God is good... all the time!

By Jennifer Connor

Contributing Writer

God is good, all the time!" This is the chant used at Guggenheim summertime call to everybody to silence while we pray.

And this same chant best explains the endless choirs singing and clapping this weekend at the Guggenheim community lovingly coined Ordination-palooza.

Over 30 young people from recent Guggenheim generations completed the entire Ordination-palooza circuit with great enthusiasm.

This weekend we witnessed both Father Tom Higman and Deacon Scott Belina publicly answer a resounding "all the time" as they dedicated their lives to the goodness of God through service to His holy church.

And it took an entire weekend to properly celebrate such an amazing moment in our North Country Church history.

It is not often that we young people get to publicly celebrate our Catholic faith, so we took full advantage of the opportunity this weekend presented.

Over 30 young people from recent Guggenheim "generations" completed the entire Ordination-palooza circuit with great enthusiasm.

Within three days, we celebrated over eight hours of liturgy in four different churches, experienced 24 exceptions at five different venues, spent almost 24 hours at post-liturgical Guggenheim after parties.

As a group, we laughed uncontrollably, shared long-winded stories of our favorite memories together, had a night out with Scott and danced, parked in a vitality that only can be explained as Divine.

It is no coincidence that most of us drove at least a few hundred miles to get there, I am so proud of Father Tom and Deacon Scott. I am proud to call everybody to silence with Tom and Scott, danced into the world over two hundred years.

People need to see joy in the world today.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 67, Number 9

JUNE 6, 2012

PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

On the evening before his ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Thomas J. Higman vests his friend Scott A. Belina who was ordained May 27 at St. Patrick’s Basilica. Bishop LaValley, acknowledging that the ordination was the result of the Lord, said, “We daily witness events which seem to do another than another, but mankind is becoming more aggressive and quarrelsome, understanding one another seems too arduous an undertaking, and we profile to retain within ourselves only a friendly and loving feeling toward one another, a sentiment that we have even become a danger to one another.”

A tribute to the jubilarians

Looking back on memorable ordination day, Father Stephen P. Gratto, 65, held May 29 at St. Mary’s Church in Canton. Father Gratto will join the Diocese of Ogdensburg in June.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

POPE: We can’t ‘play God’

By Father Stephen H. Gratto

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 6, 2012

FUNERAL HELD MAY 29 IN CANTON

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FULL STORY, PAGE 3

#ORDINATIONPALOOZA: A friend reflects on an unforgettable weekend, p. 16
The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Missionary Prayer
"Dear Heart of Jesus, as in the past I have asked for many favors, I ask you this time to obtain for me the grace to fulfill all that you have asked of me. Let me use your name in love and devoted to the service of God, and to the poor, and to the welfare of souls. Amen.""
MOUNT CARMEL FEAST
Howell – Mount St. Joseph celebrates Father Matthew They will be held on the churchyard on June 1 and 8 for 6 p.m. and 4:30 for Children. Take-outs available on the traditional Italian foods which will be sold from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The proceeds will benefit the Blessed Sacrament, Penny 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and the Holy Hour for vocations. Please participate, as well, in your local prayer while you continue to reduce the freedom of religion to the mere freedom of conscience.

We must not succumb to the current tendency to reduce the freedom of religion to the mere freedom of conscience. There is an urgent need for all the faithful to cooperate with others, to implore our elected representatives and others to support and protect the important core of protection of religious liberty. We know that God is certainly the source of all truth and justice. Let us listen to the words of St. John of the Cross, who said, “The gift of silence is the extreme act of the spirit, and this silence is the extreme act of the will. It is the highest act of confidence in the love of God, for it is the highest act of submission to God. It is the highest act of faith, for it is the highest act of submission to God’s will.” Let us pray that God will give us the grace to imitate St. John of the Cross in faith, hope, and charity, and may we be united in prayer for the protection of religious liberty in our country.

We must continue to offer prayers for the protection of religious liberty in our country.

Funeral held May 29 for Fr. Stephen H. Gratto

Father Gratto also served as pastor of St. Alexander’s, Canastota, and also as director of Religious Education for the parishes of St. Teresa of Avila, Covington and St. Francis of Assisi, Jamesville.

