Priests honored for special anniversaries

Ten priests serving in the diocese are celebrating special anniversaries in 2012. They were honored May 23 at a jubilee Mass and dinner during the annual Presbyteral Assembly, held this year in Alexandria Bay.

The jubilarians include Father Robert L. Cotter who is observing 65 years of the priesthood and his brother, Father Lawrence E. Cotter, celebrating 60 years.

Father John P. Kennehan is marking 50 years while three priests are observing 40 years of priestly ministry – Fathers Gerald A. Cerank, Daniel L. Chapin and Raymond J. Wertman.

Celebrating 25 years in the priesthood are Fathers Scott D. Fobare, Jerome B. Pastores, William J. Reamer and James W. Seymour.

Jubilarian interviews

Patricia Dussault of Chaumont has been appointed assistant director of Catholic Charities in Watertown.

New diocesan staff member

Patrick Donahue of Chaumont has been appointed assistant director of Catholic Charities in Watertown.

FATHER THOMAS JAMES HIGMAN

Bishop Terry R. LaValley lays hands on Father Thomas J. Higman during the ordination ceremony held Saturday at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination, the gift of the Holy Spirit for the priestly office is conferred on the candidate. Also shown are Deacon Gary Frank and Richard Staab, chaplains for the bishop and Father Joseph Gratto, master of ceremonies. Full coverage of the ordination will appear in next week’s North Country Catholic. Bishop LaValley’s homily for the ceremony is printed this week on page 3.

PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Jubilarian interviews

Full STORy, PAGE S-9

Father Stephen Gratto, 65, died May 26 in Watertown. A native of Canton, he served as director of Catholic Charities and pastor in Hammond, Madrid, Morristown, Brasher Falls and Lyons Falls before retiring due to illness.

Patrick Donahue of Chaumont has been appointed assistant director of Christian Formation-Ogdensburg region.

NEW DIOSOAN STAFF MEMBER

Full STORy, PAGE 11

Jubilarians

Full STORy, PAGE 10

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Jubilarians

Full STORy, PAGE 10
If you don’t like priests this is NOT the North Country Catholic!

Preface

Today, we celebrate priests from the moment of ordination, through 25, 50, 60 years and beyond, and to the day they are called home to be with God. Actually, the priests’ influence does not end here but does continue next week since we have one more time. It is not a small part of our publication schedule, we believe that it is a tremendous part of our Saturday’s ordination.

In the summer of 2012, the Diocese of Ogdensburg decided to publish a special edition — a tribute to the 2012 male and female jubilarians. Next week, we will give full coverage to the ordination of the Holy Higan’s May 26 ordination and the first Holy Reconciliation of the Bishop.

We will also provide full obituaries information for Father Stephen Gratto who died over the weekend.

For them all, we send this special prayer, sometimes known as Jesus’ priestly prayer in Chapter 17 of His John’s Gospel. This is “Jesus’” prayer for His disciples at the Last Supper – His prayer for them to Christ immediately after arresting Jesus. It just happened to be the Gospel reading last Wednesday when the priest jubilarians were honored at a special Mass at the Presbytery Assembly in Alexandria Bay.

Holy Father, keep them in your name, that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. I spoke this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave you your word, and the world hated them because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

I do not ask that you take them out of the world. As you sent me into the world, I sent them into the world. I consecrate myself for them so that they also may be consecrated in truth.

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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

The Holy Trinity June 3-2, 2012

By Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

The Holy Trinity June 3-2, 2012

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The Most Holy Trinity Day

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity is celebrated on May 3. It is a solemnity of the Church in honor of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost, or on the Sunday nearest the feast day of the Holy Trinity, which is June 3.

