORE THAN A MILLION

### At St. Peter's Square



CNS PHOTO/GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO  
Pilgrims crowd St. Peter's Square for the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II May 1 at the Vatican. More than 1 million people crowded into the square and surrounding streets for the ceremony. Pope John Paul II was a true believer, a courageous voice of truth and a man whose witness to the faith grew more eloquent as his ability to speak declined, Pope Benedict XVI and others who worked closely with the late pope said at events for his beatification. "John Paul II is blessed because of his faith — a strong, generous and apostolic faith," Pope Benedict said just minutes after formally beatifying his predecessor.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

## Clergy transfers announced

After a May 3 meeting of the Committee on Assignments, Bishop LaValley announced changes in assignments for 13 priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Among the announcements were retirements for three of the clergymen: Father Andrew J. Amyot, pastor in Norfolk and Raymondville; Father William G. Muench, pastor in Ticonderoga and Crown Point; and Father Stephen Gratto, pastor in Port Leyden and Lyons Falls.

The changes are effective June 29.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## The killing of bin Laden

Vatican spokesman: it's cause for reflection

not rejoicing  
FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## 'THIS IS THE BODY OF CHRIST'



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Hundreds of children in parishes across the diocese are making their First Communion this month. Above, Father James Shurtliff gives the Eucharist to Emma LeBeau May 1 at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg.

**YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE:** Easter was different because Lent was different, p. 12

**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**

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 Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in April and every other week in July and August by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Editorial Office:**  
622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Telephone:**  
(315) 608-7556

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news@northcountrycatholic.org

**Entered at the Post Office:**  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669 as Periodical Postage.

**Subscription:**  
For one year:  
In-Diocese Rate: \$25  
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$28  
Canadian Rate: US Funds \$45

Matters for publication should be addressed to Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each Monday; deadline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

**POSTMASTER:**  
Send address changes to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0326

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# The merry month of milestones

We can all be excused for feeling the need to check the calendar these days.

With all the cold and wind and rain... and even snow, it couldn't possibly be May. Could it?

But May it is and stoic we must be.

Fortunately, as we wait for the March/April weather to subside, there's plenty on the calendar to distract us.

The month of First Communion, confirmations, jubilees and – this year – an ordination provides us with plenty of Catholic joy.

Personally, my favorite day so far was this past Sunday.

Celebrating my 32nd Mother's Day with a mother, mother-in-law and all three of my own babies was a blessing indeed.

And, our family celebrations extend to college graduations and the birthday of one of the best dads in the world!

So, rain or shine, it's still the merry month of May.

The *North Country Catholic* offices have been hopping this

month, too. Along with preparing our special congratulatory issue marking Bishop LaValley's

first anniversary, we've been making arrangements for his first diocesan pilgrimage.

In March 2012, we'll be heading to the holiest sites in Italy – the Vatican, Assisi, Siena and so many more. We'll have plenty of time to visit the iconic treasures in Venice, Florence and Pompeii, as well.

This will be the third pilgrimage sponsored by

the *North Country Catholic* since 2008. Our pilgrims enjoyed such a wonderful experience traveling to Italy and Ireland with Bishop Cunningham that several have already signed up for the third trip!

The complete itinerary for our own March Madness appears on page 5. If you're interested, please call us at 315-608-7556 for a brochure.

With Bishop LaValley and our friend Father Doug Lucia on board, it's sure to be an amazing adventure!



Mary Lou Kilian

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

## Jesus - the Gate for the Sheep

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Director of Evangelization

Today's Gospel is a fusion of two parables. In the first parable (vs. 1-3a), there are two parties who try to enter through the gate: a thief and a robber, and the shepherd.



The thief and the robber who tries to climb over the gate refer to the false shepherd of Israel.

The shepherd is the one enters through the gate. There is an atmosphere of tension and conflict.

Jesus is the messianic leader of his people but there is the impression that some of the "sheep" do not belong to the "flock".

These "sheep" may be the religious leaders of the Jews.

The second parable is the relationship between the

sheep and the shepherd (vs. 3b-5). Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Gate.

It is through Him, the Gate that we enter into the pasture of goodness and kindness.

He calls each of us by name, knows our heart's desires, leads and guides into the fullness of eternal life.

The Good Shepherd goes out of His way to protect and to care for us. We are His sheep, the flock He tends.

As His sheep, we listen to the voice of the shepherd, His words and are called to live these words.

In vs. 7-10, the parable is further developed to show that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the gate that the disciples and the community of believers must enter through to share in "the pasture" of His divine life, the gift of salvation.

Jesus is the way to that abundant divine life which he possesses in fullness from the Father.

Jesus wants to communicate this same life and love to those who enter into a communion of faith in Him.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is the only access to eternal life. But only in Jesus is the goal of salvation attained through faith in Him.

As a family of faith, our faith offers us the opportunity to grow in that deep intimacy of love with the Good Shepherd.

He alone gives us the freedom to "go in and go out." Jesus puts no obstacles to our freedom. He longs for His sheep to follow Him and invites them to listen to His call.

What will it be? How will we follow Him more closely?

In our own family of faith, there are those who are forgotten, helpless, lost. Like Jesus, how can we be shepherds to them?

Reach out to someone who may be a silent person in need. Invite someone who lives alone to sit with you in church; have coffee with someone who recently lost a family member; ask your school principal if there is a child who needs a friend to read a story.

How can your parish and you welcome the sheep who need protecting? What can you do or the parish do to make them feel more welcome? What resources are available that you can use? How can we not do the same for others?

## 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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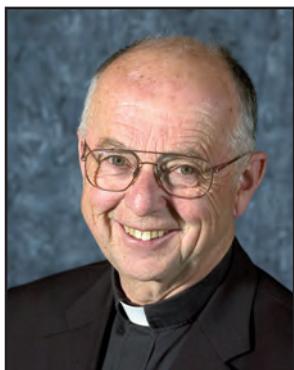
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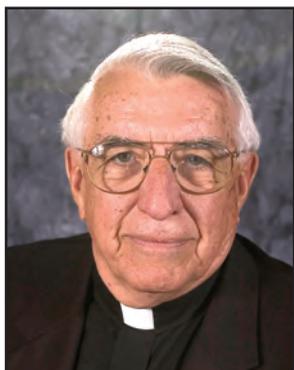
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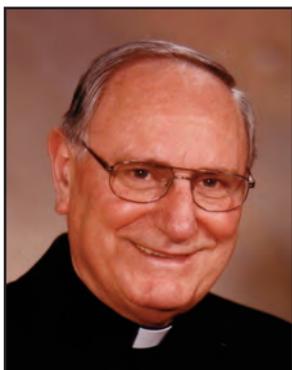




Fr. Allen



Fr. Muench



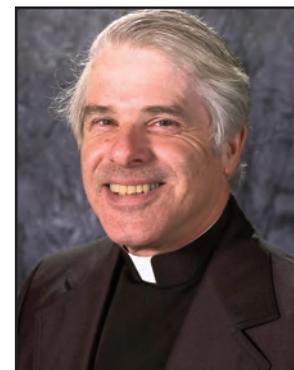
Fr. Amyot



Fr. Gratto



Msgr. Murphy



Fr. Marullo

# Bishop announces new assignments for priests

**OGDENSBURG** - Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced changes in assignments for 13 priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg after a May 3 meeting of the Committee on Assignments.

