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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 19, 2014

## Going to Mass: life changing

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist should make a difference in the way Catholics live, Pope Francis said; they should be more accepting of others and more aware of their sinfulness.

"If we don't feel in need of God's mercy and don't think we are sinners, it's better not

to go to Mass," Pope Francis said Feb. 12 at his weekly general audience.

The Eucharist is a celebration of Christ's gift of himself for the salvation of sinners, which is why the Mass begins with people confessing they are sinners and begging for the Lord's mercy.

Continuing a series of au-

dience talks about the sacraments, the pope asked people to think about how they approach the Mass and what difference it makes in their lives and the lives of their parishes.

Do you go to Mass because it's a habit or a time to see your friends? the pope asked. "Or is it something

more? When we go to Mass, we find ourselves with all sorts of people," the pope said.

"Does the Eucharist we celebrate lead me to consider all of them as brothers and sisters? Does it increase my ability to rejoice when they do and to weep with those who weep?"

### TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

#### On Catholic marriage



Leif and Allison Rozon of St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake are shown on their June 2, 2007 wedding day. As part of the 2014 NCC Wedding Issue, they reflected on the importance of their faith in their relationship. The issue also features an interview with Gayle and Gary Frank who recently retired as diocesan directors of family life ministry, information about natural family planning, a chart of pre-cana sessions in the diocese and a message from Pope Francis to engaged couples on Valentine's Day.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 5-10

## Pastoral ministry in today's church

Bishop LaValley continues his reflections on pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg with the second in a three part series.

This week, the bishop writes about the current state of pastoral ministry in the North Country.

"It is no secret that there are fewer priests and religious serving in our Church today, but that does not mean that less ministry is being provided," he said, noting the contributions of deacons, lay ministers and religious educators.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Efforts to end trafficking

Ursuline Sisters, including two from Malone, join in efforts to end

human trafficking around world

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## ENVISIONING LEADERSHIP TEAM



Members of the Diocesan Envisioning Team, charged with discerning a mutually shared vision for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, held their final meeting Feb. 13 at the Bishop's House in Ogdensburg. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will proclaim the diocesan vision, priorities and goals at the Chrism Mass April 9 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. Shown, front are Michael Fullam of the Catholic Leadership Institute who, along with Barbara Eckert facilitated the 13-month process; St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan director of Catholic education; Bishop LaValley and Cathy Romano, Ogdensburg; middle, Dr. William Amoriell, Colton; Father Kevin O'Brien, moderator of the curia; and James Coughlin, Malone; back, Patrick Murnane, Plattsburgh; Father Thomas Higman, Malone, Father Garry Giroux, Brasher Falls; and Father Douglas Lucia, episcopal vicar for worship and priestly formation; missing are Deacon Mark Bennett, Plattsburgh; and Barbara Boyle, Henderson.

'SON OF GOD': Movie called a love story, evangelization opportunity, p. 13

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

## The secrets to a loving, lasting union

The millions of people who follow Pope Francis on Twitter were greeted with a very appropriate message on Valentine's Day:

*"Dear young people, don't be afraid to marry. A faithful and fruitful marriage will bring you happiness."*

The pope continued his celebration of St. Valentine by hosting an audience at St. Peter's Square with thousands of engaged couples.

He told them not to be afraid of building a perma-

nent and loving relationship in a culture where everything is disposable and fleeting.

The secrets to a loving and lasting union, he said, include treating each other with respect, kindness and gratitude, and never letting daily struggles and squabbles sabotage making peace and saying, "I'm sorry."

The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect hus-

band or a perfect wife, and let's

not talk about the perfect mother-in-law!" he said to laughter and applause.

"It's just us sinners," he said. But "if we learn to say we're sorry and ask forgiveness, the marriage will last."

This message was timely one for the *North Country Catholic* as we publish our annual issue devoted to Catholic marriage.

Each year, I seem to have a personal connection to Catholic weddings as our family watches its next generation celebrate new marriages.

This past week though my personal connection came

from a different perspective as I joined my family in celebrating the life of my 90-year-old godmother.

Family members came from across the country to stand beside my uncle, her husband of 70 years. We all knew that we had witnessed and been blessed by the most faithful and fruitful of marriages.

Those of us who have been married half that long or are just starting out can be assured that Pope Francis knows what he's talking about.... except maybe for that comment about mothers-in-law!



Mary Lou  
Kilian

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## The challenge to be a welcoming church

Last week, I wrote about our Catholic Church as our home, the home for all Catholics. Jesus made our Church a home by choosing to come among us on this earth. He made this world his home. Jesus continues to remain with us by making the Church his home.

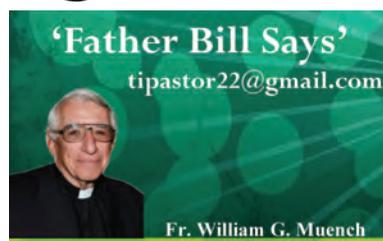
The question we must deal with today, "Do I – do you – find a home as a Catholic within the Catholic Church?"

One way to talk about Church is the Church Building, your Parish Church building. When you go to that Church, when you go to Mass each week, do you truly feel at home?

One of the first buildings that a community builds in the town's formation is a Church. That Church becomes for them a home where life as a Catholic could grow and come alive. The Church building is a home to this faith community – this parish.

The Church building is the place for our celebrations as a Catholic Community. This is the place where the parish gathers to celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday.

This is the place the community celebrates new life in Baptism; where the parish celebrates a new family in marriage. This is where they celebrate and remember the life of a loved one when they die.



In these ways, this Church building is a home.

The Church building is also a place of refuge, a home where Catholics may come to pray quietly alone. The Church is a place to come and weep, a place to bring our sadness to the Lord, a place to find the compassion of our God.

So, do you feel at home in your Church? When you are away from home, do you feel welcome in that Parish Church? Do visitors feel welcome and at home when they come to your Church?

This is the challenge for us all – pastor and people – to make our Parish Church welcoming to the people of our own Christian community and to visitors whether Catholic or of some other faith. They all should be comfortably welcome and at home with us.

Church also means people – the people of a parish community, the family of Catholics working together, living in peace, caring for each other, especially the needy, praying together with each other and

for each other.

The challenge for this Church, this community, will be the same: to make the community of the parish a home – a welcoming home – truly, a Church.

I believe that our Church family, our parish community, will and must find its model in Jesus. The Gospels constantly show us Jesus as a welcoming person, a welcoming teacher who truly invited all to join him on their journey.

Our whole Church, Bishop, priests and people must set the tone of openness and welcoming to all. Jesus made it very clear that everyone he met were welcome; his message was for all. People came to Jesus with their cares and needs, never afraid to ask, always open to learn and follow.

This must be the Spirit that people see in our Church – our Catholic Church. Whether Catholic or other people should find within the Church a welcoming spirit, a readiness to help, a home.

The responsibility for this spirit within the Church belongs to us all – to the Bishop, the priests and to the lay men and women. Most people who approach the Catholic Church approach first through the laity. Our prayer is that you, the People of God, will set the tone and help others see the

Church as a welcoming home.

The Second Vatican Council makes it clear that lay men and women must recognize and share in this call to be Church, to be welcoming as Church. Let me quote the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*.

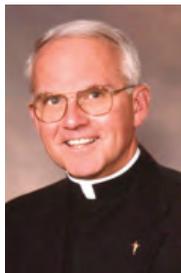
The Council Fathers wrote this, "Gathered together in the People of God and established in the one Body of Christ under one head, the laity – no matter who they are – have, as living members, the vocation of applying to the building up of the Church and to its continual sanctification all the powers which they have received from the goodness of the Creator and from the grace of the Redeemer."

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, in calling the next Synod of the Church to focus on the subject of the Family with the hope that the Bishops, priests and people who are part of the Synod will look at the Catholic Church's approach to family, that the Church may guide and walk with all families. Already, there has been a real concern for families with problems, with marriage, with divorce, with those who are divorced and remarried. With the hope that the Church will be there to help and stay welcoming to them all, pray for this upcoming Synod.

FOLLOW ME

# The many faces of pastoral ministry – ‘today’

What differences exist between pastoral ministry today and pastoral ministry of about forty years ago here in the North Country? The biggest differences are the people and the places. In a previous article we spoke about the many tasks involved in pastoral ministry, especially in parishes. The main “providers” were the priests, some religious men and women, and some dedicated volunteers.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Over the past several years we have seen fewer and fewer priests and religious. In our Diocese we rarely have more than one priest in a parish.

It is no secret that there are fewer priests and religious serving in our Church

today, but that does not mean that less ministry is being provided.

We are familiar with Directors of Religious Education or Catechetical Leaders who today are often referred to as Directors of Faith Formation. Today, no matter what the title, this person often is a lay person, having been formally trained or learned through experience to lead the catechetical or religious education program at the parish level.

Over this same period of time, our Department of Christian Formation has designed and implemented an important program to certify volunteers to teach religion in our parishes.

This instruction coupled

with the enthusiasm of the volunteers has helped insure the quality of our programs. But, we know that Pastoral Ministry is more than religious instruction. To respond to the many needs of pastoral ministry, the Diocese of Ogdensburg established and continues to sponsor the Formation for Ministry Program.