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Catholic Near East Welfare Association

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

CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) has been serving people in need through the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe for more than eighty-five years. CNEWA’s mandate is: • to support educational, pastoral mission and institutions of the Eastern Catholic Churches • to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need without regard to nationality or creed • to promote Christian unity and intercessions under standing and collaboration • to educate people in the West about the history, cultures, churches of the East

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

Osturies

• Daila Cameron, SF, Diocesan Mission Director

South America

Ottawa – Rachael J. Sattuck, RN, 72, Funeral Services May 21, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Western Europe

Ogden, Utah – Mary Lou Knepper, 70, Funeral Services May 21, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Stephen H. Gratto, 65, Funeral Services May 21, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

R.I. Walker Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Thomas M. Goetz, 85, Funeral Services May 24, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Western Europe

Ogdensburg – Brenda L. Hyde, 65, Funeral Services May 25, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

R.I. Walker Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Lora M. Dickey, 74, Funeral Services May 26, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

R.I. Walker Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Mary Lou Knepper, 70, Funeral Services May 21, 2012 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Plattsburgh – St. Augustine’s Knights of Columbus will be hosting their 27th annual golf tournament.

Date: June 8

Time: Begins with Parade at 11 a.m. and Tee off at 1 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine’s Knights of Columbus

Features: Please bring a dish to pass.

Cost: Nominal fee for materials.

**HEALING MINISTERS SCHOOL**

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday evening (except August) at Msgr. Sechi Hall.

Date: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Features: Meditation on the life of Jesus. The public is invited to sit down to pray at the chair to arrive楔e is required to see the relic.

**BRENNER’S FORK, CANA**

Saranac Lake – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Saranac Lake and A.D. White are holding a Parish Picnic.

Date: June 9

Place: The Fairground (one price for all day).

Features: New Giant Slide and great obstacle course (one price for all day).

**ST. AUGUSTINE’S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is being held every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Features: Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m.

Cost: Donation

**RELIC OF BL. MOTHER TERESA**

St. Regis Falls – St. Joseph’s Parish will be hosting the relic from Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This is a special occasion for the religious, the deacon community, and our youth. The public is invited to visit the church to share a moment in prayer.

Date: June 9

Time: 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-out orders available.

Features: Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima and Mass.

Cost: Adults, $6; Children under 12, $4; 13-18, $5; Under 9, free.

**LITURGY DAY**

Ogdensburg – The public is invited to sit on the steps of Our Lady of the Assumption Church at 9:00 a.m. to pray and sing the Liturgy of the Hours.

Date: June 9

Time: From 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Place: Our Lady of the Assumption Church

Features: The public is invited to sit on the steps of Our Lady of the Assumption Church and sing the Liturgy of the Hours from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Cost: Free

**SUNDAY EVENING CELEBRATION**

Ogdensburg – Parishioners are invited to join in a celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday evening following the evening Mass. The celebration will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Date: June 9

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Place: The Chancel of St. Joseph’s Church

Features: The public is invited to join in a celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday evening following the evening Mass. The celebration will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

**FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY**

Ogdensburg – St. Mary’s Church will be celebrating its Annual Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick.

Date: June 9

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: St. Mary’s Church

Features: Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima and Mass. The public is invited to pray together and participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Cost: Free

**BRENNER’S FORK, CANA**

Saranac Lake – The Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Saranac Lake and A.D. White are holding a Parish Picnic.

Date: June 10

Place: The Fairground (one price for all day).

Features: New Giant Slide and great obstacle course (one price for all day).

**WATERTON – LIFERIGHT OF WATERTON**

Waterford – Liferight is a pro-life education and advocacy ministry from a shallow activist activism into a focused and fruitful ministry.

Date: June 10

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph’s Church; Take-out orders available.

Features: Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima and Mass.

Cost: Adults, $6; Children under 12, $4; 13-18, $5; Under 9, free.

**SOUP FUNDRAISER**

Ogdensburg – St. Anthony’s Altar Rosary Society will be serving Soup Suppers.

Date: June 10

Time: 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony’s Altar Rosary Society

Features: Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m.

Cost: $5

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Watertown – St. Mary’s Church will be celebrating its Annual Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick.

Date: June 10

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

Place: St. Mary’s Church

Features: Holy Spirit, Introduction to Deliverance Healing Ministry. Open to all.