Among the announcements were retirements for three of the clergymen: Father Andrew J. Amyot, pastor in Norfolk and Raymondville; Father William G. Muench, pastor in Ticonderoga and Crown Point; and Father Stephen Gratto, pastor in Port Leyden and Lyons Falls.

The changes are effective June 29.

Along with the clergy transfers, two changes in parish configurations were announced.

St. Mary's in Constableville with its mission in West Leyden will be linked with St. Martin's in Port Leyden and its mission in Lyons Falls and thus be served by one pastor.

Also, St. Mary's of the Lake in Cumberland Head will become an oratory, connected to St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. (Oratories are former parishes which have been dissolved. The church site no longer offers the regular cel-

ebration of the Eucharist but parishioners of that parish may be buried there and a special Mass may be celebrated on that church's name day.)

### Clergy changes

The list of clergy changes follows:

- Father Philip T. Allen, currently temporary administrator of St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and its mission of St. John's Church in Lyons Falls, has been named administrator of St. Mary's Church in Indian Lake with its mission of St. Paul's Church in Blue Mountain Lake.

- Father William G. Muench, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Crown Point, will be retiring.

- Father Andrew J. Amyot, pastor of Church of the Visitation in Norfolk with its mission of St. Raymond's Parish in Raymondville, will be retiring.

- Father Andrew R. Mulvaney, pastor of St. Paul's Church in Black River and St.

Rita's Church in Deferiet, will be taking a leave of absence due to health.

- Father Stephen H. Gratto, pastor of St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and its mission of St. John's Church in Lyons Falls, will be retiring due to health.

- Msgr. John R. Murphy has been named administrator of Church of the Visitation in Norfolk with its mission of St. Raymond's Parish in Raymondville. Msgr. Murphy will continue his assignment in the chancery as Moderator of the Curia.

- Father Lawrence E. Marullo, currently pastor of St. Mary's Church in Constableville and St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden, also will become pastor of St. Martin's Church in Port Leyden and its mission of St. John's Church in Lyons Falls when the two become linked.

- Father Garvin J. Demarais, administrator of Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh and St. Mary's of the Lake Church in Cumberland Head, has been named administrator of St. Paul's Church in Black River and St. Rita's Church in Deferiet.

- Father Sony G. Pulickal, currently pastor of St. Mary's Church in Indian Lake with its mission of St. Paul's Church in Blue Mountain Lake, has been named pastor of St. Ann's Church in Wells and St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant.

- Father William G. Reamer has been named pastor of Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh. Father Reamer will continue with his duties as chaplain at CVPH Hospital in Plattsburgh.

- Father John M. Demo, currently special parochial vicar of the Malone Catholic Parishes in Malone, has been named administrator of the Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph in Willsboro and Essex while the current pastor, Rev. Joseph W. Elliott is on leave.

- Father Shane M. Lynch, pastor of St. Ann's Church in Wells and St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant, has been named pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Church in Inlet and Raquette Lake.

- Father Kevin D. McEwan,

currently pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Church in Inlet and Raquette Lake, has been named pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga and Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Crown Point.

### New pastors

The *North Country Catholic* will publish features about the retiring priests in upcoming issues; profiles of the new pastors follow:

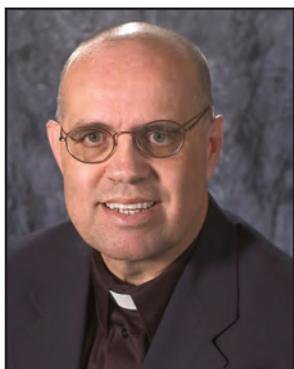
### Fr. Marullo

Father Lawrence E. Marullo, new pastor in Port Leyden and Lyons Falls, will continue to serve as pastor in West Leyden and Constableville, a position he has held since 2002.

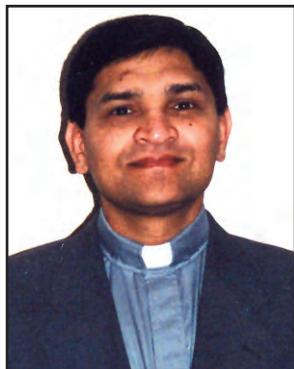
Previously he was pastor in Old Forge from 1992.

Father Marullo was born Jan 11, 1946 in Auburn and began studies for the priesthood at Becket Hall, the college seminary for the Diocese of Syracuse. He completed studies at the St. Bernard's in Rochester and

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Fr. Demarais



Fr. Pulickal



Fr. Reamer



Fr. Demo



Fr. Lynch



Fr. McEwan

# Priest changes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Was ordained for the Diocese of Ogdensburg May 3, 1975 by Bishop Brzana.

Father Marullo served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's in Massena, in Peru, St. Joseph's in Malone, Notre Dame in Ogdensburg, St. Patrick's in Watertown and St. Peter's in Lowville.

He was an administrator in Chazy and pastor in Star Lake where he also served as chaplain at the Wanakena campus.

He had been pastor in AuSable Forks until his assignment in Old Forge.

## Fr. Pulickal

Father Pulickal, new pastor in Wells and Lake Pleasant, is a native of India. He was born June 17, 1956 in Kerpla, India, and completed his priestly studies in Banalore, India.

Father Pulickal was ordained April 14, 1983 and was named as parochial vicar of St. Mary's Metropolitan Church in Changanachery, Kerala.

In 1984, after studying Italian, he became parochial vicar of St. Ambrose Church in Segrate, Milan, Italy, and later served as parochial vicar of Immaculate Heart of Mary Basilica, Rome, Italy.

He returned to India for one year where he was in charge of philosophy students, and then from 1991 to 1994, in charge of Theology Study House in Shilong, India.

Father Pulickal came to the United States in 1996 and has served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Church in Massena, St. Peter's

Church, Lowville, and also served at St. Augustine's Church, Peru.