Over a two-year period, volunteers participate in intensive training so that, upon completion and commissioning, they might serve in certain areas of pastoral ministry in their parishes. After their commissioning as Lay Ministers, they are urged to participate in ongoing formation activities within the Diocese, especially retreats specifically designed for their needs.

We have been blessed with an increase in the number of Permanent Deacons

in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. These ordained men serve the faithful in their parishes and in other settings such as prisons.

**It is no secret that there are fewer priests and religious serving in our Church today, but that does not mean that less ministry is being provided**

Their training program builds on the Formation for Ministry program as well as on their previous experience as volunteers in parish ministry.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, we are also fortunate to have many religious, deacons, and trained lay women and men who serve as Pastoral Associates in several of our parishes.

Pastoral Associates usually work full-time in parish ministry and take on those responsibilities specified by the pastor.

The past forty years have also seen a reduction in the number of parishes and church buildings in our Diocese as well as new parish configurations. This has meant that our pastors have taken on additional pastoral responsibilities.

The pastoral care of those who are parishioners in these new reconfigurations continues to be vitally important and an essential responsibility of the local Church. In our next article, we will speak about a model of pastoral ministry that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is adopting, in unique situations, that will ensure that the fullness of pastoral ministry continues to be available to all.

## FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE



PHOTO BY SHAWN RYAN

Just before the start of a girls' basketball game at the Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh, Mary Forbes was honored for 40 years of dedication to Catholic education. The vice principal/athletic director/math teacher was called to the center of the court, where a progression of 40 people formed a line to present Miss Forbes with 40 carnations, one for each year of service. She was also presented with a plaque, which was read to the standing room only crowd by girls' JV basketball coach Bernie Bullis. "The funny thing is, probably two-thirds of the people in line, I taught," she said afterwards. Miss Forbes taught math at St. John's Academy, until it was consolidated with Mount Assumption Institution in 1989 into Seton Catholic Central.

## March 2 is Lay Ministry Sunday

Each parish is invited to join in the diocesan celebration of lay ministers on Lay Ministry Sunday, March 2.

Lay Ministry Sunday is a special celebration for the 900 commissioned lay ministers who serve parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Deacon Patrick Donahue, director of the Formation for Ministry program for the dio-

cese, said, "lay ministers have an ever increasing role in parishes and have become invaluable resources to sustaining parish life and vitality. It is important for us to acknowledge the service of these dedicated individuals in their parishes after they have become commissioned."

Lay Ministry Sunday, is an

opportunity to acknowledge, support and encourage the activities of lay ministry, Deacon Donahue said.

In parishes all over the diocese, pastors will "celebrate the presence" of lay ministers in a variety of ways by extending a special blessing or hosting a small reception in honor of those Who serve their parish.

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Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

# Ursuline Sisters work to end human trafficking

The issue of Human Trafficking has long been a concern of the Ursuline Sisters.

## On international level

The General Government in Rome has participated in anti-trafficking work of International Union of Superiors General since its initiation (2007); recommendation from General Chapter of Sep-

tember/October, 2013 to expand work against Trafficking with emphasis on migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

## In the Eastern Province

The Ursulines of the Eastern Province took a corporate stance against Human Trafficking in 2007—main points: oppose all forms of

Human Trafficking including the sex trade and exploitation of farm workers; solidarity with victims; work for abolition through education and legislative advocacy.

Current Efforts: Province Office of Justice and Peace provides data and shares extensive information from Leadership Conference of Women Religious on trafficking issues.

- One sister resides in a Safe House in New York City for former victims of Human Trafficking.

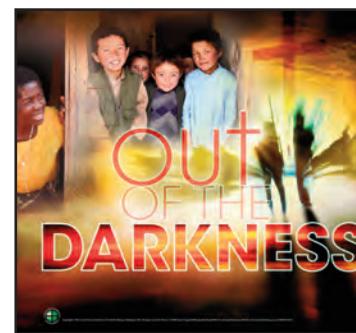
- Sisters in New York City area have participated in training sessions on recognition and prevention of Human Trafficking.

- Sisters take advantage of UN programs to build networks.

- An Ursuline in the Bronx encourages our high school students to be informed on issue of trafficking and to work with students in other schools.

- Sisters in NYC area are working with hotel operators on recognition and prevention of Human Trafficking at the time of the 2014 Super Bowl in nearby New Jersey.

- All hotels used for na-



tional Ursuline meetings are checked for anti-trafficking protocols; Sisters speak with key personnel to alert them to signs of possible trafficking among hotel workers and guests.

## In the North Country

- Among the Ursuline Sisters who serve in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Sheila Murphy of Malone has written a published letter to the editor of the Malone Telegram, Jan. 9, 2014, on the current slavery of Human Trafficking. Sister Sheila has also worked with the local librarian to create an exhibit on this subject.

- Both Sister Sheila and Sister Teresa Byrne, also of Malone, have participated in meetings of the North Country Human Trafficking Taskforce.

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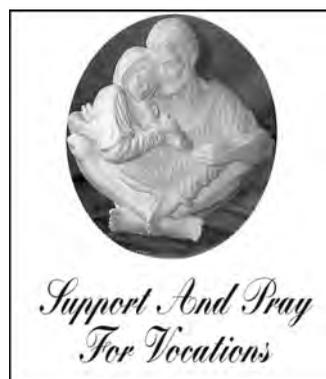
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*Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank retire as diocesan directors of Family Life Ministry*

# Rich legacy of loving service

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Staff Writer

Their names have become synonymous with Family Life ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and they leave behind a rich legacy of loving effort on behalf of marriage and families.

Newly-retired Family Life Directors Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank spoke with the *NCC* recently about what led them to this work, what it has meant to them, and what they hope to do in the months and years ahead.

Their journey began, appropriately, on Holy Family Sunday in 1969 when they were married at Sacred Heart Church in Watertown. Circumstances kept them in the area prior to traveling south to Gary's next Air Force assignment—so they criss-crossed northern New York as a wedding trip. Today they laugh over these "coincidences."

"It was providential that a couple married on Holy Family Sunday, who spent their honeymoon driving all over the Diocese of Ogdensburg, would someday spend so much of their married life doing just that - while traveling and ministering together across the same diocese," Gayle said.

In the years between that first trip and the hundreds that came later, the couple returned to Watertown, raised two sons, and served the Church in various ways: at Camp Guggenheim with youth and families, and Gayle, as DRE in various parishes and eventually as Diocesan Youth Director.

Always, though, "We became involved in Church ministry to help our two sons grow in their faith. We continued our involvement to help to make our families stronger and to build a stronger Church."

This concern became the couple's major focus when then-Bishop Gerald Barbarito appointed them full-time Family Life Directors 15 years ago.

"Our interview with Bishop Barabrito revealed that we had similar hopes for the families in our diocese, who were looking for ways to strengthen their faith and their families," Gayle said. "We tried to meet these needs through the implementation of things like 'Dinner for Two,' Family Forums, and Marriage Jubilee.

"We were also happy to offer our services to any parish looking for ways to bring the families of



PHOTO BY JARED AND DEBBIE PHOTOGRAPHY

**Gayle and Gary Frank, who retired as directors of family life ministry for the Diocese of Ogdensburg in December, reflected on their years of service on behalf of marriage and families.**

their parish together," she said.

This work, and the travel it required, was both demanding and rewarding. But, Gayle points out, "The joys of the position far outweighed the challenges, even with the daily two-hour commute to and from Ogdensburg.

"The sheer size of our diocese poses time and logistical problems when you want to be more than a voice on the phone or a message on a computer screen," she said. "Despite these limitations, helping others to minister was one of our greatest joys. So often couples in a parish needed the door opened just a little, and hopefully we were able to do that for them.

"Once they could see that putting on their own parish programs was possible, it gave them confidence to keep going," she said.

As they step down as Family Life Directors, the Franks recall that strengthening families was a recurrent theme in last year's diocesan envisioning

process.

"Our entire career has been to help build strong Catholic families, and to see this surfacing now as we retire brings mixed emotions," Gayle said. "We know so well that our Church needs to redouble its efforts to strengthen marriage and family life; Church vocations come from families faithfully living their own vocations. All families struggle with brokenness.

"We need to help families in their struggles, celebrate their joys, and comfort them in their sadness," she said. "Families are not perfect, but with God's grace we can all work together to help them recognize their own goodness and grow in holiness. We need to educate and invest in our families to help them understand the good news that the Church offers.

"Pope Francis, in calling for a Synod on the Family, is calling us to refocus on the new evangelization of our families," she said. "This is an answer to our prayers!"

As they step away from diocesan ministry, Deacon Gary and Gayle are full of gratitude for all the support they received through the years.

"The great ministry of Family Life would not have been possible without the great leadership of our fine bishops: Bishop Barbarito, who really put Family Life in the forefront, then Bishop Cunningham and now Bishop LaValley, from whom we have had so much support.

"The whole diocesan staff has been such a blessing," Gayle said. "The leadership, guidance, and wisdom of Msgr. John Murphy, our Vicar for so many years, have enriched our lives. The guidance of Father Kevin O'Brien during the transition has been most welcome."

Now, the Franks say, "There is certainly some sadness at leaving our diocesan position. But it is time to practice what we preach: spend more time with family, more time together as a couple just celebrating life! Plus, we look forward to becoming more integrated into the life of our own parish of St. Mary's in Clayton.

"To say that the past decades have been busy is an understatement," Gayle said. "The joys of ministry and ministering together have been such a blessing to our marriage. But sometimes in the busy-ness we have not taken the time just to BE. Now is the time for that."