Cost: $20 per person.

**CAR WASH**

Ogdensburg – St. Joseph’s Church will be having a Car Wash.

Date: June 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Place: St. Joseph’s Church

Features: Please bring a dish to pass.

Cost: Free

**SPOaghetti supper**

Ogdensburg – St. Peter’s Church will be having Spaghetti Suppers.

Date: June 10

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: St. Peter’s Church

Features: $5 per child 4-12; $3.00 1-3 years; under 3 are free.

**LAST RAGS**

Ogdensburg – St. Joseph’s Church will be having a Rags Sale.

Date: June 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph’s Church

Features: Please bring a dish to pass.

Cost: Free

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Features: Please bring a dish to pass.

Cost: Free
Fr. Lawrence Cotter

Father Lawrence Cotter was named a jubilarian in 2012.

He was ordained June 14, 1947 and served as pastor in Keene, Redwood and, from 1947 to 1993, in the Deanery of Brasher Falls in Ogdensburg, NY. He had completed graduate studies in those areas at Wadhams Hall and St. John’s in Plattsburgh and St. Joseph’s in Malone before his ordination. He was named pastor at Pope John XXIII campus parish in Plattsburgh in early 1950’s and named pastor at Pope John Paul’s I Emmanuel campus parish in Plattsburgh in 1962 by Bishop James J. Byrne.

Father Cotter has also served as an assistant pastor at St. Joseph’s in Plattsburgh and St. Mary’s in Malone, and as chaplain and professor at Mater Dei College. He also received the Founders Award.

In 1974, he was assigned pastor at St. Joseph’s in Plattsburgh and St. Mary’s in Malone, and as chaplain and professor at Mater Dei College. He also received the Founders Award.

Beginning in the fall of 1966, Father Cotter also taught one course a semester at St. Mary’s College.

He currently resides at the diocesan retirement home in Madrid, along with his brother, Father Robert Cotter, who is celebrating his 50th jubilee.

Fr. Kennehan celebrating 50 years of priesthood

Father John P. Kennehan, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of the priesthood, has lived in St. Louis for more than 50 years.

He was born September 23, 1936, in Brasher Falls, New York.

Father Kennehan has served as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick’s in Gouverneur, pastor at St. John’s in Plattsburgh and St. Mary’s in Malone before being assigned to the Ogden-Peruvian Apostolate in 1967. He served as a missionary to Bolivia, a position he held until 1989. At that time he went to the University of St. Louis, Mo., for study in religious education.

Upon his return to the diocese, Father Kennehan was named pastor at Pope John Paul’s Emmanuel campus parish in Plattsburgh in 1992, in Potiskum in 1994, and in Brownsville and Dexter in 2002.

The priest has also served the diocese as a pro-synodal judge for the tribunal from 1965 to 1968 and as a member of the Department of Worship’s Art and Architecture Committee.

In 1974, he was assigned pastor at St. Joseph’s in Plattsburgh and St. Mary’s in Malone, and as chaplain and professor at Mater Dei College.

He currently resides at the diocesan retirement home in Madrid, along with his brother, Father Robert Cotter, who is celebrating his 50th jubilee.
JUNE 3

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Romans 8:14-17

Readings

“Trinity: God and his people are connected.”

A few years ago, a young Harvard genius by the name of Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook. In a short space of time, hundreds of millions of people have made their pictures and much personal information available on the worldwide web. Why this phenomenon? There is an obvious need for relationship in the human soul that is fulfilled by this. Most people share their isolation. They yearn to be connected. Today’s solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity connects the mysterious three-person God with all human creatures.

They are to be part of the family! They are to find in the intimate joyful life of the Trinity a part of the family which, hopefully, the whole world will be connected, much more closely than Facebook!

Today’s first reading describes the speech of Moses to the Israelites before they entered the land of Canaan. Today’s second reading contains the words of St. Paul to the Romans.