In 2001, he was named pastor in West Leyden and Fish Creek and, in 2004, pastor in Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, his current assignment.

Father Pulickal was incardinated into the Diocese of Ogdensburg on July 23, 2003.

## Fr. Reamer

Father Reamer, new pastor of Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh, will continue his services as chaplain for CVPH, Plattsburgh, a position he has held since 2000

A native of Elizabeth, NJ, he was born Dec. 2, 1946. After graduating from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkhill, NY and Plattsburgh State University, he taught for 13 years at Hillsdale (NJ) Public School.

He studied for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary and was ordained for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Oct. 10, 1987 by Bishop Brzana.

Father Reamer has served as parochial vicar of St. Patrick's in Watertown, Notre Dame in Malone and in Peru, Lowville and Ticonderoga.

Father Reamer has also served the diocese as bishop's secretary and assistant chancellor and was an administrator of Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh, in Indian Lake and at St. John's in Plattsburgh.

In 1998 he was named half-time parochial vicar at St. John's in Plattsburgh and half-time chaplain at CVPH. Two years later he became a full-time chaplain at the hospital.

## Fr. Lynch

Father Lynch, new pastor in Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette Lake, has served in Wells and Lake Pleasant since 2007, first as administrator and then, in 2008, as pastor.

He was born Sept. 21, 1971 in Watertown and is a 1990 graduate of Immaculate Heart Central School. He graduated from Wadhams Hall and St. John's Seminary School of Theology in Boston.

Father Lynch also completed a spirituality year program sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Allentown, Pa.

He was ordained by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito May 12, 2001.

Father Lynch has served as parochial vicar in Saranac Lake and Lake Clear, at Notre Dame in Malone, at the Malone Catholic Parishes and at Holy Family in Watertown. He was also a temporary administrator in Croghan.

## Fr. McEwan

Father McEwan, new pastor in Ticonderoga and Crown Point, has served as pastor in Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette for the past year.

Previously, he was the administrator in Morristown, Hammond and Rossie from 2008.

A native of Yorktown Heights, NY, Father McEwan was born Aug. 17, 1964. He graduated from Paul Smiths College before studying for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and Christ the King Seminary. He was ordained May 11, 2002 by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

He served as parochial vicar in Saranac Lake and Bloomingdale as well as at Sacred Heart in Massena and in Louisville

## A CATHOLIC MUSIC GUY



Ryan Grant, a graduate of Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown and director of youth ministry for St. Mary's Parish in Clayton and St. John's in Lafargeville, has accepted a position on Sirius/XM satellite radio's The Catholic Channel, a channel sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York. He will be the new assistant producer and on-air cast member for the Catholic Guy show. Grant has traveled extensively in the Diocese of Ogdensburg as a musician and has performed in venues ranging from local churches, The United Nations, major Catholic universities and on Sirius/XM radio to spotlight his original music. His music is featured on the *North Country Catholic's* Facebook page.

## Champlain Valley Right to Life celebrates 40 years

PLATTSBURGH - Bishop Terry LaValley Will be the guest speaker at the 40th Anniversary celebration of Champlain Valley Right to Life.

The May 25 gathering will begin with 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, followed by dinner at 6:30 in the church's Emmaus Room.

The founding couple of Champlain Valley Right to Life, Dr. John and Claire Middleton will be in attendance as well as former CVRTL chairpersons Dr. and Mrs. John Boule, Roger Miner, Who served With his late Wife Mary Ellen, and Wanda Gaffney, Who served With her husband Bart, now deceased.

First speaker, Ed Golden, has agreed to join in the festivities.

Golden was the founding chairman of New York State Right to Life and was also the first chairman of Na-

tional Right to Life.

Dr. Middleton said "We are memorializing the thousands of unborn sacrificed and give thanks for the untold numbers who have been saved by the efforts of so many.

"There is never a way to tell what influences one's shadow has when it falls on someone thinking of aborting," he said.

Dinner is \$20 per person and by reservation only.

Further information is available from Betty Buffet at 518-536-6640 ; reservations can be mailed to: Betty Buffet, Memorial Dinner, St Peter's Church, 14 Cornelia St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Monies remaining from the dinner will be donated to the Cyril Rapin Pro-Life Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to a high school student who has shown exceptional abilities in pro life activities.

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## Daily Itinerary

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

To receive a full-color brochure, information or to make a reservation please call  
Christine at 315-608-7556 or email: [cward@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:cward@dioogdensburg.org)

## WASHING OF THE FEET



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Young people from Holy Family Church in Watertown took part in the foot Washing ceremony on Holy Thursday. From left are Hali Parsons, Joel Fontana, BreAnna Wright, Sheila Young, Ailica Nikka Sison, Killian LaDuc, Noah Murrock, Kayla Blair, Father Steven Murray, Deacon Michael Allan and Deacon Ed Miller.

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## Bishop LaValley's Schedule

**May 12** – 9 a.m., Breakfast Meeting with the Kiwanis Club in Massena; 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 4:30 p.m., Gathering with deacons and their wives at McCarthy Hall in Watertown.

**May 13** – 7 p.m., Confirmation for Notre Dame, Malone; St. Joseph's, Malone; St. John Bosco, Malone; St. Helen's, Chasm Falls at Notre Dame Church.

**May 14** – 11 a.m., Confirmation for St. Patrick's, Chateaugay and St. George's, Burke at St. Patrick's Church.

**May 15** – 11 a.m., Confirmation for St. Francis of Assisi, Constable and Our Lady of Fatima, Westville at St. Francis of Assisi Church; 4 p.m., Confirmation for St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake; St. Agnes, Lake Placid, St. Brendan's, Keene; St. John in the Wilderness, Lake Clear; and St. Paul's, Bloomingdale at St. Bernard's Church.