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## 2014 PRE-CANA SCHEDULE

DEANERY	DATES	TIMES	LOCATIONS	AREA COORDINATORS
Adirondack	March 8*	9:00 am to 6:00 pm (limited to 15 couples)	St. Bernard's Grade School 63 River Street Saranac Lake	Chip and Kathy Samperi 72 Vista Drive Saranac Lake, NY 12983 (518) 891-7208
Clinton	April 26* or October 18*	9:00 am to 5:30 pm 9:00 am to 5:30 pm	TBA	Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader c/o Family Life Office, PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920
Franklin	March 29* or May 10*	8:30 am to 5:30 pm 8:30 am to 5:30 pm	St. Augustine's Church 2472 State Route 11 N. Bangor	Notre Dame Parish PO Box 547 Malone, NY 12953 (518) 483-1300
Lewis	March 2* or April 29 and May 6**	9:00 am to 5:00 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (dinner provided)	St. Peter's Church 5441 Shady Avenue Lowville	Tom and Linda Yousey 7718 North Shore Road Glenfield, NY 13343 (315) 376-7633
Jefferson	March 12 and 19**  May 7 and 14**  September 3 and September 10**	7:00 pm to 9:30 pm 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm	St. Anthony's Church 850 Arsenal Street Watertown, NY St. Mary's Church 521 James St. Clayton, NY Holy Family Church 129 Winthrop Street Watertown	David and Diana Sherman c/o Family Life Office PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920
St. Lawrence	March 5, 12, and 19**  April 2, 9, and 16**  May 14, 21 and 28**	6:30 pm to 9:30 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm	St. James School 20 S. Gordon Street Gouverneur St. Mary's School 2 Powers Street Canton Church of the Visitation 3 Morris Street Norfolk	Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader c/o Family Life Office PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 (315) 393-2920

Essex, Hamilton, and Herkimer: Please contact the Deanery Coordinator nearest your parish.

Please note: \* Attendance for the entire session is required. Lunch is provided.  
\*\* Attendance for multiple sessions is required.

## Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 20 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 21 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 22 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 23 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 24 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Feb. 25 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## Environmental Stewardship

*"Stewardship implies that we must both care for creation according to standards that are not of our own making and at the same time be resourceful in finding ways to make the earth flourish."*

US Catholic Bishops, "Renewing the Earth" 1991, p.6

## One simply way of conserving our energy one meal at a time...

The greatest expense on any utility bill at this time of year goes to the production of heat. The stove uses a significant amount of energy and conserving the heat used by this appliance can add up over a period of time. It is important to use a pan that completely covers the burner. If any of the surface of the burner is exposed to the air, heat energy is lost to the kitchen and not used in food preparation. Also, it is important not to use too large a pan, as empty space in a pan can quickly transfer heat energy to the air and reduce the efficiency of the stove in preparing a meal.

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## Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 19 – Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

Feb. 21 – Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

Feb. 22 – Rev. Edward Tortel, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. Peter H. J. Ryan, 1930

Feb. 23 – Rev. Leo Heinrichs, O.F.M., 1908; Rev. Edward Blanchard, 1922; Rev. André Payette, O.M.I., 1976

Feb. 24 – Rev. George Belanger, 1932; Rev. William J. Murphy, C.S.C.O., 1959

Feb. 25 – Rev. William Howard, 1888; Rev. James J. Duffy, 1912; Msgr. L. Kevin Connors, 1971

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](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 is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.

Upcoming programs:

Feb. 20 – 6 p.m., St. Mary's, Canton

Feb. 24 – 1 p.m., diocesan offices, Ogdensburg

Feb. 25 – 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

March 2 – 1:30 p.m., St. Alexander's, Morrisville

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If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: [ayc-snn@yahoo.com](mailto:ayc-snn@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401 or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

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# Relationship brings 'awe and gratitude'

*Young Saranac Lake couple reflects on first seven years of their marriage*

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Staff Writer

"I found genuine love when I found Allison," Leif Rozon says of his wife. "It was like discovering yourself in someone else."

Allison had a similar experience: "Being with Leif made me want to be with him more. I knew this one was different; he cared about my interests and goals and was able to talk about the future."

**Our marriage brought us closer to God... So much grace has come to me, to both of us, through our marriage!**

By the time Leif proposed atop Mt. Washington in 2006, their future was assured, and they were married June 2, 2007. Today they look back on their relationship with awe and gratitude.

In a way, that relationship began long before they met in 2005. Years earlier, Allison had begun praying for her future spouse when a youth conference speaker suggested young people do that.

"It seemed like a good thing to do, so I did it," she relates. "Later I learned that Leif was going through a nasty breakup at that very time."

Recalling that they were "both in rather broken spots in our lives when we met," the couple describes a courtship full of warmth, laughter, and the great outdoors - a time when they "started to grow up a bit more."

That process was helped by the miles that separated them, Leif explains. "I had just begun work as a corrections officer in the mid-Hudson region; Allison was still up here. So instead of cuddling on the couch, we had to talk to one another. You learn a lot more about somebody a lot more quickly

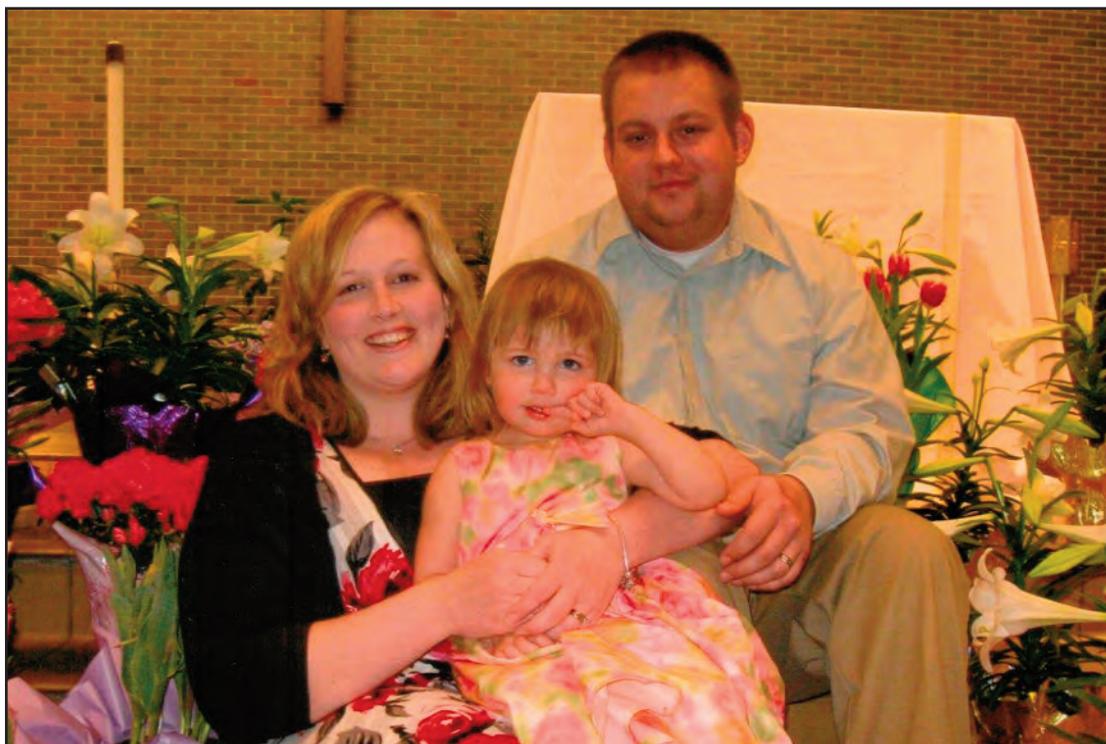


PHOTO SUPPLIED

Allison and Leif Rozon are shown with their daughter, Rachel, following Easter Mass at St. Bernard's Parish in Saranac Lake. Here they reflect on the importance of faith in their marriage.

when you are actually communicating!"

Among the things they discussed was faith.

"We were Christmas/Easter Catholics when we met," says Allison, "but we both realized we wanted more and started going to church. After we were married, we made a conscious effort to go every Sunday."

That began a "revert process" for the couple as they chose to learn more about and participate in the faith in which each had been raised.

"Our marriage brought us closer to God," Allison affirms. "Even though I knew a lot about Him before, He is now in my heart. So much grace has come to me, to both of us, through our marriage!"

Leif notes that joining the prayer group at their parish (St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake) made a big difference in their lives.

"The Life in the Spirit seminars really changed me," he said. "For one thing, I became adamantly pro-life! As an

adopted child, this was always a personal issue for me; I was never pro-choice. But now I found myself buying pro-life t-shirts and stickers and becoming more vocal in defending life. Another thing that changed was the music I listened to—it is now OK to talk about God and to sing His praises!"

"Taking Natural Family Planning classes was the other choice that really enriched our marriage," Allison explains. "I just wanted to know more about how my body works, and listening to Dr. Janet Smith's 'Contraception Why Not?' CD really got me thinking."

Leif had never heard of NFP until they attended Pre Cana. "The statistics on NFP effectiveness, and on various side effects of contraceptive methods, really caught my attention," he said. "It made me curious to know more—and the more we learned, it just seemed right. NFP is endorsed by the Church, but it also makes perfect sense.