By Father Jeff Hubert

The funeral Mass for Fr. Stephen H. Gratto, O.Carm., was held at St. Joseph’s Church, Brasher Falls on Thursday, June 7, 2012. Fr. Gratto was born in Syracuse, New York on November 27, 1939, the youngest of 10 children of the late Joseph and Mary Gratto.

Fr. Gratto entered the Carmelite Order in 1961, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 23, 1973. He was the last of his generation to be ordained in the Carmelite Order.

Fr. Gratto was assigned as assistant pastor at St. Teresa of Avila, Covington, and later as pastor at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Waverly, and St. Francis of Assisi, Jamesville, during his time as director of Religious Education. Fr. Gratto was later named assistant pastor at St. Joseph’s Church, Brasher Falls, and then as pastor at St. Francis of Assisi, Jamesville.

Fr. Gratto was also named director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Syracuse in 1986. He was appointed to the position of director of Catholic Charities in 1990.

Fr. Gratto was a resident in the Sisters of St. Joseph’s Inns, where he celebrated Mass for the Carmelite Church in Madison.

Father Gratto’s funeral Mass will be held on June 7, 2012, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, Brasher Falls. Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the church hall. All are invited to attend and to share in the celebration of Fr. Gratto’s life.

In memory of Fr. Gratto, donations can be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph’s Inns, 600 Central Ave., Syracuse, NY 13204.
FATHER THOMAS JAMES HIGMAN is ordained to the priesthood

By Mary Lou Kilian

Bishop LaValley then anointed Father Higman's hands, symbolizing the priest's distinctive participation in Christ's priesthood. At this point Bishop LaValley handed over the bread and wine, pointing to Father Higman's duty of presiding at the celebration of the Eucharist.

The ordination rite concluded with a fraternal kiss from the bishop and the other priests who welcomed Father Higman to a shared ministry.

Other participants

Priests concelebrating with Bishop LaValley included priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, faculty members from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and other friends of Father Higman.

The deacon chaplains to the bishop were Deacons Richard Staub of Carthage and Gary Frank of Clayton.

Deacon Belina was Deacon of the Word and Deacon Richard W. James was Deacon of the Eucharist.

The deacon readers, Father Higman invited three friends of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary to the ordination, made the formal request that the bishop ordain Father Higman to a servant, the dignity of the priestly stole and chasuble at the celebration of the Eucharist.

By Augustinian Father James Olley were episcopal insignia of the Gospel.

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By Augustinian Father James Olley were episcopal insignia of the Gospel.
The new priest offers a blessing to his parents, James and Mary Higman of Carthage.

Blood is still intact at Orvieto. Scientifically proved to be human blood on the corporal signifies the Presence. As he elevated the sacred Host that day, blood poured onto the altar linens. The Host that day, blood poured onto his hands, and the blood on the corporal scientifically proved to be human blood is still intact at Orvieto to this day.

There are many other authenticated miracles the Church has raised up in its history, but not necessary for our faith. Jesus, after all, becomes sacramentally present at every Mass in our own home-town Church.

Does Jesus remain in the elements after Mass? The ancient practice of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been encouraged by recent popes. In support of the practice of Holy Hours and Benediction, our present Holy Father quotes St. Augustine as saying “No one should eat this flesh without first adoring it” (On the Psalms 98:9). Feasts are established by the Church to strengthen faith. This feast is no exception. The readings for today’s Mass describe the ritual actions of Moses’ pouring blood on the people. Why? To help them remember God’s commands. The second reading speaks of Jesus pouring out his blood on all people. This priestly act effectively redeemed the world from the Father’s displeasure. In Genesis, the Gospel narrates how Jesus established the sacrament of Eucharist as the means of continuing His saving death. “This do in remembrance of Me.” He told His Apostles.

There is tremendous love in the Church for the Church. The joys and sorrows, the triumphs and defeats, the good and bad we share with them. The good news is: We all are the Church. We all are being the Church.

On the NCC Facebook page

The Episcopal Diocese of the North Country Catholic Facebook page to see more photos from the priest’s ordination. frail

Spirituality for Today

About Catholic marriages

If Catholics of the same gender come to us to marry, we respect them, but we cannot marry them. According to the Catechism, Catholicity is a unique, exclusive union. Catholics differ in their beliefs.

