What a privilege and a blessing!

By Kateri White

What a privilege and a blessing! I’ve had friends knit their brow and look at me with bewilderment when I de-scribe the sleep deprivation, the steady drip of camp food (you can draw your own conclusions about what that’s like), and the constant state of having a mysterious combination of sweat, sand, kitchen residue, sunscreen, and grit all over me.

I am perfectly comfortable with the fact that no one who has never been to Camp Guggenheim will ever understand what it is so special about. And so, these criticisms more or less fall off my back.

Because I don’t hesitate to say that this is a privilege and a blessing to do each summer in far and away the most important thing I’ve ever done with my life. It could be the most important thing anyone does with his or her life, and it’s only more magnified for me in the summertime because I have the chance to do it in such a condensed and intensive way, and that is to give of myself to others.

Time at Guggenheim:
 It could be the most important thing anyone does with his or her life, and it’s only more magnified for me in the summertime because I have the chance to do it in such a condensed and intensive way, and that is to give of myself to others.

This summer, I often prayed St. Ignatius of Loy-ola’s prayer for generosity, which in which there is a line, “Teach me, so I may give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to be afraid to lose, to toil and not to seek for rest…” I can honestly say that this prayer was my guide all summer. When I was holding out my blankets to chilly campers, or losing my sanity scratching at big bugs, or really just wishing for a nap.

I leaned on that prayer, I knew that I needed the grace I could get. But I can also say that, with all said and done and with a few weeks passed since the camp season ended, this was all absolutely and totally worth it. Jesus wanted us to be fishers of men, and being a Guggenheim counselor gave me the privileged position of one at a time, “hooking” each of our campers in the way that he or she needed most.

For some, this was just making that camper a little better and jelly sandwiches when he couldn’t eat the camp food, and doing it with love. For others it was being a shoulder to cry on.

For all the others, together we created an environment free from the influences of teenage life in which to just have FUN. And if I might say so, we at Camp Guggenheim know how to have fun!

And not only that, but every ounce of energy you give throughout the year to keep ministering to these incredible young people is equally important.

I pray that until next camp season, we may continue to give, and that we will again see all the beautiful gifts that these young people possess, as well as all the beauty our spirituality and love possess, as well as all the beauty of our spirituality and love.

And those who turn to her.

The pope told the crowd that the Feast of Mary’s queenship was added to the liturgical calendar only in 1954, but that it was the result of centuries of devotion to Mary as queen of heaven and of the universe. Mary’s “queenship is a “con- sequence of her being united with her son, her being in heaven, in communion with God,” Pope Benedict said.

From heaven, she participates in God’s love for the world, the pope said. She “watches over us, her daughters, children who turn to her in prayer to thank her or ask for her maternal protection and her heavenly assistance,” the pope said.

What a privilege and a blessing!
We Catholics are going to be hearing and reading a lot about the Year of Faith over the next 15 or so months as the international observance gets started on Oct. 11. The observance gets started in the North Country Catholic as we begin to keep you up to date on the meetings and gatherings of parishes representative of the diocese and the official diocesan opening ceremony on Sept. 22.

And the ACC will be the place for the stories. As St. Augustine’s, the parish of our bishop, is highlighted, our diocesan theme “Taste and See” will be reinvented for the first time: reintroducing the community to Christ as it experiences some of the most faith-filled people in the diocese. We plan to start our “A Story of Faith” feature in the Oct. 15 issue with a reflection from Bishop Mark Reilly. He and Catholics of all ages and its states—have been/will be—engaging in faith in God, reflections about their faith, and the official observance gets started on Oct. 11. The ACC will be the place for the stories. It will be interesting to see, as the year goes on, if there are any common themes among Catholics who call the North Country home. I know I’m not the only one who would point to the staff of Guggenheim as a turning point in my growth of my own faith. More than 30 years after my stint as the waterfront director, our young friend, Rachel Daily captures everything that I experienced in the lives of some of the most faith-filled people in the diocese.

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Diocesan theme for Year of Faith announced

“Faith again for the first time. Introducing the community to Christ by telling the story” will be the theme of the diocesan observance of the Year of Faith. The workshops are set for:

- Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh
- Sept. 30 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Holy Ghost parish center in Tupper Lake

Two representatives from each parish will be sent by their pastor to participate in one of these workshops and be prepared to assist in developing initiatives in their parishes to support the goals of the Year of Faith.