"All this information is built right into our bodies—

we just have to become aware of it," he said. "With NFP, there is more fullness in giving ourselves to one another."

Another form of stewardship that has become important for this couple is financial. They credit pastor, Father Mark Reilly, with bringing Dave Ramsay's Financial Peace University to their parish.

"It taught us so much, and changed us so much," Allison relates. "It made us put first things first, and that means our giving to God is at the top."

Leif agrees, and adds that the movie, *Courageous*, also helped him rethink his priorities. "I think I connected with it because of being in law enforcement. But it really hit me hard: what is your job as a husband and father? Clearly, to get my wife and child to heaven!"

That child, four-year-old Rachel, is the greatest of blessings to her parents.

"How can you explain such joy?" Allison asks. "Becoming parents challenges you,

makes you better."

Leif is still amazed by the way parenthood encourages selflessness.

"It is just automatic to put your child first, without thinking," he said. "It is awesome that we have Rachel—a reminder of our love, always. Being parents takes love to a whole new level."

Leif and Allison have also had their challenges, like the need for healing from past relationships.

"We had to accept how those experiences affected trust and honesty in our marriage," says Allison. "We weren't the best version of ourselves."

Dealing with parental illnesses—heart attacks, cancer, mental health issues—has put extra pressure on the couple. Once they acknowledged the strain on each of them, they learned to cope better as a couple.

"It has taught us empathy," notes Allison, "and somehow always brings us closer to the Lord and to one another."

That desire to grow together recently led the couple to Marriage Encounter.

"Marriage Encounter's motto is to make good marriages better," explains Leif. "It made us feel like we were newly married, and we would recommend it to anybody."

Allison adds, "Grow together spiritually. Go to Mass on Sunday, connect to a parish family. Working on the PreCana team has helped us a lot, though we still have our struggles."

For Leif, "Faith is the big one. Be willing to go to Adoration, and to explore your Catholic faith using teachings from reliable sources!

"Today we could not imagine our life apart from God. Without our faith and our Church family, without God's grace, it is hard to think where we would be," he said.

"There is so much that we do not see, but God does. You can't see Divine Providence, but your eyes get opened!"

# NFP: the option of loving choice

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Diocesan NFP director

Perhaps you are newly married, or perhaps you are still busy getting ready for the big day. Issues and adjustments of all kinds demand your attention, and it is easy to let some things just slide. Even so, starting a new life together is the perfect time for the two of you to have a heart-to-heart talk about family planning.

Really? Wasn't that all settled at the doctor's office? Well, that is the first thing to consider: being a healthy fertile woman is not a dis-

ease that needs medical treatment. In fact, any woman can learn to understand her own fertility through easily observable physiologic signs. This knowledge gives her an entirely safe, highly effective (98-99%), healthy and readily reversible way to plan a family, simply by abstaining during the fertile time. Furthermore, since a woman is fertile only a few days in each cycle and a man is continuously fertile, it hardly makes sense that she should bear the burden of risky contraceptives.

So, yes: learn all you can, even if you may need a mag-

nifying glass to read the fine print in the package inserts. This information will alert you to some of the immediate medical hazards faced by women using the Pill and other chemical contraceptives, including Norplant, patches, rings, IUD's, Yaz, and Plan B. In addition to raising the risk of blood clots, heart attacks, stroke, gallbladder disease, and depression, these chemicals substantially increase the lifetime risk of breast cancer. (See [www.bcpinstitute.org](http://www.bcpinstitute.org) for more on the Pill/breast cancer link or <http://thepillkills.org> to learn more about the hundreds of side

effects associated with chemical contraceptives.) After all, knowing the facts is essential to good decision making.

And there are other things to consider as well—like the effect contraception can have on your relationship, especially in the long term. When you stand before God at the altar on your wedding day, you promise yourselves to one another in a love that is free, permanent, faithful, and fruitful.

This is the kind of love with which God loves us, and it is the unconditional love for which we all long. It is the love that God in-

tends should be embodied in every act of sexual intercourse, an act that by its nature says: "I love you. I give all of myself to you forever, and I accept all of you." Contracepted intercourse says something different: "I love you, but I withhold my fertility/I will not accept your fertility."

In this way, married love can become conditional and divisive rather than uniting the couple in complete and joyful acceptance of one another. Little wonder then, that the Church calls our attention to nature, to the way God made us, to that awesome design that allows us to live in harmony with our fertility. Natural Family Planning educates couples to recognize, record, and interpret the physical changes that reveal the fertile window in each cycle. The couple then uses this knowledge to postpone or to achieve pregnancy according to their family planning intention in a way that is safe, healthy, and effective. NFP is a lifestyle that has the potential to enrich couple communication, deepen their love, and strengthen their faith and families.

Modern methods of Natural Family Planning have been developed through more than half a century of careful scientific and statistical research. A variety of methodologies offer real choices for couples wanting to learn and live Natural Family Planning. From in-person to online classes, from CyclePro charting software to new apps, NFP is more accessible than ever before. But in any form, NFP remains the option of choice for couples concerned with respecting nature, one another, and the loving plan of the Creator.

[To learn more about natural family planning go to [www.rcdony.org/nfp](http://www.rcdony.org/nfp) or contact the Diocesan NFP Office: [apietropaoli@rcdony.org](mailto:apietropaoli@rcdony.org) or (518)483-0459.]

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Pope Francis to engaged couples:

# After 'I do,' comes 'may I, thank you, sorry'

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Greeting thousands of engaged couples on the feast of St. Valentine, Pope Francis told them not to be afraid of building a permanent and loving relationship in a culture where everything is disposable and fleeting.

The secrets to a loving and lasting union, he said, include treating each other with respect, kindness and gratitude, and never letting daily struggles and squabbles sabotage making peace and saying, "I'm sorry."

"The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect

husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law!" he said to laughter and applause.

**The perfect family doesn't exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife, and let's not talk about the perfect mother-in-law!**

"It's just us sinners," he said. But "if we learn to say we're sorry and ask forgiveness, the marriage will last."

After a week of heavy rains, bright sunshine warmed St. Peter's Square and the 30,000 people who

gathered for an audience Feb. 14 dedicated to couples completing their marriage preparation courses and planning to be married in the church this year.

The initiative, "The Joy of 'Yes' Forever," was organized by the Pontifical Council for the Family. The council president, Italian Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, is a former bishop of Terni and successor to St. Valentine -- the third-century martyred bishop of Terni.

The archbishop told the pope that the young couples in the square were evidence of how many people do want to "go against the tide" by having a love that lasts forever and is blessed by God.

Engaged couples attending the audience received a small white pillow with Pope Francis' signature and his papal crest; the cushion has two satin ribbons for securing wedding rings during the marriage ceremony.

Three of the couples shared with the pope their thoughts and concerns about living a Christian marriage and asked for his advice.

While the pope confessed he had the questions in advance and wrote out his answers, that didn't stop him from straying from the text to give further emphasis and examples.

"Living together is an art, a patient, beautiful and amazing journey" that "doesn't

end when you've won over each others' hearts," he said. Rather "that's exactly when it begins!"

A healthy family life, he said, absolutely requires frequent use of three phrases: "May I? Thank you, and I'm sorry."

People need to be more attentive to how they treat each other, he said. They must trade in their heavy "mountain boots" for greater delicacy when walking into someone else's life.

Love isn't tough or aggressive, he said, it's courteous and kind, and in a world that is "often violent and aggressive, we need much more courtesy."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



*Diocese of Ogdensburg Family Life Office  
Helping to build strong families with programs and  
activities that strengthen family life.*

## Family Guggenheim

Session 1: August 14-17 Session 2: August 21-24  
Session 3: October 10-12

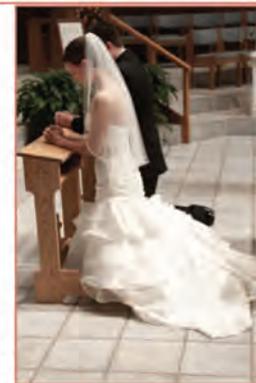


## Marriage Preparation Programs

For more information  
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or contact Deacon Henry &

Dayna Leader at [dleader@rcdony.org](mailto:dleader@rcdony.org)

Natural Family Planning information call  
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For more information on these events, please contact the Family Life Office 315-393-2920  
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# After 'I do'

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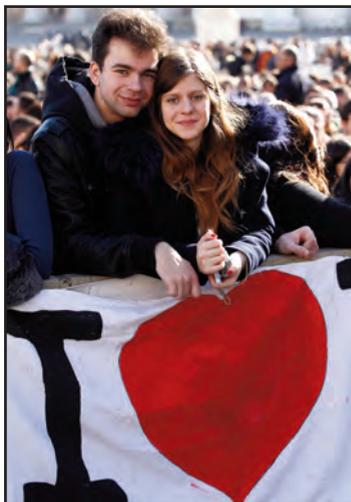
Couples also need the strength to recognize when they've done wrong and ask forgiveness. The "instinct" to accuse someone else "is at the heart of so many disasters," starting with Adam, who ate the forbidden fruit. When God asked him if he did it, the pope said, Adam immediately passes the blame saying, "Uh, no, it was that one over there who gave it to me! Accusing the other to get out of saying 'I'm sorry' and 'Pardon me.'"

Obviously, couples will make mistakes and fight, but "never, never, never end the day without making peace," the pope said.