Today’s Gospel speaks of Jesus predicting the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is a new part of the family! The joy of the Holy Spirit! Everyone can be connected to this awesome God, encouraged his disciples to be connected.

Today’s solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity connects the mysterious three-person God with all human creatures. Rather than warning us men and women to keep our distance from God, Jesus Christ, Himself a part of this awesome God, encouraged his disciples to be connected.

Today’s readings are Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40, Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 8:14-17.

Father Gerald Cerank looks back on 40 years of priesthood

Fr. Cerank is much more closely than he was a part of the family! He is part of the family which, hopefully, the whole world will be connected, much more closely than Facebook!

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Cathedral of St. Mary Martin Jennings

**Funeral held for Atonement Sister Mary Martin Jennings**

*May 13, 2012*

The 87-year-old religious sister, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, died on May 7 at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Ogdensburg.

She was born in New York City on March 28, 1925, the daughter of the late John and Lillian (Fay) Jennings. She was predeceased by her parents, two sisters, Sister Mary Mary Jo Jennings and Sister Mary Elizabeth Jennings, and a brother, Sister Mary John V. Jennings.

Sister Jennings studied at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New York City and St. Anthony’s College in Ogdensburg.

She entered the Institute of the Sisters of Charity in 1942 and professed her vows in 1945.

Her religious name was Sister Mary Martin Jennings. She was a member of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Sister Jennings served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 72 years as a grade school teacher and as a staff member for the Catholic schools. She also served as a retreat director and as a lector.

Sister Jennings was also a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a religious order that serves in the United States and other countries.

Sister Jennings was the recipient of several awards and honors during her lifetime, including the Distinguished Service Award from the National Catholic Educational Association and the Order of St. John Bosco from the Archdiocese of New York.

Sister Jennings is survived by her sister, Sister Mary Mary Jo Jennings, and her brother, Sister Mary John V. Jennings, and her nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Sister Mary Mary Jo Jennings and Sister Mary Elizabeth Jennings, and a brother, Sister Mary John V. Jennings.

Sister Jennings had a deep faith in God and a love for helping others. She was a dedicated member of her religious community and was known for her kindness and generosity.

Her memorial service will be held at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Ogdensburg on May 21 at 10 a.m. A reception will be held after the service at the church. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Sisters of Charity, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 244, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

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Three priests are celebrating 40 years in 2012

Father John R. Murphy, moderator for the diocesan Deacon Formation program and has background in Religious Education and Theology, as well as experience in administration.

His new duties begin June 1.

Donahue is involved in the 1.

D iocesan staff change

MAY 30, 2012

Three priests are celebrating 40 years in 2012

Among the priests honored at the May 23 jubilee Mass held at the annual Presbyteral Assembly were three celebrating four decades of service, Father Gerald A. Cerank, Father Daniel L. Chapin and Father Raymond J. Wertman.

Father Cerank has served as pastor in Mooers and Mooers Forks since 1993.

He was born in Port Washington, N.Y., June 13, 1943. He received a bachelor’s degree in education from Plattsburgh State University before continuing his studies at St. Mary’s College in Kentucky, Wadhams Hall, Fordham University and St. Joseph’s Seminary in the Bronx.

Father Cerank was ordained May 13, 1972 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana. Upon returning to the United States.

He was pastor from 1981 until taking part in a sabbatical year in Missouri, Wadhams Hall Seminary and St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester. For a short time as assistant pastor at St. Mary’s in Ogdensburg before beginning ten years of missionary work with the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate, serving at St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru, from 1976 to 1986. He was pastor from 1986 until returning to the United States.

When on sabbatical, he

He was named assistant pastor in Cumberland Head after his ordination.

He also served as a teacher at St. John’s High School in Plattsburgh and principal of St. John’s Elementary School.

From 1980 to 1988, Father Cerank was part of a cooperative ministry team serving Immaculate Conception and St. John’s parishes in Keeseville.

In 1984 he was named another 40-year jubilarian, Father Raymond Wertman, a Buffalo native, Father Wertman began priestly formation at Wadhams Hall Seminary and St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester.