When I attempted to explain to my gay nephew whom I love as a son, that the Church teaches marriage is a natural, male-female marriage, he was not impressed. I told him that heterosexuality is a gift; therefore, even heterosexual Catholics in good standing, he was not impressed. I told him that heterosexual men are not permitted to marry in the Catholic Church. He is catholic, and if he is Catholic, he is bound by the law, if he is Catholic, he is bound by the Church. He is Catholic, and if he is Catholic, he is bound by the law.

If they decide that they want to “marry,” but for life, only for as long as the good feelings last, we send them away. If they want a civil union, we do the same thing. Catholic marriages are meant to be exclusive unions between one man and one woman.

The Catholic marriage is an institution that is a gift from God to the Church.

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If Catholics of the same gender come to us to marry, we respect them, but we cannot marry them. Under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, gay and lesbian men and women can claim equal legal rights under the law, but they cannot rewrite the law or the legal presumptions behind it. Two things are in play: the rights of others, and the separation of church and state.

It must be understood that as soon as a person’s legal rights come into conflict with the legal rights of another or others, the matter must be adjudicated in a court of law and it could be up to the Supreme Court to decide, if necessary. One example of some sort similar to this is the Occupy Wall Street protesters. They have the constitutional right of free speech and assembly, but it is not an absolute right. If they disturb the peace or misuse public property, which exists exclusively for the common good, they lose their license to assemble.

The marriage laws are widely complex. What is a gay marriage? Gay’s and lesbians differ in their beliefs. Some believe in the right to be polygamous; some demand the right to be polygamous; some are committed to a lifelong relationship; some are not. Marriage laws must be applied equally. All parties must accept the same definitions of the marriage contract. The U.S. is a democracy, and we the people have the right to oppose law as deemed to be unjust. In the United States majority rules and the democratic concept must adjust them if a majority changes the law by stringent political tactics, which often alienate sympathetic partners. Even if they win a major ity vote, creating an amendment to allow gay marriage, even if it is passed by the majority on this vote, it is not an absolute right. They can do for my nephew and his long-standing partner, both of whom are good and decent human beings, it blesses them and wish them good health, long life and much happiness.

But, I cannot attempt to “marry” them in the church or anywhere else without violating what the Church teaches them they have a right and a duty to follow their conscience and then trust in God’s love.

The new priest after a blessing to his parents, James and Mary Higman of Carthage.

The faithful communities of St. James Church, Carthage, NY, St. Mary’s Church, Copenhagen, NY and Carthage Augustinian Academy (Pre-K – Grade 8) congratulate Fr. Thomas James Higman upon his Ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood of Jesus Christ. We are proud to have you, a native son, respond to the Lord’s call to serve God’s People as a priest for the local Church of Ogdensburg.

“May God who began this good work in you, bring it to fruition.”

May God bless you and your priestly ministry to our diocese! Fr. George F. Mascia, Pastor St. Annunciation Collins, S.R., Principal of C.A. Pastoral Staff and Parishioner of St. James & St. Mary’s

The new priest after a blessing to his parents, James and Mary Higman of Carthage.

Bishop Edward hands the bread and wine to Father Higman which signifies the priest’s duty to proclaim the Eucharist. Also shown is deaconess Maria Perez of Lake Placid.
Baptism took place in the McNab-O’Hara Church. The baptism was attended by Pope John Paul II's personal secretary, Monsignor Georgieli, who had been present at the papal visit to the United States in 1987.

The ceremony was led by the Rev. Lawrence J. Brady, the parish priest, and the Rev. Lawrence J. Brady Jr., the assistant pastor. The baptism was accompanied by a candle procession, which symbolizes the light of faith and the promise of a new life in Christ. The parents of the baby, who were members of the McNab-O’Hara community, were present at the ceremony, along with other parishioners who had gathered to witness the baptism.
According to legal scholars:

Religious freedom at heart of HHS lawsuits

By Deirdre La Voie Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The mass media focus on the public disservice by consistently referring to health reform law regulations so narrowly as the “contraceptive mandate,” because it leads people to think the regulations are a matter of interest only to Catholics, according to Harvard Law Professor Mary Ann Glendon.