An eloquent speech isn't necessary, he said, but things must be set right because if they aren't, the bad feelings inside will become "cold and hard and it will be more difficult to make peace" as time goes on.

Many people can't imagine or are afraid of a love and marriage that lasts forever because they think love is an emotional-physical feeling or state-of-being, he said. But "love is a relationship, it's something that grows."

The relationship needs to



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**An engaged couple wait for the start of Pope Francis' Valentine Day audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 14.**

be taken care of every day, "entrusting yourselves to the Lord Jesus in a life that becomes a daily spiritual journey, made step by step, tiny steps" toward greater maturity and spiritual growth, he said.

Like his miracle of multiplying the loaves, Jesus will do the same "also for you," he said, "multiplying your love and giving it to you good and fresh every day."

The pope also urged couples to keep their wedding

ceremonies low-key, focusing more on Christ than on the dress, decorations and photographers.

A Christian marriage is a celebration, but it must highlight "what's really important," and "the true reason for your joy: the blessing of your love by the Lord."

Manuela Franchini, 29, and Armando Perasole, 30, who are getting married Dec. 12, attended the event. They moved from Naples to Milan for work, and told Catholic News Service that economic and political problems in Italy make it "really hard for families. But with the church there is more hope in being able to make it."

Robert Duncan, who is a multimedia journalist at the Catholic News Service Rome bureau, and his fiancée, Constance Daggett, were one of the handful of couples chosen to speak about their journeys of faith and love, and to meet the pope.

The two 25-year-olds became Catholics as adults and Duncan said, "The fact that we're able to begin our marriage in the presence of the pope is a culmination of a process that has been the story of our love."

# Pope names bishop for Albany Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., and named Msgr. Edward B. Scharfenberger, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., to succeed him.

The appointment and Bishop Hubbard's resignation were announced Feb. 11 in Washington by Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Hubbard is 75, the age at which canon law requires bishops to turn in their resignation to the pope. He was named to head the Albany Diocese in 1977, when he was 38. At that time, he was the youngest bishop in the nation.

Bishop-designate Scharfenberger's episcopal ordination and installation is scheduled for April 10 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.

Bishop Hubbard called it a privilege to have served so many years as head of the Albany Diocese, with its cities, towns, villages, suburban and rural communities spread over 10,000 square miles, "stretching from the Pennsylvania border to the Vermont border; from the Massachusetts state line to the Utica City line; from the northern Catskills to the southern Adirondacks."

"It is an area blessed with not only magnificent physical beauty but most important with the rich and vibrant spiritual splendor of its 350,000 priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful," the bishop said in a statement.

He said all in the diocese greeted Bishop-designate Scharfenberger, 65, "with warmth, hospitality and a sincere desire to be attentive and responsive to his leadership as our shepherd."

In his statement, the bishop-designate said he was "touched by the warm welcome of Bishop Hubbard."

"My heart is full of gratitude to God for my loving family, especially my 93-year-old parents, who were generous enough to welcome me, my two brothers and two sisters into this world," Bishop-designate Scharfenberger said. "They taught us how to pray, to trust God and to know Jesus as our friend. Their continuous example shows us that the essence of love is sacrifice."

Ordained for the Brooklyn Diocese in 1973, he has been vicar for strategic planning from the diocese since 2009. He also has been vicar for the Queens area of Brooklyn Diocese since last year. He has been a pastor, judicial vicar for the diocesan tribunal and promoter of justice for the tribunal.

Born in Brooklyn May 29, 1948, Bishop-designate Scharfenberger studied for the priesthood in Rome, earning a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical North American College in Rome and a licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Lateran University's Accademia Alfonsiana, also in Rome.

He also holds a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America in Washington and a law degree from Fordham University in New York. He was named a monsignor in 1995.

Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio said Bishop-designate Scharfenberger has been a close collaborator and friend and is "a good priest ... primarily concerned about people and is untiring in finding new ways to proclaim the message of redemption which is at the heart of the Gospel."



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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Bishops: Ruling on Virginia ban 'strips marriage of intrinsic meaning'

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) -- A federal judge's decision to strike down Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional has dealt "a severe blow to the citizens of our commonwealth," two Catholic bishops said in a Feb. 14 statement. "In striking down Virginia's constitutional amendment affirming the institution of marriage as a union between a man and a woman, Judge (Arenda) Wright Allen has not only totally ignored our state's rights under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, she has also redefined marriage to the peril and detriment of our society," said Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond and Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington. Their statement was released by the Virginia Catholic Conference in Richmond, the bishops' public policy arm. Wright Allen of the U.S. District Court in Norfolk issued her decision late Feb. 13 in a lawsuit brought on behalf of two Virginia couples. One couple, Timothy Bostic and Tony London, have lived together for 20 years and were denied a marriage license in summer 2013 by Norfolk Circuit Court clerk. The other couple, Mary Townley and Carol Schall, were married in California and want Virginia to recognize their marriage. Wright Allen ruled the Virginia Constitution's same-sex marriage ban violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. Bishops DiLorenzo and Loverde said her decision "contradicts the wisdom and understanding of the ages. It strips marriage of its intrinsic meaning and converts it into nothing more than an arrangement that recognizes a voluntary relationship between any two consenting adults."

## New stem-cell method offers alternative to embryonic research

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- A new method of creating versatile stem cells from a relatively simple manipulation of existing cells could further reduce the need for any stem-cell research involving human embryos, according to leading ethicists. Although the process has only been tested in mice, two studies published Jan. 29 in the journal *Nature* detailed research showing success with a process called stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency, or STAP. Scientists from Japan's RIKEN research institute and Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston were able to reprogram blood cells from newborn mice by placing them in a low-level acidic bath for 30 minutes. Seven to 9 percent of the cells subjected to such stress returned to a state of pluripotency and were able to grow into other types of cells in the body. "If this technology proves feasible with human cells, which seems likely, it will offer yet another alternative for obtaining highly flexible stem cells without relying on the destructive use of human embryos," said Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. "This is clearly a positive direction for scientific research." Father Pacholczyk, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., who holds a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University, said the only "potential future ethical issue" raised by the new STAP cells would be if scientists were to coax them into "a new degree of flexibility beyond classical pluripotency," creating cells "with essential characteristics of embryos and the propensity to develop into the adult organism."

## VATICAN LETTER

# A turbulent year that strengthened the papacy

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - When Pope Benedict XVI announced, on Feb. 11, 2013, that he would become the first pope in nearly 600 years to resign, speculation was as varied as it was excited about the long-term consequences of his historic act. But one common line of thought held that, for better or worse, his decision might leave the papacy a less exalted and powerful office, bringing the supreme pontiff closer to the level of other bishops, clergy and faithful.

Might the presence of two living popes inside the Vatican sow confusion over where governing authority actually lay, or, at least, dilute the prestige of the unique role of vicar of Christ?

Might the precedent of resignation make it easier to drive a future pope from office, thus introducing a new kind of political pressure into the leadership of the church?

The background of Pope Benedict's decision added to the sense of crisis. Although the 85-year-old pope said he was stepping down due to deteriorating "strength of mind and body," it was easy to believe that a year of scandal and controversy - over leaked correspondence documenting corruption and incompetence in the Vatican - had helped convince him he was "no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry."

From that assumption, it was a small stretch to wonder whether the demands of the 21st-century papacy - in terms of communications, management and travel -- had grown too heavy for any man, especially one as old as most popes.

When the newly elected Pope Francis stepped out on the loggia in front of St. Peter's Basilica on the evening of March 13, 2013, his words and gestures seemed to encourage predictions of a downscaled papacy. The new pontiff broke with usual practice by asking for the people's blessing before he gave them his own, and referred to himself simply as the bishop of Rome.

Was Pope Francis signaling his intention to play a less commanding role than his predecessors, demoting himself to the status of first among episcopal equals, in a move toward some sort of democratization of the church?

The prospect of a weakened papacy may have seemed plausible in the wake of Pope Benedict's announcement, but over the subsequent year, the world has watched his successor assert his leadership in ways that have made the office only stronger.

With his informal charisma, plain speak-

ing and spontaneous style, Pope Francis quickly garnered colossal popularity, whether measured by record turnouts at papal events or by the intensive and almost entirely favorable coverage by secular media. Within the Vatican, the pope has not hesitated to replace officials in key positions and launch a process leading to a major overhaul of the church's central administration, the Roman Curia.

While Pope Francis has stressed the importance of collegiality, or consultation with his brother bishops, his institutional application of that principle has so far taken the form of the Council of Cardinals, an eight-member panel he named to advise him on reform of the Vatican bureaucracy and governance of the universal church.

By streamlining the process through which recommendations from bishops reach the pope, the council has only made it easier for him to make executive decisions in his own name, such as the establishment of a special commission on sex abuse, which he approved in December less than a day after hearing the proposal.

Pope Francis has spoken of the importance of the Synod of Bishops, but his most eloquent statement on its role may be his apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium," published in November in response to the October 2012 synod on the new evangelization. Previous popes have typically based such documents on a draft by synod officials, which synthesized recommendations by bishops at the gathering. Pope Francis scrapped the draft provided to him and wrote his own document, in his distinctive voice and focusing on his concerns.

Even the presence of the retired pope, living quietly in his successor's shadow within the Vatican walls, has proven not a hindrance to Pope Francis but instead a major asset. Pope Francis has told reporters that he consults with his predecessor as he would with a "wise grandfather."