Upon his return to the dio-
cese, he served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Water town until being named par- tor at Holy Family in Water-
town before starting the credo Foundation in 1973, a rehabilitation program for young people with drug problems.

He headed this organiza-
tion until his assignment as assistant pastor at St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake in 1983.

In 1984 he was named pastor in Port Leyden, a position he held until he returned to work for the Credo Foundation in 1988, a position he held until moving to Florida in 1999.

For sharing with us in times of joy
For strengthening us in times of sorrow
(And for taking such good care of our parents!)

Three priests are celebrating 40 years in 2012

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has

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Fr. Daniel Chaplin: ever a missionary

During his high school years, Father Chaplin recalls being crucially involved in the faith at Father Liston High School and the vocation he pursued at the time, father, the action of God in his life.

Throughout his 40 years of priesthood, the beauty of the outdoors influences on Father Chaplin. “I had attended a small one reserva...to missions, Father Fobare also served as...of Consultors and of the Finance Committee of his dio...Father Seymour was ordained a priest Dec. 30, 1973, in the Philippines and was...of Consultors and of the Finance Committee of his dio...He was also pastor in Old Forge, NY. He has served as assistant...of Consultors and of the Finance Committee of his dio...He earned a bachelor’s de...A native of Ogdensburg, Father Reamer has served as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, Vicar for Pastoral Planning, a Church in Heuvelton, pastor/priest moderator of the Philip & James Church in Lis...and Natural Bridge. He also served as an ad...He was ordained a priest in Hogans...He was ordained a priest in Hogans...Four priests are celebrating silver jubilees and worked as a teacher before...completed a year of pre...at the diocese. He was ordained a priest Dec. 30, 1973, in the Philippines and was...He earned a bachelor’s de...We are proud to call you SIBORI & UNCLE. You have been a wonderful blessing to all of us. We Love You, Jay!

The Handsome Boys of a Priest (poem by an unknown author)

We need them in life’s early morn, for beauty when they are close.
We feel their warm clasps of true friendship.
We seek them when tasting life’s woes.

At the altar each day we behold them,
And the hands of a king on his throne
Equal to those of our heavenly priest;
Their dignity stands alone;

And when we are tempted and wandered,
To pathways of shame and of sin,
It’s the hand of a priest that will absolve us
Not once, but again and again.

And when we are taking life’s partner,
Other hands may prepare us a feast.
But the hand that will bless and unite us
Is the beautiful hand of a priest.

God bless them and keep them all holy,
For the work, which they fearlessly carry.
When can a poor sinner do better
Than to ask Him to guide them and bless?

When the hour of death comes upon us,
May our courage and strength be increased,
Seeing in the priest the reflection of Christ.
The beautiful hands of a priest.

Thank you Fr. Scott for sharing not only your hands with us, but also your heart and spirit – how wonderful it is to have a priest so much like our Lord – faithful, wise and filled with compassion. May this day of prayer and ministry is a blessing to us all.

Congratulations on 25 Years of Priesthood!

The Catholic Community of Moriah – St. Patrick’s and All Saints Catholic Churches.
Fr. Daniel Chapin: ever a missionary

During his high school years, Father Chapin recalls the crucial influence of the faith at that time, at Father DePaul High School, in his vocation.

Throughout his 40 years of priesthood, the priest is also the current chairman of the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s Apostolate for the Diocese.

On May 23, 2012, Bishop James D. Keleher, Diocesan Bishop of Ogdensburg, ordained Father Daniel A. Chapin to the priesthood at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Father Scott D. Fobare is the youngest diocesan priest ordination at age 25.

The priest is also the current chairman of the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s Apostolate for the Diocese.

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Four priests are celebrating silver jubilees

Four priests are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year for their service to the diocese.

The priests are: Father Jerome B. Pastors, Father Scott D. Fobare, Father John J. McHale and Father Stephen M. Seiler.