**May 16-18** - Presbyteral Assembly at the Comfort Inn in Lake Placid.

**May 18** - 7:00 p.m., Rosary for the Unborn and Mass with the Knights of Columbus 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*

**May 11** – Deacon Richard D. Hart, 2007

**May 13** – Rev. Ladislaus J. Stasz, 1971

**May 14** – Deacon Vincent E. Irvin, 2003

**May 15** – Rev. William Rossiter, 1908; Msgr. James R. McClure, 1960

**May 16** – Rev. Moses Legault, 1908; Rev. John M. McIntyre, 1944

## 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](http://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 12** - 6 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi, Constable

**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** - Terrianne Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; Fax 518-561-3003; e-mail: [aicsn@westelcom.com](mailto:aicsn@westelcom.com)

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

**Catholic offertory giving may have rebounded after recessionary lull**  
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Catholic parishes seemed to have weathered the recession of 2008, according to a study issued April 27. The study, "Holy Toll," conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religious Research, part of the interfaith Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, noted that more than half -- 57 percent -- of Catholic parishes said their offertory collections had declined either "a lot or a little" during the recession. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009. The Catholic numbers, gleaned from earlier research conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, also said 13 percent of parishes studied indicated their offertory revenues had dipped but then rebounded, while 30 percent said they saw no change or had grown. Asked about their current financial situation, an equal percentage of parishes -- 40 percent each -- said it was "good or excellent" or "tight," while the remaining 20 percent said their parish was experiencing "some" or "serious" difficulty. The Catholic numbers would appear to mirror that of 26 other denominational groups, the vast majority of them Christian, studied in "Holy Toll: The Impact of the 2008 Recession on American Congregations." Frank Butler, president of Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, or FADICA, told Catholic News Service in an April 26 telephone interview that the size of Catholic parishes compared to congregations of other faiths may help shield it from the impact of an economic downturn.

## Bible's truth is found in its totality, not single phrases, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While Catholics believe the Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it is true, one cannot take individual biblical quotes or passages and say each one is literally true, Pope Benedict XVI said. "It is possible to perceive the Sacred Scriptures as the word of God" only by looking at the Bible as a whole, "a totality in which the individual elements enlighten each other and open the way to understanding," the pope wrote in a message to the Pontifical Biblical Commission. "It is not possible to apply the criterion of inspiration or of absolute truth in a mechanical way, extrapolating a single phrase or expression," the pope wrote in the message released May 5 at the Vatican. The commission of biblical scholars, an advisory body to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, met at the Vatican May 2-6 to continue discussions about "Inspiration and Truth in the Bible." In his message, the pope said clearer explanations about the Catholic position on the divine inspiration and truth of the Bible were important because some people seem to treat the Scriptures simply as literature while others believe that each line was dictated by the Holy Spirit and is literally true. Neither position is Catholic, the pope said. "An interpretation of the sacred writings that disregards or forgets their inspiration does not take into account their most important and precious characteristic, that they come from God," he said.

# Vatican says Osama bin Laden's death cause for reflection, not rejoicing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Vatican said the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, a man who sowed division and hatred and who caused "innumerable" deaths, should prompt serious reflection about one's responsibility before God, not rejoicing.

The Vatican statement May 2 came the day after President Barack Obama announced that U.S. forces had killed bin Laden in an attack on his hideout in northwest Pakistan. In several U.S. cities, the news prompted street demonstrations and expressions of jubilation.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, released a brief written statement reacting to the news.

"Osama bin Laden, as we all know, bore the most serious responsibility for spreading divisions and hatred among populations, causing the deaths of innumerable people, and manipulating religions to this end,"

Father Lombardi said.

"In the face of a man's death, a Christian never rejoices, but reflects on the serious responsibilities of each person before God and before men, and hopes and works so that every event may be the occasion for the further growth of peace and not of hatred," the spokesman said.

The Vatican missionary news agency, Fides, reported that Christian schools and other institutes were closed and churches put on guard in Pakistan's main cities out of fear of possible repercussions on the Christian minorities there.

Paul Bhatti, a government adviser for religious minorities in Pakistan, told Fides that "the situation is tense."

"In fact, there are strong fears of reactions -- senseless reactions -- against the Christian minorities. The government is giving the maximum attention to prevention measures," he said.

Father Mario Rodrigues, director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Pakistan, said after a meeting with government officials May 2: "They put us on alert, requesting the closure of our institutes and making available additional police personnel around the churches. The Christians of Pakistan are innocent victims in this and other situations.

"Any pretext is used to threaten them or launch an attack," he said.

Rodrigues said some experts predicted that bin Laden's killing would weaken the Taliban and their ideologies, which could help diminish anti-Christian persecution in the long term. But he said radical Islamic groups were flourishing in Pakistan, and other extremist leaders could arise.

What is needed, he said, is a serious policy of interreligious tolerance at every level -- cultural, social, political and legislative.

## Questions for moral debate posed

WASHINGTON (CNS) - As word got out that Osama bin Laden had been killed by a Navy SEAL strike team in Pakistan, television and the Internet quickly began to feature images of spontaneous celebrations outside the White House and at ground zero in New York.

Just as quickly, blogs and social media pages such as Facebook began to rage with debates: about the morality of bin Laden's killing and how it was accomplished and about the appropriateness of the celebratory atmosphere.

Others questioned the meaning of the "justice" described by President Barack Obama in announcing bin Laden's death. "We must be clear what we understand when President Obama says

'justice has been done,'" said Gerard Powers, director of Catholic Peacebuilding Studies at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

"Justice has been done in that the killing of bin Laden was necessary to defend the common good against terrorism," Powers wrote. "Justice has not been done if we revel in his killing as an act of revenge for 9/11. It is unclear if justice has been done in the sense of holding bin Laden legally accountable for his past crimes against humanity, especially the 9/11 attacks."

From Bishop Loverde

Bishop Paul S. Loverde of

Arlington, Va., whose diocese includes the Pentagon, wrote that bin Laden's death brings back painful memories for many in the community, which requires a note of caution.

"It is important that we recognize the distinction between support for this act of justice defending our nation and a misguided sense of revenge," he wrote.

"Let us not turn toward resentment or bitterness, but rather toward a deeper trust in our Lord. With confidence in his mercy and guidance, let us pray for those serving our country, for a conversion of heart among those who support the evils of terrorism and for the growth of faith and a desire for peace within our own hearts."

*Beatification events highlight Blessed John Paul's courage, faith*

# Blessed John Paul II

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope John Paul II was a true believer, a courageous voice of truth and a man whose witness to the faith grew more eloquent as his ability to speak declined, Pope Benedict XVI and others who worked closely with the late pope said at events for his beatification.

"John Paul II is blessed because of his faith -- a strong, generous and apostolic faith," Pope Benedict said May 1 just minutes after formally beatifying his predecessor.

In the beatification proclamation, Pope Benedict said that after a consultation with many bishops and faithful and a study by the Congregation for Saints' Causes, he had decided that "the venerable servant of God, John Paul II, pope, henceforth will be called 'blessed' and his feast will be Oct. 22, the anniversary of the inauguration of his pontificate in 1978.

Italian police said that for the beatification Mass more than 1 million people were gathered in and around the Vatican and in front of large video screens in several parts of Rome. The next morning 60,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square for a Mass in thanksgiving for the beatification.

The official celebrations began with a nighttime prayer vigil April 30 at the Circus Maximus, the site of ancient Roman racetrack.