No less importantly from the point of view of the faithful, the two men's affectionate relationship has reinforced a sense of fundamental continuity between their pontificates, despite their striking stylistic differences when it comes to evangelization and celebration of the liturgy.

For all of Pope Francis' virtues as a leader, the strength of the office he holds today ultimately owes even more to his predecessor, who affirmed its importance in the very act of resigning. No words or gestures could have demonstrated more powerfully that the pope is not a mere figurehead, but truly the leader of 1.2 billion people than Pope Benedict's admission that a stronger man was needed to fill the role.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Challenged to be the best that we can be

Young people need challenges in order to grow. "Go for the gold" is not just for Olympic contenders. It's for all of us.

All three of today's Sunday readings shout out to us that challenge.

God, speaking through Moses, says to the whole house of Israel, "Be holy, for I the Lord, your God, am holy".

It's a call to love one's neighbor as oneself, and not to hold any kind of grudge, or ever to seek revenge.

God will give us a gold medal if we measure up!

In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that He has not come to destroy the Law that His Father laid down centuries before, but that He came on earth to fulfill that law.

His new law and covenant will go even further.

As we resume hearing the Sermon on the Mount this week Jesus goes into detail. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" was the standard rule under the

Mosaic law.

It meant that a pious Jew could retaliate an injury to the extent that his neighbor had injured him. If a neighbor knocked out one of your

teeth, you could only knock out one of his teeth in retribution!

But Jesus taught his followers not to retaliate at all!

In fact, if a Roman soldier commanded you to carry his baggage for a mile, which was allowed by law, then Jesus' followers were to go with the soldier for two miles.

Even today, we admire the person who goes the extra mile for someone.

Jesus' listeners must have scoffed at Jesus when He told them not only to love your neighbor, but to love your enemies as well!

While that may have seemed absurd foolishness, we all know that keeping our distance, and viewing our enemy as somehow sub-



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

FEB. 23

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

human, doesn't get us anywhere.

Treating our enemy with compassion can often bring about a reconciliation, and even turn our enemy into a friend.

How can we ever possibly get the grace and strength to follow Jesus' advice?

Today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us how. First, he tells us that we are stronger and holier than we

think. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

Incredible! Talk about bolstering our confidence in ourselves to become perfect!

Then St. Paul tells us not be worried if society thinks us fools for acting on Jesus' advice. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God..." When we act according to God's wisdom, then we belong to Christ, and Christ can act through us.

Jesus' teaching changes our whole attitude toward those with whom we live and work. It brings not only spiritual health to ourselves, but a more peaceful world for our society.

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

## Difficult moral decisions in brain death, pregnancy

CNN recently profiled the case of a woman named Marlise Munoz, who was both pregnant and brain dead. Its report noted that Mrs. Munoz was "33 years old and 14 weeks pregnant with the couple's second child when her husband found her unconscious on their kitchen floor Nov. 26.

Though doctors had pronounced her brain dead and her family had said she did not want to have machines keep her body alive, officials at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, argued state law required them to maintain life-sustaining treatment for a pregnant patient."

The family sought a court order to have Mrs. Munoz disconnected from the ventilator because she had shared that she never wanted to be on life support. It remained unclear, however, whether Mrs. Munoz would have felt the same way about life support

if she knew she were pregnant and nurturing a child.

As weeks on the ventilator turned into months, Mrs. Munoz began to manifest overt signs of death: her skin texture changed, becoming cool and rubbery like a mannequin's, and her body began to smell of deterioration.

Maintaining a mother's corpse on a ventilator requires significant effort and expense, and imposes real burdens on family members, who would like to be able to grieve their loss, and are not fully able to do so while their loved one remains in a state of suspended animation - deceased, yet not quite ready to be buried because she is still supporting a living child.

Mrs. Munoz's case raises challenging questions: should the continued use of a ventilator in these circumstances be considered extreme? Could such

life-sustaining measures be considered abusive of a corpse?

These are hard questions, in part because people can give their bodies over to a variety of uses after they die. Some donate them to science, so students can open them up, look around inside and learn about anatomy. Others donate their organs to help strangers who need transplants.

Similarly, a mother's corpse - no longer useful to her - may be life-saving for her child. Wouldn't a mother, carrying a child in her womb, and having expended so much effort to foster that new life, naturally want to offer her child this opportunity to live, even after her own death?

The medical literature documents several cases

where such a child has been delivered later by C-section and fared well. Thus it can clearly be reasonable in certain situations for medical professionals to make a serious effort to shuttle a pregnancy to the point of viability, for the benefit of the sole remaining patient, i.e. the child.

As Mrs. Munoz's pregnancy approached 22 weeks (with 23 weeks generally being considered "viable" for life outside the womb), lawyers for the family declared that the child was "distinctly abnormal," with significant deformities in the lower extremities. The child was also reported to suffer from hydrocephalus and a possible heart defect.

Some commentators even speculated that the defects of the unborn child may

have been "incompatible with life."

In prenatal cases, depending on the likelihood of survival until viability, efforts may be made to at least offer a C-section and provide baptism. Often the family, with the assistance of perinatal hospice, can hold and name their child right after such a delivery, even as his or her brief life draws to a close. This can provide valuable healing and closure for the family.

Whether Mrs. Munoz's unborn child (later named Nicholas by her father) had defects that were genuinely "incompatible with life," or whether she would have simply been born with handicaps, is an important question. Extensive prenatal testing was rendered difficult by the machine-driven, ICU-bound body of Mrs. Munoz.

The possibility that a child might be born with handi-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

## AT THE MOVIES

# 'Son of God' movie is 'a love story,' say producers

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The upcoming movie "Son of God" should be seen as "a love story," according to two of its executive producers, the husband-and-wife team of Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.

"This really is a love story - the greatest love story ever told," Downey said.

The couple brought the 10-hour miniseries "The Bible" to television last year, garnering sizable ratings on the History cable channel.

Among those 10 hours was the story of Jesus. But Burnett and Downey decided even before the miniseries was televised that they would make a separate movie focusing on Jesus.

"Son of God" premieres in theaters nationwide Feb. 28. It tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of an elderly St. John - the only apostle who did not meet a martyr's fate - on the isle of Patmos.

The film portrays the same kind of brutality seen in "The Passion of the Christ" a decade ago, although it's concealed or suggested, as it had been in the miniseries.

"Son of God" is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "intense and bloody depiction of the

Crucifixion, and for some sequences of violence." Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Downey did not dwell on the violent aspect of the movie, but in comparing the two films noted Mel Gibson's film presupposes the viewer knows the story of Jesus, as it begins with Holy Thursday.

"Son of God," though, begins with Jesus' birth, and through the signs and wonders he performs in the first hour of the movie, Downey said, "you get a chance to fall in love with him all over again."

During a Feb. 4 interview with Catholic News Service while Downey and Burnett were in Washington to promote the movie, Downey said the endorsement of religious leaders is a big help.

Two Catholic prelates have endorsed "Son of God": Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles. High-profile Protestant leaders endorsing the film include Bishop T.D. Jakes and the Rev. Rick Warren. "Cardinal Wuerl has been so much of a help to us," she added.

Burnett said the Anti-Defamation League had also given its own stamp of approval, based in large part on the depiction of events that lead up to Jesus' death: Pontius Pilate having been the

fourth Roman governor of a politically restive Judea in the last 20 years; Jerusalem's temple leaders, embodied by Caiaphas, being aware of Pilate's threat to shut down the temple, even at Passover, if Jewish unrest is not tamped down; and the arrival into the holy city of a Nazarene miracle-worker whose reputation precedes him.

Burnett added his hope that "Son of God" audiences "could actually see themselves as the disciples" in this stew of political intrigue.

One of Downey's favorite moments in the movie is not from the dramatic side of the movie, but something that wasn't even in the script. In a scene presaging Jesus' feeding of the five thousand, Jesus and the Apostles are in a boat near the coastline. Children running along the shore wave to Jesus, and Jesus (Diogo Morgado) waves back and smiles.

"That wasn't Jesus waving," Downey said. "That was Diogo waving."

"We got so much feedback (after the miniseries) from people saying they like what Diogo Morgado brought to the role," she said.

She added that she thought it fortuitous that a Latin American was cast as Jesus -- Morgado is Brazilian -- as the Argentine-born Pope Francis was chosen to lead the Catholic Church.



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Diogo Morgado stars in a scene from the movie "Son of God." The upcoming movie should be seen as "a love story," according to two of its executive producers, the husband-and-wife team of Mark Burnett and Roma Downey.

## 'Opportunity for evangelization'

By Marika Donders  
Diocesan director of evangelization

Before we can catechize people, we need to introduce them to Jesus and the story of our salvation. He is the center of our faith, the foundation without which the rest of church teachings do not make any sense.

Archbishop Gomez of Los Angeles said that the movie "gives us an opportunity to be more aware of God's presence in our lives."

### *Son of God* to play at Regal Salmon Run Mall in Watertown

On Feb. 28, the movie *Son of God* will be released. It will be screened in the North Country in at the Regal Salmon Run in Watertown. Many of us have friends or family who may not want to come to church with us, but they would be willing to come to the movies.

This movie is a wonderful evangelization opportunity allowing people to see and hear the story again, or perhaps for the first time, in a beautiful film.