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The priests are: Father Jerome B. Pastors, Father Scott D. Fobare, Father John J. McHale and Father Stephen M. Seiler.
Among the priests honored at the May 23 jubilee Mass held at the annual Presbyteral Assembly were three celebrating four decades of service, Father Gerald A. Czerwinski, Father Daniel L. Chapin and Father Raymond J. Wertman.

Father Cerank has served as pastor in Mooers and Mooers Forks since 1993.

He was born in Port Washington, N.Y., June 13, 1943. He received a bachelor’s degree in education from Plattsburgh State University before continuing his studies at St. Mary’s College in Kentucky, Wadhams Hall, Fordham University and St. Joseph’s Seminary in Bronx.

Father Cerank was ordained to the priesthood in Port Plattsburgh in 1988 before his 1993 assignment in Mooers and Mooers Forks.

Father Chapin, pastor in Croghan since 2006, had previously served as pastor in Gouverneur from 2000 with added responsibilities as pastor in Edwards in 2004.

Born Nov. 13, 1946 in Malone, Father Chapin grew up in North Bangor. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary and St. Bernard’s Seminary in Rochester before his ordination May 13, 1972 by Bishop Cerank.

The priest served as an assistant pastor at St. Mary’s in Ogdensburg before beginning ten years of missionary work with the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate, serving at St. Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru, from 1976 to 1986. He was pastor from 1986 until returning to the United States.

Upon returning to the U.S., Father Chapin again served as parochial vicar at the cathedral for a short time until taking part in a sabbatical year at the Weston School of Theology. While on sabbatical, he worked as a chaplain intern at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, Mass.

Upon his return to the dio- cese, he served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Water- town until being named pas- tor at Holy Family in Water- town before starting the Credo Foundation in 1973, a rehabilitation program for young people with drug problems.

He headed this organization until his assignment as assistant pastor at St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake in 1983.

In 1984 he was named pastor in Port Leyden, a position he held until he return- ing to work for the Credo Foundation in 1986, a position he held until moving to Florida in 1998.

FATHER JAY

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Funeral held for Atonement Sister Mary Martin Jennings

NEWARK – A Mass of Christian Burial for Atonement Sister Mary Martin Jennings, 92, was held May 7 in the chapel of St. Francis Convent in Newark.

She died May 7 in the residence of the Atonement Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Glassboro, N.J. She was buried May 8 in Glassboro.

Through her 72 years of religious life, Sister Mary Martin was active in parish, catechetical, pastoral and social outreach.

She was assigned to missions in Maine, Colorado, Pennsylvania, California and Washington, D.C. She also served in Assisi, Italy, and Rossiville, Ireland, from 1971 to 1972; in Hogansburg, 1980-1984, and in Port Leyden, 1984-1985.

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Trinity: God and His people are connected

A few years ago, a young Harvard genius by the name of Mark Zuckerberg created Facebook. In a short space of time, hundreds of millions of people have made their pictures and much personal information available on the world wide web. Why this phenomenon? There is an obvious need for relationship in the human soul that is fulfilled by this. Most people share their isolation. They yearn to be connected.

Today’s solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity connects the mysterious three-person God with all human creatures. Rather than warning us men and women to keep our distance from God, Jesus Christ, Himself a part of this awesome God, encouraged His disciples to be come intimately joined to the life and love of His divinity.

“That they may be one, as you Father and I are one,” was the urgent plea of Jesus as He bade farewell to His disciples at the Last Supper. He made that possible through His death and resurrection, through the Holy Spirit, and in His revealing to His faithful followers the Most Holy Trinity. Today’s first reading describes that meeting as an exclusive club, in today’s Gospel, He commands the apostles to travel with this news to all nations.

They are to be baptism, “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Thus, hopefully, the whole world will be connected, much more closely than Facebook.