The crowd - estimated at about 200,000 people - cheered French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for Pope John Paul's beatification. The nun beamed as she recounted her unexpected healing.

She said when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's in



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**Pope Benedict XVI kisses a relic of Pope John Paul II as he celebrates the beatification Mass of his predecessor in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 1. The relic was presented by Polish Sister Tobiana Sobodka, who ran Pope John Paul's household, and French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre (not pictured), whose cure was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for his beatification.**

2001 at the age of 40, she found it difficult to watch Pope John Paul, who suffered from the same disease. "I saw in him the image of my illness. But I admired his strength and courage," she said.

Two months after the pope died, her condition worsened. Then, after prayers to the late pope, she awoke early one morning feeling well rested.

"I felt something had changed in me, and I was healed," she said. The crowd in the Circus Maximus erupted in applause.

Many others in the crowds for the events also had personal stories about Pope John Paul. Likewise, Pope Benedict ended his homily at the beatification Mass shar-

ing his own personal story.

"I would like to thank God for the gift of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II," he said.

As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 1982 until his election in 2005, Pope Benedict said he worked at the pope's side "and came to revere him."

"His example of prayer continually impressed and edified me: he remained deeply united to God even amid the many demands of his ministry," the pope said.

Pope Benedict said that even at the moment of his death people "perceived the fragrance of his sanctity and in any number of ways God's people showed their veneration for him. For this reason,

with all due respect for the church's canonical norms, I wanted his cause of beatification to move forward with reasonable haste."

After the Mass, Pope Benedict went into St. Peter's Basilica and knelt in prayer for four minutes before Blessed John Paul's casket, which was set in front of the main altar. After the pope left, the concelebrating cardinals filed up to the wooden casket, touching it lightly and kissing it.

Later, the Vatican opened the basilica to the general public and kept it open until 3 a.m. Vatican police said 250,000 people filed past the casket or knelt in prayer near it in those first 13 hours. The basilica was opened again after the thanksgiving Mass

May 2 so more people could pay their respects.

Presiding at the Mass of thanksgiving May 2, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, thanked God for "having given us a pope able to give the Catholic Church not only a universal reach and a moral authority on a global level like never before," but also one who helped Catholics be "more spiritual, more biblical and more centered on the word of God."

"Finally, we thank the Lord for having given us a saint like him," Cardinal Bertone said.

Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, who was Pope John Paul's personal secretary for nearly 40 years, spoke at the beginning of the thanksgiving Mass, noting that the late pope was declared blessed in the same square where almost 30 years ago a Turkish gunman tried to assassinate him.

"We can never forget that 30 years ago, in this very square, he gave his blood for the cause of Christ," Cardinal Dziwisz said.

The assassination attempt took place May 13, 1981, while the pope was riding through the square during his weekly general audience.

During the beatification Mass May 1, a silver reliquary containing a vial of Blessed John Paul's blood was carried up to the altar by Polish Sister Tobiana Sobodka, who ran Pope John Paul's household, and by Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, who was cured of Parkinson's disease.

The reliquary, a sculpture of olive branches, also was carried in procession to the altar at the thanksgiving Mass. While the biggest groups of pilgrims at the beatification events came from Italy and Poland, more than 80 countries sent official delegations and most of them had at least a few pilgrims present as well.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Shepherding us towards everlasting life

This fourth Sunday of Easter supplies us with very rich images for our meditation.

Jesus calls himself the "good Shepherd" as well as the "gate" to eternal life. As a shepherd, he will lay down his life for his sheep. In fact, he has proven this by Calvary!

And He declares himself to be the only way through which his "sheep" have access to the Father.

His listeners were very familiar with the crucial role that shepherds in Israel played in caring for and training sheep.

They would spend hours

alone with each lamb, making sure that every one had a name different from any other in the flock, and that each sheep would respond *only* to the voice of the shepherd calling out that name.

Moreover, they knew that, in order to protect his sheep from nighttime marauders, the shepherd would position his own body across the entrance to the sheepfold.

Shepherding was a dangerous occupation!

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter is speaking at Pentecost, assuring his listeners that his fellow apostles are not drunk, but rather filled

with the Holy Spirit.

He tells them that, if only they repent of crucifying their Lord and Messiah through their sinfulness, they will be forgiven, Jews and Gentiles alike.

If they allow themselves to be baptized, they too will receive the Holy Spirit.

Amazingly, about three thousand persons heeded Peter's preaching, and were baptized that day.

The second reading today is taken from another sermon of Peter in which urges his listeners to model their lives on the patience of Jesus who "when he suffered, did not threaten...He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness".

(We must be careful to dis-

May 15

Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

1 Peter 2:20b-25

John 10:1-10

tinguish "righteousness" from self-righteousness).

In this Gospel, Jesus tells us that He *and no other* is the shepherd of the sheep, the only voice we should recognize and follow.

He is also the gate of the sheepfold, assuring all within the fold to freedom from fear, assured of security and salvation. *Lord, help us to silence those voices that would lead us into false paths; help us to lovingly follow only your*

voice.

And help us who are shepherds of others who depend on us, especially children, imitate the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Those who would shepherd souls must know that the destiny of their flock is an everlasting inheritance.

As C.S. Lewis once wrote, none of us has ever met a mere mortal - every human being has an eternal destiny. And, shepherds who aspire to be good must know that they themselves follow a Shepherd who is goodness itself. Ultimately, they lead the sheep to where they themselves have been led. They follow the same voice their sheep hear.

And, they share their destiny of everlasting life.

## OUR READERS WRITE

### The death of Osama Bin Laden

Reflections of a firefighter and combat veterans on the death of Osama Bin Laden:

I have the utmost respect for the US Navy's Seal Team Six, which took out Osama Bin Laden. The Seals are an elite force, whose skills are honed to a razor's edge by a decade of intelligence-gathering and combat operations against those who seek to destroy our way of life. Most of the time, Special Operations Forces and their courage and skill are kept far from the public eye. I salute them in this, their moment of triumph.

President Obama and all who contributed to this mission are also to be congratulated for their fortitude in or-

dering and carrying out such a high-risk mission. They have done the free world a huge service in ridding us of this mass murderer.

While many of our own public figures celebrate this victory, many in the international community seem concerned about counter-attacks from radical Islam and diplomatic repercussions abroad. We cannot let such concerns weaken our resolve. We must continue to stand firm in the face of terrorism.

To those uncomfortable with such violent and direct combat actions, I appreciate your perspective. As a life-long firefighter called to fight following 9/11, I share in your desire to preserve human lives and your preference for non-violent solutions when possible. Consider, however, that this man and the organization he founded and led was not about to stop the killing of innocents. No matter how many of their ranks we lock up in prison, Al Quaida will never beat their swords into plowshares and be content with peaceful endeavors.