Rather, she said, the regulations that would require employers to provide free health insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations are a contravention of religious freedom, “and that’s everybody’s business.”

Legal experts interviewed by Catholic News Service said the lawsuits filed May 21 by 43 Catholic entities in 12 federal district courts, as well as those filed separately by other organizations and concerned individual employers, are based on these principles.

The first is the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Henrietta, a law professor at George Mason University in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Va., said the Supreme Court has ruled that statutes may breach religious freedom if a law is not narrowly drawn and not in keeping with the “endoctrine and of general applicability” that is applied across the board without exemption.

But, she said, the Department of Health and Human Services regulations to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act contain numerous exemptions affecting thousands of people, groups, for example, and grandfathered provisions and so cannot be considered generally applicable.

A second reason cited for the lawsuits is the 1993 Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The law says that if the government is going to place a substantial burden on religious practice, the government must have a compelling interest to do so and must use the least restrictive means available.

The HHS regulations do not meet that test, the scholars agreed.

Finally, enforcing the regulations’ narrow definition of religiously exempt entities would, Glendon said, require a searching government inquiry into what is and isn’t religious activity, “intruding on religious activity, ‘intruding into religious affairs in an unprecedented way.’”

The National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington will host the closing liturgy of the U.S. Catholic Church’s national education campaign on religious liberty the afternoon of Independence Day Friday July 2 with Mass at Baltimore’s Basilica and a National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The California statute, like the current batch of lawsuits, but the other employers are using different strategies.

Glendon said that with respect to the California Bishop’s Conference and the California Catholic Conference, it is “possible that there will be different decisions in different jurisdictions.”

She said that at least some of the plaintiffs will probably be successful, and in those cases the court may issue an injunction on enforcement of the HHS regulations within the area of the court’s jurisdiction.

Garrett also said the Obama administration may just decide to change the regulations.

The Catholic Health Association, which has not joined in any of the lawsuits, told CNS its only statement on the lawsuits could be found in a May 21 blog post by E.J. Dionne of The Washington Post.

In it, Michael Rodgers, CHA senior vice president for public affairs and advocacy, was quoted as saying in an interview that the association “was not made aware that lawsuits were being filed.”

Rodgers is quoted as adding that CHA is working by the administration to “broaden the definition of what religious organization is at heart of HHS lawsuits

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Congratulations to our Jubilarians!

Fr. Lawrence Cotter, who is celebrating 60 years of the priesthood, gave his first publicly blessing to 84 parishes, schools and missions. Shown with Bishop Mulvey and Fr. Cotter are Father’s parents, Edward and Margaret; Charles Cotter, and his brother, Fr. Robert L. Cotter, who is celebrating 55 years of the priesthood, and Fr. Charles B. Cotter. (Photo appeared in the May 15, 1972 edition of the NCC.)

Ordination Blessing

Dear Lord,

bless these servants who go forth to do your will. As Melchizedek, your priest-king of Jerusalem, sealed his covenant with bread and wine, bless these who will renew your covenant with us through the celebration of the Eucharist.

As prayer, mortifying, and laying out of hands made kings in ancient Israel, may these chosen ones, after their ordaining, imitate the King of all kings in their service to your people.

As the apostles were sent by Christ to make followers of all nations, inspire your shepherds to lead all they encounter into the loving arms of your universal family and faith.

Amen.

Bishop Bruno solemnly imparts hands upon Diocese of Grand Forks, ordaining nine men to the Order of Priesthood. Ordination ceremonies took place in St. Mary’s Cathedral on Saturday, May 13. Fr. Cotter is celebrating 40 years with the priesthood. (Photo by Allan Brece appeared in the May 21, 1972 edition of the NCC.)

Bishop Eugene Lallonde is shown with Father Paul Fohr and the Diocese’s three new priests, Deacon William Bousquet, who will ordained on Oct. 18, 1997. All three priests are celebrating 25 years of the priesthood. (Photo appeared in the June 3, 1972 edition of the NCC.)

Father Daniel Capieto, who is celebrating 40 years of the priesthood, is the first priest to be ordained by Bishop Bruno. (Photo appeared in the May 21, 1972 edition of the NCC.)
Congratulations to our Jubilarians!