Today’s first reading describes the speech of Moses to the Israelites before they entered the land of Canaan. “This is what you must now know, and fix in your heart on, that the Lord is God in the heavens above and on the earth below; and that there is no other.” No wonder the Pharisees had such a hard time in accepting Jesus’ assertion that He was the Son of God. In the second reading, from Romans, St. Paul tells us that, not only do we accept His Son, but we are adopted sons and daughters of God with a right to address the Father as “Abba”, but that we share the inheritance with Jesus, “seated at the right hand of the Father.” All this happens when we choose to be holy, “people of God.” Then we are “sanctified.” We are part of the family. We live in the intimate, joyful life of the Trinity. One condition is laid down—to suffer with Jesus in order to be glorified with Him. The Gospel concludes with Jesus assuring us that He will never desert us. “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

May we live with joy in the life of the Holy Trinity!

Father Jay Seymour
Thank you for your dedicated service over the past 25 years.

From your parish families of St. Raphael, Heuvelton and Sts. Philip & James, Lisbon

Father Robert Cotter
Our prayers and blessing upon you as you celebrate 65 Years with the priesthood.

The Priest and Parishioners of St. Mary's Church Glenfield & St. Peter's Church Lowville

Fr. Cerank looks back on 40 years of priesthood

By Joan Ryan Community Writer

MAY 5, 2013

He still holds certification as an educator in the State of New York.

After arriving at Plattsburgh State in the 1960s as a non-Catholic future teacher

For Father Cerank, his inspiration came not from the influence of any one person, but rather from a somewhat higher power. “It might sound funny, but my main inspiration was the Holy Spirit, putting me in the right place at the right time and around the right people,” Father Cerank said.

He had to win over his family even to the idea of being a priest! He had to do so initially by bringing his family with him to the Last Supper. He made one of his favorite trails, a hairpin one, to share his love of the outdoors with them. He still has the outdoor spirit and can often be found hiking one of his favorite trails, or even just in the back yard of the rectory enjoying the birds, always with camera in hand appreciating and documenting nature.

His work with young people has had their challenging moments, but for the immensely positive pastor in Moosers and Mooers Forks, it’s all worth it. “I never regretted it,” he said. “It was my calling.”

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Twin brothers are among jubilarians

Two priests, who are also twin brothers are among the jubilarians for 2012.

Father Lawrence Cotter is celebrating 50 years of priesthood. He was ordained June 7, 1962 by Bishop James J. Walsh. Father Cotter is a native of Canton. He is a 1955 graduate of Potsdam High School. Following studies at Wadhams Hall, he entered the seminary for the Archdiocese of New York.

He was named director of the Marriage Tribunal in 1974. He had completed graduate studies in those areas at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. during 1976. In 1978, the priest was appointed pastor of St. Peter’s Mission in Clintonville. In 1995, Father Cotter was appointed pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Clayton before being assigned to the Ogden’s Hall and St. John’s parish in Norfolk. One year later he was named pastor of Christ the King in Olean, NY, which he held until 1989. At that time he went to the University of St. Louis, Mo., for study in religious education.

Upon his return to the dio-cese in 1991, Father Cotter was named pastor at Pope John XXIII Campus parish in Platts-burgh in 1992. In Potsdam in 1994, and in Brownville and Ogdensburg in 2002. The priest has also served the diocese as a pro-synodal judge for the tribunal from 1979 to 2002.

He has served many of his re-sponsibilities as full time to Mater Dei College. He taught one course a semester, and beginning in 1988, taught two courses a semester. In 1995, Father Cotter was honored by Wadhams Hall as one of the Founders of the diocese. He received the degree of Licentiate of Sacred Theology magna cum laude from St. Mary’s Seminary.

In 1996, Father Cotter also began teaching one course a semester at Mater Dei College. He also received the degree of Doctor in Religious Studies from Manhattan College the following year.

Fr. Kennehan celebrating 50 years of priesthood

Father John P. Kennehan, who is celebrating his 50th anniversary of the priesthood, has lived in St. Louis, Mo., since 2003. A native of Brasher Falls, he was born Sept. 28, 1936. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall and Christ the King in Olean, NY, before his ordination April 7, 1962 by Bishop James J. Navagh.