In addition to the fall workshops, parish representatives will participate in workshops designed to communicate the vision and goals of the Year of Faith to their members.

The theme of the workshops is "Faith again for the first time". The goal is to re-introduce Catholics to the Church and Christ by telling the story of their faith. The workshops will take place in various locations throughout the diocese, including schools and parishes. The workshops are led by representatives from each parish who will attend the workshops and be prepared to assist in developing initiatives in their parishes to support the goals of the Year of Faith.

Registration is open to anyone interested in participating in the workshops. For more information or to register, contact the Office of Family Life at 315-393-2920 ext 420 or visit www.dioogdensburg.org/family-life.
since the Vatican ever granted the way for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha’s canonization in 1677 to lead a life of prayer, fasting, and penance and gave her impaired vision. Her scars reportedly vanished in 1980, when she was 45 years old.

She was born in 1656 to an Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father. When she was four, a smallpox epidemic orphaned her. Kateri’s Christian uncle, but Jesuit missionaries and memories of her mother’s quiet Christi-anity inspired her to study Catholicism at the age of 18. When she was baptized two years later and experienced os- tracism, ridicule and death threats from her family and community, Kateri’s influence on their lives grew. "It’s a fact that she’s here, in people’s lives, she’s still helping people, her stories are incredibly inspiring," said Bonaparte, who was her tribe’s first female chief. "Her intercession gives you a lot of courage to do whatever comes up. She takes over your life." Bishop Terry R. LaValley, who was Kateri’s influence on their lives grew. "It’s a fact that she’s here, in people’s lives, she’s still helping people, her stories are incredibly inspiring," said Bonaparte, who was her tribe’s first female chief. "Her intercession gives you a lot of courage to do whatever comes up. She takes over your life." Bishop Terry R. LaValley, who was a parish priest of the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation in Canadian Territory from the 1980s to the 2000s, said of Kateri: "She was a blessed woman. She was an inspiration to all of us." She was raised by an anti-Christian Mohawk mother and a Christian uncle, but Jesuit missionaries and memories of her mother’s quiet Christi-anity inspired her to study Catholicism at the age of 18. When she was baptized two years later and experienced os- tracism, ridicule and death threats from her family and community, Kateri’s influence on their lives grew. "It’s a fact that she’s here, in people’s lives, she’s still helping people, her stories are incredibly inspiring," said Bonaparte, who was her tribe’s first female chief. "Her intercession gives you a lot of courage to do whatever comes up. She takes over your life." Bishop Terry R. LaValley, who was a parish priest of the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation in Canadian Territory from the 1980s to the 2000s, said of Kateri: "She was a blessed woman. She was an inspiration to all of us."
Living with justice, mercy and love

By Stephen Kent
Catholic News Service

It is oxymoronic — if not logically absurd — that we herald Labor Day as a celebration of justice, mercy, and love. For those of us lucky enough to attend a Catholic school, we knew the nuns would quickly help us back to a disciplined time of learning, not just the “three r’s”, but all the wonderful subject matter that made us into the intelligent people we became. Where did all of those subjects have their origin in God’s truth and purpose for our world and living? That’s what Moses was trying to do in this Sunday’s first reading. After giving the people the Ten Commandments, he tells the people to observe every one — not to take anything away or add to what they taught.

"This nation is truly a wise and intelligent people..." wrote the Talmud. "As Scripture reminds us, only foolish people would allow that to happen. In the letter from St. James that we read today, the apostle reminds us that all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights — he who cannot be blamed as a source of confusion or duplicity. Our beloved America is gradually drifting farther and farther away from God’s wisdom. As Scripture reminds us, only foolish people would allow that to happen. That’s what Moses said that we read today, the apostle reminds us that all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights — he who cannot be blamed as a source of confusion or duplicity. Our beloved America is gradually drifting farther and farther away from God’s wisdom."

The relative silence of candidates and their campaigns on the moral imperative to resist and overcome poverty is both ominous and disheartening. The U.S. bishops say in their annual Labor Day statement. "Debates about hand-washing, the Pharisees for getting all worked up about hand washing, rather than larger issues that are not among the priorities of the presidential candidates. As the Holy Father and the U.S. bishops say in their annual Labor Day statement. "Debates about hand-washing, the Pharisees for getting all worked up about hand washing, rather than larger issues that are not among the priorities of the presidential candidates."