Fr. Lawrence Cotter, who is celebrating 60 years of the priesthood, joins his first publicly blessing to his parish, families and friends. Shown with Bishop Malamert and Fr. Cotter are Father’s parents, Edward and Margaret Cotter, and his brother, Fr. Robert L. Cotter, who is celebrating 65 years of the priesthood, and Fr. Charles B. Cotter. (Photo appeared in the June 6, 2012 edition of the NCC.)

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Amen.

Bishop Bruno solemnly imposes hands upon Donzzeil Gerald Czecz, ordaining him as the Order of Priesthood. Ordinatory ceremonies took place in St. Mary’s Cathedral on Saturday, May 15. Fr. Czecz is celebrating 40 years with the priesthood. (Photo by Allan Brenner appeared in the May 21, 1972 edition of the NCC.)

Bishop Bruno solemnly imposes hands of ordination on Fr. Raymond Wrono, who is celebrating 40 years of the priesthood. (Photo appeared in the Nov. 1, 1972 edition of the NCC.)

Bishop Eugene Laffraca is shown with Father Just Fehse and that Deacon James, Seymour and Deacon William Farnese, who were ordained on Oct. 10, 1967. All three priests are celebrating 25 years of the priesthood. (Photo appeared in the June 3, 1967 edition of the NCC.)

The Catholic University of America is also assisted in this collection.

Founded in 1887, the Catholic University of America is the nation’s only institution of higher education established by the Bishops of the United States.

Your generous donation to the National Collection supports scholarships and financial aid for students attending The Catholic University of America.

www.cua.edu

Please give generously the weekend of June 9 & 10, 2012
According to legal scholars:

Religious freedom at heart of HHS lawsuits

Dr. Debra Bernhard
Catholic News Service

(202) 462-0030

Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The law says that if the government is going to place a substantial burden on religious practice, the government must have a compelling interest to do so and must use the least restrictive means available.

The HHS regulations do not meet that test, the scholars agreed. Finally, enforcing the regulations’ narrow definition of religiously exempt entities would, said Dr. Bernhard, require a searching government inquiry into what is and isn’t religious activity, “intruding into religious affairs in an unprecedented way.”

Legal experts interviewed by Catholic News Service said the lawsuits filed May 21 by 43 Catholic entities in 12 federal district courts, as well as those filed separately by other organizations and concerned individual employees, are based on these principles.

The first is the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Helena K. Ziefert, a law professor at George Mason University in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Arlington, Va., said the Supreme Court has ruled that statutes may breach religious freedom if a law is intended to achieve a disservice by consistently referring to health reform and of general applicability, that is, applied across the board without exemption.

But, she said, the Department of Health and Human Services regulations to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act contain numerous exemptions affecting thousands of people’s opinions, for example, and grandfathered programs and so cannot be considered generally applicable.

A second reason cited for the lawsuits is the 1993 federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The law says that if the government is going to place a substantial burden on religious practice, the government must have a compelling interest to do so and must use the least restrictive means available.

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The HHS regulations do not meet that test, the scholars agreed. Finally, enforcing the regulations’ narrow definition of religiously exempt entities would, said Dr. Bernhard, require a searching government inquiry into what is and isn’t religious activity, “intruding into religious affairs in an unprecedented way.”

Legal experts interviewed by Catholic News Service said the lawsuits filed May 21 by 43 Catholic entities in 12 federal district courts, as well as those filed separately by other organizations and concerned individual employees, are based on these principles.

The first is the free exercise clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Helena K. Ziefert, a law professor at George Mason University in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Arlington, Va., said the Supreme Court has ruled that statutes may breach religious freedom if a law is intended to achieve a disservice by consistently referring to health reform and of general applicability, that is, applied across the board without exemption.

But, she said, the Department of Health and Human Services regulations to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act contain numerous exemptions affecting thousands of people’s opinions, for example, and grandfathered programs and so cannot be considered generally applicable.

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**MIRACLE BABIES** are baptized. From left, parents David Pinello, Shannon Pinello, Msgr. John V. Dew of the Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg. Pinello welcomed his three beautiful babies. In all but one case, couples who were pregnant with a child together. Then in July, they found out they were pregnant with triplets who were conceived in a church named for the Immaculate Conception in Chazy, N.Y.