As Americans, we respect the sanctity of human life. This shared belief is one of the things that separates us from the terrorists who seek to destroy us. The defense of life through killing a human being must remain an absolute last re-

sort. The killing of Osama Bin Laden was made necessary by his own actions.

According to available accounts, the Navy Seals were quite prepared to take Bin Laden alive if he had chosen to surrender. Instead, either Bin Laden or others near him opened fire on the Seals, and the threat he presented was quickly eliminated.

While this moment in history is understandably a source of national relief, we would be wise to temper our collective celebration. The killing of any

human being is a serious matter which brings with it great moral peril. Bin Laden chose his own fate, and was killed out of necessity.

I pray that one day we will see an end to all violent death, but that day is not yet here. Our vigorous defense can and must continue. Thanks to the tremendous courage of our Navy Seals, the world is one step closer to peace.

SGT THOMAS MIDDLETON  
VERMONT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
(RETIRED)

## Editor's Note

**Thomas Middleton**, a native of Plattsburgh, is a firefighter and combat veteran and the author of *Saber's Edge, A Combat Medic in Ramadi, Iraq*. He will speak at a benefit book event to be held June 11 from 1 to 3pm at Peaceful Dove Books and Gifts on Boynton Avenue in Plattsburgh. The proceeds from each book sold will benefit the Veterans Scholarship Fund at Clinton Community College in memory of James A. Bracy.

## Letters to the Editor

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

- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)
- Join the conversation!

# 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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## ADIRONDACK

## AGING IN YOUR OWN HOME

**Lake Placid** – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, Will hold an educational forum. Aging in Place in Your Own Home

**Date:** May 19

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

**Place:** Paul Smith's College Campus

**Speaker:** Jonathan White, Architectural Research and Design Associate at the Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access.

**Features:** The presentation will give an overview of Universal Design, Visitability, and Resources for Home Modifications. It will define the housing problem, changing demographics, consequences of housing barriers, and obstacles to inclusive housing. The presentation will discuss Levels of Access as an inclusive housing strategy and give an in-depth look at visitability. It will also discuss housing designed for the lifespan and the IDEa Center's home modifications programs. There is no fee to attend the forum but pre-registration is required by May 13.

**Contact:** To reserve a place, please send e-mail to [sschneck@adkmercy.org](mailto:sschneck@adkmercy.org) or call 523-5583. Registrants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

## CLINTON

## 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

**Plattsburgh** – Champlain Valley Right to Life, Inc. is celebrating its 40th year with a buffet dinner and program.

**Date:** May 25

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Emmaus Room at St. Peter's Church

**Cost:** \$20

**Features:** Dinner is by reservations only and tickets will be available May 1st. Bishop LaValley will be the guest speaker for the evening.

**Contact:** Call or text Betty Buffett at 518-536-6640 for reservations.

## ANNUAL SPRING SALE

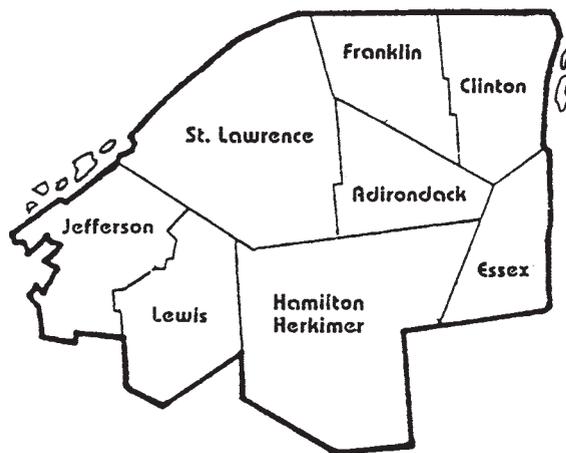
**Peru** – St. Vincent de Paul Society will be holding its Annual Spring Sale.

**Date:** June 3 and 4

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

**Place:** St. Augustine Parish Center

**Features:** Toys, household items, shoes and gently used summer clothing.



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

**Date:** June 17

**Time:** Tournament begins with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

**Place:** Adirondack Golf and Country Club  
**Features:** The four-person scramble will feature a "New Car Hole in One" prize sponsored by Bill McBride Chevrolet and other great prizes. The entry fee is \$260 per team until June 10th and \$280 per team thereafter. Spouses are invited to attend the dinner at \$15 each. Obtain entry forms and information by contacting Bill McBride Jr. at 643-6678 or by emailing [Scar6064@charter.net](mailto:Scar6064@charter.net)

## BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

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

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church.

## SMA ZUMBATHON

**Altona** – St. Mary's Academy to have a Zumbathon.

**Date:** May 15

**Time:** 1:15 p.m. registration; 2 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Rainbow Banquet Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; 12 and under, Free

**Features:** Sounds by Xtreme DJ Sounds Service. Raffles & more.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Plattsburgh** – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednes-

day, Thursday, and Friday.

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

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

**Theme:** "I find my consolation in my one Companion Who never abandons me." (St. Damian of Molokai).

**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](mailto:Sjohnsadoration@aol.com)

## JEFFERSON

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** – An ecumenical bereavement meeting has been set

**Date:** May 23

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse  
**Speaker:** Kathy Sheley, widowed for nearly fifteen years, and nine year facilitator for the "Left Behind by Suicide" support group for Hospice of Jefferson Country will be the speaker. She has chosen the topic "A New Normal".

## HEALING MASS

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

**Date:** June 11

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Features:** The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered during Mass. The Celebrants will be Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Douglas Comstock. Immediately following Mass there will be prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A social time to meet the

Tetrault family to share testimonies of healing will be available in the Parish Center along with refreshments. If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 686-3398.

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

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

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

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

**Contact:** Phone 315-788-8480; website: [www.liferight.org](http://www.liferight.org).

## LEWIS

## FAREWELL RECEPTION

**Lyons Falls** – There will be a farewell reception for Father Stephen Gratto Who is retiring from active ministry.

**Date:** May 22

**Time:** Noon to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Church

**Features:** The event will be catered and will feature finger foods and hors d'oeuvres. Everyone in the parish and community are welcome to attend to wish Father well in his retirement as Pastor of St. Martin's and St. John's Parish.