Father Kennehan served as an assistant pastor at St. John’s in Plattsburgh and Mary’s in Clayton before being assigned to the Plattsburgh Parish. He was named pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Ogdensburg in 1981 and St. Stephen in Alexandria Bay the following year. He served a tour of duty as provincial assistant to the Capuchins of the Northeast in 1995.

The priest returned to Peru from South America in 2005. He went to the University of St. Louis, Mo., for study in religious education.

By A dam Shaw

MAY 30, 2012

DIARY OF A GREAT GLADNESS

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY
Mass: St. Mary’s Church is holding a rosary service to mark First Saturday. June 2
1:15 p.m.

Rosary: Our Lady of Fatima in our chapel and World Peace followed by a rosary circle and special Mass for thePropagation of the Faith. June 3
10:30 a.m.

Prayers of intercession: The five decades of the Rosary will be prayed in the church. June 3
4 p.m.

RELIC OF QUEEN MARY MAGDALENE
St. Regis Falls- Saint Ann’s Parish will host a relic of Mary Magdalene June 4
8 a.m.

ST. JOHN’S

PRA Y ER M EET IN G

M O N T H L Y P R A Y ER M EET IN G

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

Features: New Giant Slide and great obstacle course (one price for all day).

Contact: Parish Office at 663-6108.
If you don’t like priests this is NOT the North Country Catholic.

Today, we celebrate priests from the moment of ordination, through 25, 50, 60 and 75 years of service. Let us pray for your protection and guidance that you may continue to the end of your holy vocation. Amen.

A Priest's Prayer

Lord Jesus, in your mercy, make my heart to love what is holy, and whatever I touch, O Lord, make it holy. Amen.

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John J. M. Ryan, Editor

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CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) has been fighting poverty, disease, and hunger where those in need regard to nationalities or creed.

Church: A Family of Faith

The Most Holy Trinity

June 2-3, 2012

By Msgr. James E. Mullen (m.j.m) (CNEWA)

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Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gathered at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay May 21-24 for the annual Presbyteral Assembly. This year’s program was a retreat led by Father J. Ronald Knott, priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky. and founding director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates. He addressed the theme “The Powerful Spiritual Leadership of a Unified Presbyterate.” A highlight of the week was a Mass and dinner honoring the priest jubilarians May 23. The priests are shown above before the Mass.

Deacon Thomas Higman, center, was a special guest at the annual gathering of priests held during the week before his ordination to the priesthood. He is shown with Father Christopher Cararra, left, pastor in Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville; and Father Joseph Giroux, pastor of the Malone Catholic Parishes where the new priest will serve as parochial vicar.

Ten priests serving in the diocese are celebrating special anniversaries in 2012. They were honored May 23 at a jubilee Mass and dinner during the annual Presbyteral Assembly, held this year in Alexandria Bay.

The jubilarians include Father Robert L. Cotter who is observing 65 years of the priesthood and his brother, Father Lawrence E. Cotter, celebrating 60 years. Father John P. Kennehan is marking 50 years while three priests are observing 40 years of priestly ministry – Fathers Gerald A. Cerank, Daniel L. Chapin and Raymond J. Wertman.

Celebrating 25 years in the priesthood are Fathers Scott D. Fobare, Jerome B. Pastrores, William J. Reamer and James W. Seymour.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley lays hands on Father Thomas J. Higman during the ordination ceremony held Saturday at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Through the laying on of hands and the prayer of ordination, the gift of the Holy Spirit for the priestly office is conferred on the candidate. Also shown are Deacon Gary Frank and Richard Staska, archdiocesan chancellor for the bishop and Father Joseph Giroux, master of ceremonies. Full coverage of the ordination will appear in next week’s North Country Catholic.

Jubilarian interviews

New diocesan staff member

Patrick Donovan of Chaumont has been appointed assistant director of Christian Formation-Ogdensburg region.

FATHER THOMAS JAMES HIGMAN

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