The movie can also be a jumping off point for catechesis or discussion of foundational themes of our faith. The Archdiocese of Washington has produced short catechetical video guides to accompany the movie, and there is a Catholic Companion Reflection Guide that can be downloaded to help guide discussions about six foundational themes in the movie: Creation, the Incarnation, the Call of St. Peter, Walking on Water, the Last Supper, and Jesus' Confrontation with Pilate.

For more information and trailers about the movie *Son of God* see [www.sonofgodmovie.com](http://www.sonofgodmovie.com) as well as the Office of Evangelization blog: [www.rcdony.org/evangelization/blog](http://www.rcdony.org/evangelization/blog).

## Difficult

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

caps, of course, should not become the equivalent of a death sentence for the unborn, as members of the disability community are quick to remind us. We should love and welcome those with disabilities as much as anyone else.

Public reaction to Mrs. Munoz's case ranged from strong support and hope

that her child would be born, to claims that hospital officials were treating her deceased body as an incubator to "preserve the fetus she carried."

In the end, a judge in Fort Worth ordered Mrs. Munoz's corpse to be disconnected from life support, even though the pregnancy had been successfully maintained for nearly two

months and Nichole was a mere stone's throw from viability.

While it was clearly a difficult and heart-wrenching situation for all involved, including the courts, this legal decision seemed questionable, given the uncertainty surrounding Nichole's actual medical condition and her apparent proximity to being able to be delivered.

**ADIRONDACK**

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Lake Placid** – Rummage sale to be held.  
**Date:** March 15  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Agnes School Gym  
**Features:** Reserve a table for \$20, sell and keep the profits or donations can be dropped off at St. Agnes School.  
**Contact:** For more information, please contact Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771 or at info@stagneselementary.com

**PARISH NURSE TRAINING**

**Lake Placid** – Mercy Care of the Adirondacks will offer the Foundations Course for Faith Community Nursing for Parish Nursing.  
**Date:** April 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22  
**Trainer:** Sister Catherine Cummins, RSM, Ed.D., R.N.  
**Features:** Open to registered nurses of all faiths no cost to participants but pre-registration is required. The parish nurse offers assistance in obtaining community services, helps with understanding diagnoses, medications and diagnostic tests, brings nursing experience and faith to the service of others.  
**Contact:** To register for the course or request more information, please contact Sister Catherine Cummings at 523-5582 or ccummings@adkmercy.org.

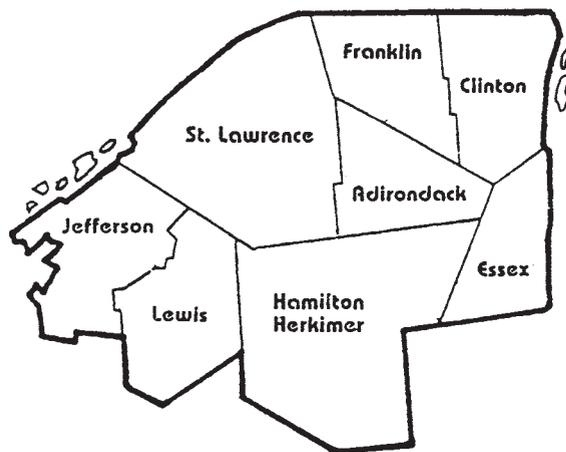
**CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP**

**Saranac Lake** – A Catholic Men's Group meets on the first Saturdays of the month for a time of fellowship, prayer, and discussion.  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10  
**Place:** St. Bernard's Chapel  
**Features:** Mass followed by coffee and refreshment, discussion and prayer.  
**Contact:** Fr. Mark Reilly, 518-891-4616

**CLINTON**

**REGIONAL YOUTH NIGHT**

**Plattsburgh** – A second Diocesan Regional Youth Night will feature Mass and Mardi Gras masquerade. (The first Was in Gouverneur in December)  
**Date:** March 1  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 8  
**Place:** St. Peter's Church and Seton Academy  
**Features:** Food and fellowship. You can decorate a mask to wear, make wrist rosaries or play basketball. There will be a brief presentation on Our Lady of Guadeloupe. R.S.V.P.'s are helpful for planning but not mandatory. To R.S.V.P. please return permission form to the youth office, otherwise have it with you when you arrive.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
**North Country Catholic**, PO Box 326,  
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
 e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

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

**CHICKEN 'N BISCUIT DINNER**

**Treadwell Mills** – A Chicken 'n biscuit dinner to be sponsored by CDA Court St. Kateri & St Brother Andre' 2663.  
**Date:** Feb. 23  
**Time:** Noon to 5 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Joseph's Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$5; Toddlers, Free

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**West Chazy** – Annual all you can eat pancake breakfast to be held, sponsored by St. Joseph's Men's Club.  
**Date:** March 9  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Place:** Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$6.50; Children 6-10, \$3; under 5, Free

**PARISH DINNER**

**Plattsburgh** – Our Lady of Victory to have a spaghetti dinner.  
**Date:** March 15  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:45  
**Place:** Our Lady of Victory Parish Gym  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Kids, \$5

**RUMMAGE SALE**

**Mooers Forks** – The Mooers K of C Auxiliary will be sponsoring a rummage sale.  
**Schedule:** March 21 – 22, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; March 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Ann's Church Hall

**LENTEN ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – St. Peter's Church will offer weekday adoration during Lent.  
**Schedule:** Beginning Ash Wednesday after the noon daily Mass and end with

Benediction at 7 p.m. on Wednesday of Holy Week. Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Fri after 7 a.m. Mass to 7 p.m. Mon, after 7 a.m. Mass to 9 p.m.  
**Contact:** To sign up for adoration, call the rectory at 563-1692 or stop in the Chapel anytime during adoration hours.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold a Pancake Breakfast.  
**Date:** March 2  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$3; under 5, Free  
**Features:** All you can eat pancake, real maple syrup, sausage, scrambled eggs, home fries, coffee, orange juice or milk.

**QUILTING CLASSES**

**Ellenburg Center** - The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop is holding classes  
**Charm Quilt Class:** Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30; Debbie Baldwin, Instructor; Cost: \$15 - does not include material; Call 518-594-3253 or email to register  
**Through the Year Wall Hanging:** March 15, 22, and 29; Rita Breen, Instructor; Cost: \$40 for all 3 classes. Call or email to reserve a spot by March 1. Class size is limited to 7.  
**Sew Together:** any Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3. This is a quilting group designed to share ideas, help fellow quilters, teach beginners. Bring a bag lunch if you come for the day.  
**Contact:** The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop, Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer,

7270 Star Road, Ellenburg Center, 518-594-3253, olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

**HEALING MINISTRY**

**Morrisonville** - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's announces the addition of Living Waters Healing Ministry to the Parish.  
**Date:** First Thursday each month  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Alexander's Church  
**Features:** Healing Mass, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.  
**Place:** St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

**ESSEX**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER**

**Elizabethtown** – St. Elizabeth's Church will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.  
**Date:** March 16  
**Time:** 2 p.m. to 6  
**Place:** Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$11; Children under 12, \$5  
**Features:** Corned Beef or Ham. Take-Outs available after 1:30 p.m. Tickets for a cash raffle and other items will be available

**FRANKLIN**

**DINNER THEATER**

**Brushton** – The North Franklin Theater Group and St. Mary's Church present its Annual Dinner Theater.  
**Date:** March 1  
**Time:** 6 p.m. (plan to arrive around 5:30)  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Cost:** \$28 per person prepaid (must be received by Feb. 20, no refunds after this date)  
**Menu:** Cream of Broccoli Soup, Roast Turkey or Roast Pork; Stuffing, mashed potatoes, carrots, garden salad, rolls, dessert and beverage.  
**Contact:** Eileen Miller at 518-529-7713 to make reservations.

**JEFFERSON**

**LENTEN LOOK A VATICAN II**

**Evans Mills** – St. Mary's Parish will hold a Lenten Look at Vatican II  
**Date:** 4 successive Wednesdays beginning March 12  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Program:** *Lumen Gentium* will be the focus of presentations by Father Tom Kornmeyer, pastor, and Deacon Pat Donahue. A one-hour talk on some aspect of the document will open each session followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussion, then Benediction.  
**Registration:** Parishioners and Catholics from outside the parish are welcome to attend. All are asked to register by March 9 at 629-4678.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

**IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL  
 MYSTERY PLAYERS  
 LENT 2014**

Date	Place		Time
MARCH 9	SUMMIT VILLAGE	WATERTOWN	7:00 P.M.
MARCH 16	ST. CECILIA'S	ADAMS	7:00 P.M.
MARCH 21	ST. JOHN'S	PLATTSBURGH	8:00 P.M.
MARCH 22	ST. BERNARD'S	SARANAC LAKE	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 28	ST. JOSEPH'S	MALONE	7:30 P.M.
MARCH 30	ST. PAUL'S	BLACK RIVER	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 4	ST. JAMES	GOVERNEUR	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 6	ST. CRYL'S	ALEX BAY	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 12	ST. PIUS X	LOUDONVILLE	7:30 P.M.
APRIL 13	HOLY FAMILY	NAZARETH, PA	7:00 P.M.
APRIL 14	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	OTTSVILLE, PA	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 15	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD	MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 16	ST. ROSE OF LIMA	NEWTOWN, CT	8:00 P.M.
APRIL 18	ST. PATRICK'S	WATERTOWN	8:00 P.M.

www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

# Meeting in Peru

By Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ  
Diocesan mission director

The wedding issue of the *North Country Catholic* gives me a reason to reflect upon the life today of a couple who received the Sacrament of Matrimony from a relationship that began in Mollendo, Peru.