## ST. PETER'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL

**Lowville** – St. Peter's Annual Festival has been schedule

**Date:** May 20-22

**Place:** St. Peter's Church grounds

**Features:** Ontario Amusement will provide Carnival rides. There will be a special Saturday matinee with unlimited rides for \$12 per person from 1 p.m. to 5. All weekend the festival will feature homemade food specialties including Shiskabob, Clam Chowder, Fried Dough, and more. Also "This-n-That," a Giant Bake Sale, and Games for all ages; including Bingo Friday evening at 7 p.m. The festival concludes on Sunday with a Chicken Barbecue with all the fixings. Take-outs will be available. Be sure to come early before the Chicken runs out! Don't leave too early; at 4 p.m. the drawings begin for cash prizes totaling \$2000.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## SPRING SOCIAL

**Gouverneur** – St. James Church to hold Spring Social.

**Date:** May 12-14

**Time:** May 13 doors open at 6 p.m.; May 14 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. James grounds

**Features:** Bingo May 13 at 7 p.m. Rides, games, food, fried dough all three days.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

## NOVENA FOR MILITARY

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

**Date:** Tuesday evenings

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

## 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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## GUGGENHEIM CLEAN-UP

**Saranac Lake** – The annual clean-up weekend at Camp Guggenheim is set.

**Date:** May 13 at 5 p.m. to May 15

**Contact:** Dick Lynch of St. Joseph's Church in Dannemora, at 518-492-7583 or email [yesgrp7@aol.com](mailto:yesgrp7@aol.com) for more information and to sign up

## CAMP REGISTRATION

Registration for the two diocesan summer camp programs – Guggenheim in Saranac Lake and SportsCamp at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg is open

**Guggenheim dates:** for 12 - 15 year-olds, Week 1, June 26 to July 1; Week 2, July 3-8; Week 3, July 10-15; Week 4 July 17-22; Week 5 July 24-29; For 16-18 years olds, Week 6, July 31 to Aug. 5 is geared for 16 - 18 year olds.

**SportsCamp:** Basketball Camp: July 3-7; Soccer Camp: July 10-14

**Features:** The camp director for Guggenheim is Casey Provost of West Chazy; Michelle Rosteck of Lowville will be director of SportsCamp.

**Registration:** may be made through the parishes of the North Country or online at [www.catholiccamps.org](http://www.catholiccamps.org)

**Contact:** Further information is available from the Diocesan Youth Office, 315-393-2920 ext. 411



## The Society For The Propagation Of The Faith

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(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401  
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# 'He is here!'

By James Franke  
(PART 2 of 2)

Approaching the fourth hour of our journey, now being covered and mud and having been weighed down by the last hour of heavy rain, someone in the front of our group shouted some of the most comforting words that could have been spoken at that moment, "We are here!". With a sudden surge of energy, the rest of the group livened and ran, as best they could, the final hill up to the village. Arriving to meet the people we, here quickly remembered that the hike was not our mission, it was little more than the beginning.

These people, they were our mission. We had come with one purpose, to bring them Jesus Christ. To bring Him to them in our words, our love, our testimonies and above all, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The incredible thing about this mission is that many of these people had never heard about Jesus and that Mass had never been celebrated there. Jesus Christ, had never once been present to these people in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity!

We soon saw that the Lord was using our humble 'yes', as His missionaries, to bring Him so truly to these people in a way that He has never been there.

Hours into our visit, we had been able to share with these beautiful people the Word of God, how He loves them so unconditionally. We were able to share our testimonies, the incredible works that the Lord has done in our own lives, how He has showed us His love and mercy time and time again. Finally we were able to celebrate Mass with them. Many of them were not able to receive Communion, not having made the Sacrament, however all were able to look upon the face of God, of Jesus Christ, in a way that they had never been able to do before. Any lasting echoes of our earlier cry of "We are here!" would have, at that moment, been drowned out by our new cry, "HE IS HERE!", Jesus had come!

It was in this moment that our mission took on flesh, just as the humble bread was transformed into the flesh of the Son of God. We were blessed by one of those rare moments, one of those glimpses of heaven on earth, when the Lord shows to us the fruit that He is bearing through us His children.

It was in that moment that our eyes were opened to see heaven come down and gently kiss earth, to see Jesus Christ use us humble missionaries as His hands, His feet, to walk to a corner of this earth that He not yet been.

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James Franke, a native of Rouses Point, and graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he graduated with degrees in Catechetics and Theology. He now serves the Family Missions Company, a lay organization that trains and sends out missionaries. James has served in Germany, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Mexico, Ecuador and most recently in Saint Lucia. He will be returning to many of those mission posts while also looking to begin work in Asia and Africa as well.

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** — Agnes H. (Genga) Denicola, 101; Funeral Services May 9, 2011 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown.

**Altona** — Stella M. (LaBarge) Lashway, 92; Funeral Services May 5, 2011 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery.

**Carthage** — Wilma A. (Hamblin) Hutchins, 78; Funeral Services April 30, 2011 at Bossuot-Lundy Funeral Home Inc.; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Copenhagen.

**Croghan** — Joseph R. Szalkowski, 88; Funeral Services May 2, 2011 at the Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** — Jean Baker Noel, 86; Funeral Services at St. Edmund's Church.

**Glenfield** — Bonnie Jean "Bones" Hellinger, 59; Memorial Services May 7, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

**Gouverneur** — Carl F. "Fred" Girard, 58; Funeral Services May 6, 2011 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Harrisville** — Madeline Dawn (Conklin) Trombley, 81; Funeral Services May 5, 2011 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

**Keeseville** — Jacqueline D. (Durkee) McCormick, 74; Funeral Services May 2, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial

in parish cemetery.

**Lake Placid** — Carol H. (Hurley) Benson, 82; Funeral May 7, 2011 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lyons Falls** — Anna L. Markham, 90; Funeral Services May 6, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in Wildwood Cemetery.

**Massena** — Walter G. Leba, 73; Funeral Services May 6, 2011 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Louisville Community Cemetery.

**Massena** — Ted McGown, 54; Funeral Services May 4, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

**Massena** — Louis L. "Louie" Trevino, 88; Funeral Services May 7, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Massena Center Cemetery.

**Moors Forks** — Gerald E. "Gerry" Bourdon, 81; Funeral Services May 2, 2011 at St. Ann's Church; burial in Burtonville Cemetery, Lacolle Canada.

**Norfolk** — Harold P. "Bubby" Seeber, 84; Funeral Services May 6, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Doris E. (Belfy) Bouchard, 82; Funeral Services May 6, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Henry U. Bouchard, 91; Funeral Service May 7, 2011 at Notre Dame

Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — Gilbert M. McWilliams, 85; Funeral Services May 6, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Olmstedville** — Margaret "Marge" (Stein) Souran, 82; Funeral Services April 29, 2011 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Esther Mary (Parrotte) Burleigh, 78; Funeral Services May 5, 2011 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Lawrence D. Liberty, 77; Funeral Services May 4, 2011 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in West Plattsburgh Union Cemetery.