**THREE'S!**

Shannon’s mother, Jay Ludmila, who lives in Keeseville, is a commissioner for the parish, a member of the Altar Rosary Society and works on special projects. “Nicole,” a student in Shannon’s grade, said, “I was at their baptism and also on their high school graduation day.”

**Past in Peace**

“Never, never, never give up.” Winston Churchill’s famous words were etched on the plaque above the altar of the new Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Ogdensburg, N.Y. The new cathedral is the result of a collaboration between the Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Church of the Province of Buffalo.

**In changing times, faith seem as strong as ever**

Support The Fatherhood Initiative

**Congratulations and Best Wishes on Your Diaconate Ordination**

From the Pastor and Parishioners of St. Patrick’s Church, Watertown

By Daniel Linskey

**Reap a harvest**

Fathers have a complicated mix involving discipline, religion, education, employees or volunteers to work with, and sometimes a boss. It can be within a family, or with their extended family. As Father Richard J. Mahoney of St. John the Baptist Church in Watertown, N.Y., put it: "Fathers are the leaders of the family. They set an example for their children to follow." Fathers have different roles to play in the lives of their children. Some may be active in religious activities, some may be active in civic affairs, some may be active in the community. Fathers provide information, advice and guidance to their children. Fathers need to be strong in their relationships with their children. Fathers need to be strong in their relationships with their children. Fathers need to be strong in their relationships with their children. Fathers need to be strong in their relationships with their children. Fathers need to be strong in their relationships with their children.

**DEACON SCOTT ANTHONY BELITTA**

By Daniel Linskey

Catholic News Service

**OPEN LINE**

**WORKSHOP (CN) The image of the family is changing and increasingly includes the concept of changing and increasingly includes the concept of**

**Federal court overturns Defense of Marriage Act; appeal presumed**

**ATT A GLANCE**
The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

The Feast of Corpus Christi (the Body of Christ) was established by Pope Urban IV in 1264. He was probably influenced by a miracle which had occurred in Bolsena, Italy, a German priest, Father Peter of Pepeia, stopped there to celebrate Mass. It is interesting to know that this priest had been having doubts about the truth of the Eucharist. As he celebrated the Mass, Host that day, blood poured down his hands, and onto the altar linens. The blood on the corporal scientifically proved to be human blood and is still intact at Orvieto today.

There are many other authentic miracles connected with the Eucharist which are not necessary for our faith. Jesus, after all, becomes sacrificially present at every Mass in our own home-town Church.

Does Jesus remain in the elements after Mass? The ancient practice of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been encouraged by recent popes. 

In support of the practice of Holy Hours and Benediction, our present Holy Father quotes St. Augustine as saying “No one should eat this flesh without first adoring it. We should sin were we not to adore it” (On the Psalms 98:9).

Feasts are established by the Church to strengthen our faith. This feast is no exception. The readings for today’s Mass describe the ritual actions of Moses’ pouring blood on the people. Why? To help them remember God’s commands. The second reading speaks of Jesus pouring out his blood on all people.

This priestly act effectively saves death. “Do this in remembrance of me.” He told His Apostles. There is tremendous meaning in the word “communion” which describes our reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus. Just as Jesus at the Last Supper passed around the one cup, so too we share the one bread and the one chalice at every Mass.

First, we adore, then we receive, and then we become the food we have received. We are truly one body in Christ. Strengthened and transformed in love, truth, and joy to adore the Spirit. As we are ready to share the fruits of love, compassion, forgiveness, service, and all the rest of the great fruits of the Spirit with our brothers and sisters. There is no wonder that the apostles and early followers of Jesus were so inspired by joy, having become part of the mark of a Christian. If anyone confounds you today with that common re- mark, “What are you so happy about?” we just might set them on their heels with the reply, “I received Jesus into my heart through Communion today!”

If not, then it is always important to smile and say “Wouldn’t you like to know?”

The new priest offers a blessing to his parents, James and Mary Higman of Carthage.
Father James Higman is ordained to the priesthood

By Ray LeMay

OGDENSBURG — On the moments before Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordained Deacon Thomas James Higman to the priesthood May 26, the bishop acknowledged the significance of the day.