In May 2003 I was invited by Father George Maroun, then Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru. The Peruvians were happy to see their former pastor, Father Maroun and other diocesan priests who traveled to Mollendo for the celebration.

The Peruvians warmly welcomed us at a party with dancing and food typical of Peru. One young lady, Veronica, was telling me about herself and hoping to learn some English while I was venturing to understand some Spanish. Veronica invited Paul into the conversation. Paul became very interested in Veronica's story. Likewise, Veronica wanted to know something about Paul. She quickly asked, "Is Paul a priest?" I assured her that he was not a priest. He was Paul Martin, the great nephew of Father Roger Martin who was one of the first priests from the diocese to serve in Mollendo. The brief introduction led to Veronica and Paul "Samba Dancing" the night away.

Paul returned to the USA and time passed each hoping that they would receive a letter from the other. Finally, Veronica wrote to Paul and the correspondence continued through letters, emails and the sharing of family pictures.

Paul visited Veronica in Mollendo several times. Never doubting their love for each other, there were mixed feelings about marriage for them with the distance between North America and South America, the language barrier and the cultural differences. Over time the relationship grew into plans for marriage with blessings from their parents. In May 2008 Veronica Sanchez became Mrs. Paul Martin in Paul's home parish in Connecticut.

In June 2013 I was blessed to return to Mollendo to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Martin de Porras Parish. A highlight of my visit was to spend time with Veronica and Paul, as they reminisced about the blessings that being introduced to each other ten years ago has brought into their lives. Through prayer and the blending of their cultural differences they are deepening their relationship as well as assuming the loving role of parents to Valerie and Paul, Jr.

It brought joy to my heart to hear Veronica and Paul say that I brought them together. While we know that every couple has the story of how they met, we trust that through the Sacrament of Matrimony the God who truly brings them together will be their source of strength in joys and sorrows.



Paul and Veronica Martin

## OBITUARIES

### Rita T. Demarais

**LYON MOUNTAIN**—A Mass of Christian Burial for Rita T. Demarais, 81, mother of Father Garvin Demarais of Ellenburg Depot, was held Feb. 12 at St. Bernard's Church.

She died Feb. 8 at CVPH Medical Center; a spring burial will take place at St. Edmund's Cemetery in Ellenburg.

Mrs. Demarais was born Aug. 12 1932, in Cannons Corners, the daughter of the late Eldemore and Bertha (Gadway) Decoste.

She was a communicant of St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain. She enjoyed spending time and cooking for her family. She especially enjoyed visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also enjoyed going to the mall and having coffee with friends.

In addition to Father Demarais, she is survived by a son and daughter in law, Daniel and Rita Demarais of Ellenburg Depot; four daughters and sons-in-law, Joanne and Dale Boulrice of Ellenburg Depot, Arlene and Bill Loughan of Champlain, Sally and Alvin Canning of Chazy Lake, Annette and Randy Manor of Ellenburg Depot; siblings, Victor and Sharon Decoste of Burlington, Vt., Lawrence and Valerie Decoste of East Greenbush, Sandra and Michael Bechard of Chazy, Gary and Linda Decoste of Mooers, Linda and Wayne Supernaw of Mooers; nine grandchildren, Jared, Jessica, Justin, Danielle, Melissa, Cortney, Ashley, Adam and Jordan; her great-grandchildren, Lucas, Brady, Zaedyn, Kaze, Evias, Ellery, Wesley, Ansley, Brandon, and Taylor; several nieces and nephews.

Her husband, Samuel L. Demarais, died in 2000. She was also pre-deceased by her brothers, Raymond Decoste, Marcel Decoste, Esmond Decoste, Leon Decoste, Arthur

Decoste, and Lionel Decoste. Online condolences and memorial candles may be offered at [www.brownfuneral-homeinc.com](http://www.brownfuneral-homeinc.com)

**Black River**—Harry C. "Hoddy" Hayes, 93; Funeral Services Feb. 14, 2014 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls**—Kathleen D. (DeLaPorte) McDonald, 93; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2014 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Clayton**—George E. Leavery, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2014 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ellenburg**—Leona O. (DuBrey) Rebideau, 95; Funeral Services Fe. 15, 2014 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

**Hogansburg**—Alec A. Cooke, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2014 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesasne.

**Mooers**—Doris M. (Roberts) Trombly, 81; Funeral Feb. 10, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Morrisonville**—Kenneth J. Duquette, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2014 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Morrisonville**—Wilfred V. Renadette, 55; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2014 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg**—David G. "Sonny" Montroy, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 12, 2014 at Fray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Peru**—Marion I. (Blaise) Hart, 73; Funeral

Services Feb. 14, 2014 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Peru**—Susan M. (Boisseau) Stranahan, 77; Funeral Feb. 15, 2014 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Philadelphia**—Patricia D. (Donnelly) Cooke, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery, Calcium.

**Plattsburgh**—Everett Paul Spear, 73; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2014 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery Columbarium.

**Potsdam**—Willard Burton "Bill" Reed, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2014 at the Seymour Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Schroon Lake**—Reuben C. Mick, 102; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2014 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in Severance Cemetery.

**West Chazy**—Audrey M. (LaPier) Bulriss, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 14, 2014 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Willsboro**—Catherine Sullivan, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2014 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

### GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.  
E-mail [cward@diogodensburg.org](mailto:cward@diogodensburg.org)  
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- View diocesan events and much more



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# Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

## JEFFERSON

### BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** – An Ecumenical Bereavement meeting to be held.

**Date:** Feb. 24

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Hearthside Hospitality Center at the SSJ Motherhouse

**Speaker:** Kathy Sheley, a widow as well as a volunteer at Hospice of Jefferson County, on "New Beginnings".

### SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

**Date:** Feb. 27

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs \$.75

**Features:** Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

### LIFERIGHT MEETING

**Watertown** – Liferight of Watertown meets third Wednesday of the Month.

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Features:** The office has materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

## ST. LAWRENCE

### LENTEN STUDY: "CONVERSION

**Ogdensburg** – The Evangelization Committee of St. Mary's Cathedral is holding a Lenten study series for Ogdensburg

area parishes.

**Date:** Wednesdays, Feb. 19-April 9

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Place:** Bishop Brzana Hall

**Program:** In this DVD series, presented by Bill O'Brien, Father Robert Barron shares six stories of conversion from the Gospels. The common theme in each story is the turning of all one's attention and energy toward an ever deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Price:** Workbooks are available for \$12 at the door.

### K OF C BRUNCH

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

**Date:** March 9

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center

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

**Menu:** Pancakes, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Homefries, Ham, Sausage, Toast, Muffins, Juice, Coffee.

### 5K WALK/RUN

**Massena** – The 2nd Annual Glory in our Hearts 5K Walk/Run to Remember will bring together walkers and runners, for a heart healthy fundraiser to support the 2014 outreach activities of the Glory in our Hearts Foundation.

**Date:** May 3

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Robert Moses State Park Picnic Area at Barnhart Island

**Features:** Stroller and child friendly 5K event. Visit the Glory in our Hearts 5K

website at <http://www.gloryinour-hearts.org/5k.html> for race information

### DINNER AND SHOW

**Ogdensburg** – Notre Dame Altar & Rosary is sponsoring a bus trip to the Syracuse Oncenter.

**Date:** June 4

**Cost:** \$120 per person (includes show ticket, bus fare, and dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse restaurant.)

**Features:** Performance of Million Dollar Quartet. at 7:30 p.m.. Inspired by the electrifying true story of the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

**Contact:** Call Cherie @393-5050 or 393-7158 or Joyce @528-1819.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Massena** – Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Features:** A gathering of those who have had a recent loss of a loved one.

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

### NOVENA FOR MILITARY

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

**Date:** Tuesday afternoons

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

### LATIN MASS

**Potsdam** – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is

celebrated each Sunday with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin as the celebrant

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

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

### COMMUNITY FREE LUNCH

**Ogdensburg** – The Knights of Columbus Council 258 is starting its community free lunch program again.

**Date:** Every Wednesday

**Time:** Noon

**Features:** Free hot lunch

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday morning.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 10

**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room

### HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

**Date:** Thursday before the First Friday

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

**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

### WOMEN OF GRACE RETREAT

**Ogdensburg** – Women of Grace Retreat to be held again for a spirit filled weekend retreat.

**Date:** June 27-29

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Speaker:** Johnnette Benkovic, founder and president of Living His Life Abundantly

**Features:** The weekend will be filled with the celebration of the Eucharist, Adoration, prayer, talks, music, and sacred sisterhood. The theme of the retreat is To Jesus Through Mary... "For Such A Time As This..." (Esther 4:14). Throughout this weekend, Johnnette will unfold the truths of authentic femininity leaving a lasting imprint on the minds, hearts, and souls of those in attendance.

**Contact:** To learn more about attending this weekend or Women of Grace, contact Mary Dillenback at [marydillenback@twcny.rr.com](mailto:marydillenback@twcny.rr.com) or call 771-1377.

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All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Church in Canton and its ministries.

Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

St. Mary's Church  
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Canton, NY 13617

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