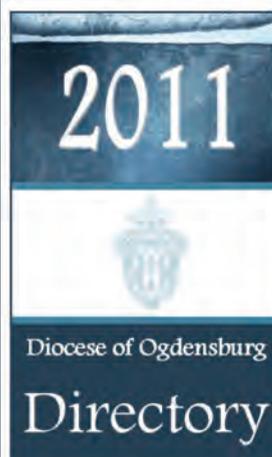
**Plattsburgh** — Thomas W. O'Hearn, 82; Funeral Services at the R. W. Walker Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** — Janet M. (Miller) Carey, 76; Funeral Services May 3, 2011 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Donald H. Maring, 79; Funeral Services May 5, 2011 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** — Michael A. "King" Redder, 54; Funeral Service May 4, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

## It's time to Order your 2011 Diocesan Directory!



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## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# This Easter was different

By James Franke  
Contributing Writer

"O happy fault, o necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!", "A reading from the Book of Genesis", "from the Book of Exodus", "from Baruch", and so on...

Standing in St. John the Evangelist Cathedral, these all too familiar words echoed through me, recalling the love story of salvation which we are all a part of, God coming to meet man, redeeming us from sin and death.

## 'This Easter is special because you made Lent special'

The reading then paused, and a single bell rang, followed slowly by a second and then a third. The bored children roused up and looked about for the source of the noise. Still the melody grew louder and louder. The walls of the Cathedral were soon the only thing that seemed to be containing the majestic and mighty sound that can only be described as the musical equivalent of D-Day, the sound of heaven finally breaking through the veils of space and time.

At what seems to be the pinnacle of this heavenly sound, the angelic voice of the cantor begins to sing, "Give glory to God in the Highest! And peace to His people on earth!"

Immediately I knew, that this was the moment the Exsultet had just announced, when "heaven is wedded to earth and man is reconciled with God!", and the tears began to flow.

As the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass continued, I realized that this Easter was different. It was different than any other I had ever experienced.

It was not until I was kneeling after Communion that I realized just why this year was different than the rest, why it was special.

With Christ dwelling within, I heard Him say "This Easter is special, because you made this Lent special."

Having been taught of the importance of the Lenten season, it was only now that this learning was making its way from my head, through my heart, to my soul. In what had been without a doubt the most difficult Lent of my life, I was now seeing His Divine Wisdom behind it all.

What began as a simple prayer of wanting to live a radical Christianity, like that of the Apostles and Saints, became a six-week, life-changing experience bringing me closer to the Lord than I have ever been.

At the risk of losing the heavenly treasures of my penances by sharing them, I do so in order to give God the glory and to call others from 'lukewarmness' into the incredibly intense heat that is the love of God on the cross, just as the Lord called me.

On Ash Wednesday I made a firm resolve that I would be abstaining from meat for the duration of Lent and skipping a meal a day, which I truly



James Franke, a Rouses Point native, now works for the Family Mission Company in Abbeville, La. He is shown above during a mission trip which he describes in this week's Mission column on page 15.

thought would be a good discipline. However half way through the Lenten season, in a number of ways, the Lord spoke to me and asked for more. He wanted me to go deeper, to give Him more, more of myself.

I thought of the saints, of those who radically lived for and loved my Jesus in the way that I so desperately wanted to. After a few days of prayer, I resolved to go the final three weeks of Lent on bread and water alone, no breaks, no cheats.

Tough for the first few days, the Lord's grace soon filled me in a way that simple bread could not. Daily, my prayers were intensified, my trust on Him was strengthened, my dependence increased.

The cross was made clearer, emptying oneself to be filled by something better was becoming a reality I could only now understand.

With Christ's glorious entrance into Jerusalem being proclaimed from the ambo on Palm Sunday, my sincere prayer was that the Lord would enter my life, enter my heart in that same way. I prayed that He would enter and radically change my heart the way that He radically changed Jerusalem, changed the world, changed eternity during that very first Holy Week.

Jesus answered me, "Be a palm. Lay yourself down before me, and I will enter." I responded, "Lord, what more can I give you?"

His words, spoken thousands of years ago in the desert, rang through me, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Fearful, but fortified by Him, I began the final week of Lent living on the Word of God. When I was hungry, the Scriptures were my food. When I was tired, the Eucharist kept me going. When I was in pain and suffering, wanting to quit, the

glorious cross was my comfort and consolation. One week: water and the Word.

Physically empty but spiritually overflowing, everything was changing. His voice was louder as my ears were now fully His. His providence more clearly seen as distractions were being removed from my sight. His love stronger as my heart was no longer divided.

A mastering of bodily sensations, of my passions, of my very being, was allowing me to freely and fully give of myself to the One who has deserved all of me for so long, to my Jesus.

These Easter tears flowed so freely because Christ had entered my heart, my life, oh so freely. I had finally given Him what He has desired for so long... me, all of me. Me, myself, and I, undivided, fighting to please no one and nothing else but Him. A parked car cannot enter into a garage cluttered with mowers, rakes, trash and everything else that has been pushed and placed into it.

Our Jesus, our Lord, is infinite! There is simply no room for anything but Him! It is when, and only when, we empty ourselves as completely as we can, that He is free to enter us as fully as He desires to!

This Easter was special because this Lent was special. Once again He knocked at the door of my heart, of my soul, only this time, when I answered, there was room enough for Him to enter. In being taught to master myself, my passions, even my needs, I was able to draw closer to Him, to make Him my passion, Him my only need.

I would not and do not recommend this fast, or any fast, to anyone; as only God Himself can tell us what He desires of each of us, what we are able to bear. I do however share this with you: Do not be afraid.

Do not be afraid if the Lord calls you to something difficult, for it only means that He has something great in store for you. Never think that His will is too great to bear, for nothing is too great for Him.

Do not step away from the cross, but run to it for comfort, for it is in our weakness that He is strongest!

Now that Easter is here, I will of course feast along with the rest of my brothers and sisters in the Resurrection of our Lord! He is risen and He is living! A cause for the most joyous of celebrations! However I know that when the Lord comes knocking again, which He will, He always does, I pray that I again have the strength to lay it all down, to keep this discipline as something that will continually draw me deeper and deeper into Him and His Sacred Heart.

Be His, completely His, and come to the newness and fullness of life that is the Resurrection! Happy Easter to you all.

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James Franke, a native of Rouses Point, graduated from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He spent three summers on staff at Camp Guggenheim and now serves the Family Missions Company in Abbeville, La.