“Deacon Thomas James Higman, soon you shall be consecrated priest, handed over to God forever, so that you can offer women and men in their service a sacrament that comes from God and leads to God,” the bishop said. “You know well, there has been much, much preparation and formation for this day of the ordination.”

At the conclusion of the Rite of Ordination, Bishop LaValley cemented the ordination of Deacon Higman to the priesthood in prayer.

The ordination liturgy included the Ordination Patriarchal Liturgy, which was part of the Rite of Ordination which followed the Liturgy of the Word.

According to Canon 938 of the Code of Canon Law, the bishop is the ordaining minister.

The music was led by Ernie Spenard of Troy, NY, former Director of Music for St. Mark’s Church in Troy. The church choir consisted of members from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and other friends.

The ordination rite concluded with a benediction and the bishop’s homily before asking Father Higman to express his resolve to carry out his office in accord with the will and example of Christ the Lord.

The young priest was vested with the priest’s distinctive participation in Christ’s priesthood.

At this point Bishop LaValley handed over the bishop and the other priests who welcomed Father Higman to a shared ministry.

Cross “A Passage to India” with “Fawlty Towers” and you’ll get “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.” A comedy-drama, combination about seven elderly Brits searching for a new life in India - a place of 21st-century space, modern conveniences, and new friends. You can offer women and men in their service a sacrament that comes from God and leads to God.”

The Church of Ogdensburg welcomed and rejoiced with all present here who were part of this most recent rite of passage.

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**THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

Plattsburgh – There will be adoration in the chapel following the monthly prayer service to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**DATE**

Time: 7 p.m.

**PLACE**

St. Peter’s Church

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Prairie St. Augustine’s Knights of Columbus will host its 30th annual golf tournament.

**DATE**

Time: shotgun start at 10 a.m.

**PLACE**

Albion Golf Club & Country Club

**FEE**

$50 per player

**ENTRY DEADLINE**

April 16

**PRIZES**

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded. Awards dinner following tournament. Trophies will be awarded to the lowest net score. Cost is $320 per team before May 1 and $350 per team after May 1. Low gross and low net team prize winners will be presented with trophies. Contact the office at 768-3415 to determine the details. Reserve your team by April 15.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

This monthly Eucharistic Adoration is open to everyone the first Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

**DATE**

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

**PLACE**

St. Mary’s Church

** laps are available.

**FREE NOVELTY FOR MEDITATION**

Offered – Holy Name Church is offering a special medal for the safety of military personnel.

**DATE**

Saturday evenings

**SPAGHETTI SOPPER**

Watertown – St. Anthony Ferry Church will be holding Spaghetti Suppers.

**DATE**

June 28

**TIME**

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**PLACE**

St. Anthony Ferry Church

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

Donations can be made to CharlesKetterson@comcast.net.

**MAY 7, 1947, IN CANTON, THE BIRTH OF FR. GRAZIANO GRATTO, S.J,**

CANTON – The death of the Rev. Graziano Gratto, a Jesuit priest who is a native of Canton, was announced by the Jesuit Provincial of the New England Province.

**Ogdensburg turf comes to end of life**

BISHOP LAVALLEY CONDEMNS OBAMA’s HEALTH CARE REFORM

“The government is now mandating and legislating that all private health plans to cover contraception, abortion-inducing drugs. Some, with other agendas, would have us believe that our reproductive freedom is the same as moral freedom. This is a misconception. We have to distinguish between our reproductive freedom and moral freedom. This belief can be dangerous to other people’s freedom,” Bishop LaValley said.

**LIFEHABIT MEETING**

May 16

**TIME**

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**PLACE**

St. Joseph’s Church

**FREE NOVELTY FOR MEDITATION**

St. Anthony’s Church will hold a First Class Relic of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Father John Fierro will be available to share testimonials of healing with those who attend the Parish Center along with refreshments.

**LIFEBETT MEET**

May 30

**TIME**

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**PLACE**

St. Joseph’s Church

**FREE NOVELTY FOR MEDITATION**

St. Anthony’s Church will have a Novena of the Holy Name to celebrate its 96th Annual Mt. Carmel Adoration. Nocturnal Adoration continues through the entire month of June.

**ADVENTURER**

May 30

**TIME**

Time: 11 a.m.

**PLACE**

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**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**

**North Country Catholic**

8 Washington St.
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

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God is good… all the time!

By Justin Lawlor

(contributing writer)

This weekend we witnessed both Father Tom Higman and Deacon Scott Belina publically answer a resounding “all the time” as they dedicated their lives to the goodness of God through service to His holy church.

And it took an entire weekend to properly celebrate such an amazing moment in our North Country Catholic Parish. It is not often that we young people get to publicly celebrate our Catholic faith, so we took full advantage of the opportunity this past weekend.

Over 30 young people from recent Guggenheim “generations” completed the entire Ordinationpalooza circuit with great enthusiasm.

Within three days, we celebrated a 2-hour-or-so ordination of Father Tom at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown, followed by an evening with Tom and Deacon Scott, danced with Tom and Scott, and partook in a vitality that can only be explained as Divine.

We are among those that were invited to a tiny glimpse of heaven, then we have something indescribably amazing to look forward to for eternity.

We in our Guggenheim community try to support this same personal “yes” to the Lord in each other. It is in solitude that we hear our call, but it is through our relationships with each other that we find the way to answer it.

By setting such a profound example, Father Tom and Deacon Scott have therefore encouraged us in a profound way to continue to seek and then to follow our vocations both independently and as a group. I am so proud of Father Tom and Deacon Scott. I am blessed to call them friends. Being with them this past weekend was indescribable. I cannot think of too many things more beautiful to accept the blessed ordination and to watch the priestly growth in the modern world.

But I know that I speak for the entire Guggenheim community when I say that I am so grateful for the opportunity of accepting and living out this vocation. As a group, we join this new Priesthood in a union of joy and gratitude.

“We will do everything to proclaim our faith with great joy in the midst of our people and in the name of my good and faithful ones.”

Congratulations Father Tom and Deacon Scott!

Alright, who is up for Ordinationpalooza 2 next year?

PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

A trio of jubilarian

Looking back as jubilarian celebration days 25, 50 and 60 years age.

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Bishop LaValley has called Catholics in the diocese to participate in the national Fortnight for Freedom as a protest of the recent Department of Health and Human Services mandate requiring几乎all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

Some, with other agendas, would have us believe that this is really an issue about contraception and women’s reproductive rights. In reality, it is a much more fundamental issue that Bishop writes, “It is not.

This is first and foremost a question about religious liberty,” he said.

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

On the evening before his ordination to the priesthood, Deacon Thomas J. Higman met his friend Father Scott A. Belina who was ordained May 27, Pentecost Sunday, during Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. Acknowledging their friendship, teamwork and support, Deacon Higman said, “Tom, you are up to another thing that you have done before. It is not the same, but the challenge is the same.”

PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Bishop LaValley presided at the Mass of Ordination Rite for Father Stephen H. Gratto, 45, held May 27 at St. Mary’s Church in Canton. Father Gratto, 45, holds his licentiate in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Joseph, a Bachelor of Laws degree from Iona College, and is a member of the Friars Minor. He recently served at the Diocese of Rochester in the area of youth ministry.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

As a group, we join this new Priesthood in a union of joy and gratitude.

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Congratulations Father Tom and Deacon Scott!

Alright, who is up for Ordinationpalooza 2 next year?

PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

An ordination is celebrated at St. John’s School in Plattsburgh, pictured with friends Deacon Scott Belina, left, and Father Tom Higman, during a celebration of their ordinations. The three became friends while working at Guggenheim.

PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

This is the chant used at the Church history.

This eagerness and anticipation this weekend was just a tiny glimpse of heaven, then we have something indescribably amazing to look forward to for eternity.

For the jubilarians

The jubilarians...had the opportunity to experience a lifelong dream this past weekend.

PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

We also celebrated a birthday and engagement.

PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

At the Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 67, Number 9

June 6, 2012

This is the chant used at Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica. Acknowledging their friendship, teamwork and support, Deacon Higman said, “Tom, you are up to another thing that you have done before. It is not the same, but the challenge is the same.”

PHOTO BY SETH CONKLIN

A friend reflects on an unforgettable weekend, p. 16