"In the time of economic turmoil and uncertainty, we need to reflect on the moral and human dimensions of too much poverty and not enough work," the bishops say. "Work is more than a pay check; it helps raise our quality of life, care for the sick and elderly, the unemployed, and the immigrant should be first and foremost in our concern, and in the quickness of all those who lead the policies of our government."
should have an opportunity to en-gage in dialogue with each other on a website that will be established just for the priests of the diocese. This will serve as a resource for the Institute of Presbyterians and diaconal ministry; it will also invite diocesan work to build a website whereby priests can dialogue with other priests on issues re-levant to their priestly life.

To Father Chris Lobue, our diocesan was chosen to be one of the dioceses that the institute is setting up. It is giving our diocese the opportunity to Dialog with others. The institute will be a wonderful tool for the diocese to keep in touch with one another since our diocese encompasses a large span of area.

We offer the same programs we have been offering in the past. Our diocese is by far the highlight of our year. This past year we began a program called Renewing the Priestly Heart, a retreat for priests who want to grow in their priestly life. This is a very powerful project that includes day-long day-study sessions on various topics, exploring preaching skills, teaching sessions, giving talks and Bible study and forum sessions.

Cardinal to plan treatment with doctors after tests show cancer cells in the bloodstream.

Victim assistance coordinators can help heal the church, bishop says

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the Department of Child and Youth Protection for the Catholic Bishops Conference, said the appointment of Cardinal George to plan treatment with doctors after tests showed cancer cells in the bloodstream is a “good sign.”

He will deliver the benediction Aug. 30 following the major address by Mitt Romney, the Republican nominee for president.

The history of church leadership at political convention

Church leaders have offered prayers at both presidential conventions as well as clergy from many denominations.

In 2000, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles opened the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles with a prayer calling on delegates to “choose life for America,” which he delivered Aug. 29 amid cheers from delegates.
Philadelphia Catholic schools are under new management

By Lou Baldwin
Philadelphia Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA—Philadelphia’s 17 archdiocesan high schools and its four schools for special education are officially under new management.

Under a historic agreement in principle signed by Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput and H. Ed. Harwood, the Faith in the Future Foundation Aug. 21, strategic and operational control of the 21 schools passes to the foundation effective Sept. 1.

It is believed to be the first time a diocese has given control of a major part of its schools to an independent and essentially lay board.

Archbishop Chaput said in a statement that the agreement between the archdiocese and foundation “is unlike any agreement that a diocese has achieved with its lay leadership.”

The willingness of lay leaders with a love for Catholic education to step up to the plate is encouraging, to the archbishop’s pastoral heart.

The pope asked Catholic schools “to exercise it, Pope Benedict XVI said. 

He asked the members to make a renewed effort to ensure laypeople are aware of their responsibility for the church and are allowed to serve as a model for Catholic education across the nation as we infuse and employ an entrepreneurial approach to managing these 21 schools,” Harwood said.

The foundation can and will serve our high schools and schools of special education well,” the archbishop added.

“We have seen the momentum that the foundation has been able to generate and we are confident that this agreement will lead to an even stronger school system for the children of the Philadelphia region,” he added.

Under the agreement, which is for five years, the archdiocesan Office for Catholic Education, which previously oversaw the schools, will become a division of the Faith in the Future Foundation, reporting directly to the foundation’s CEO.

The Office for Catholic Education will continue to focus on curriculum and standards, academic and spiritual development of students, co-curricular and extracurricular programming, and professional development of teachers.

A new model for Catholic education

The presidents and principals of the schools affected by the agreement will continue to report to the education office, and the teachers remain employees of the archdiocese.

Direct ownership of the schools themselves will remain with the archdiocese but the building owned by the Cahill Trust, established under the will of Roman founder Thomas Cahill, who died in 1879. While the makeup of the foundation board has not yet been set, and will not be announced until the fall, Harwood estimated it will have about 15 members, with the archbishop appointing only one of them.

Philadelphia Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Fitzgerald, who oversees Catholic education for the archdiocese, will be a board member.

“The independence of the Catholic secondary system with the schools of special education, was critical to our ability to more fully address the fundraising and enrollment needs of our schools,” Harwood said. “With capacity available to educate an additional 11,000 students we intend to grow.”

He called it “a ground breaking approach to educating our children” and praised Archbishop Chaput and other archdiocesan leaders for being “willing to make such a courageous decision in reaching this agreement with the foundation.”

“I am confident that the foundation can and will serve as a model for Catholic education across the nation as we infuse and employ an entrepreneurial approach to managing these 21 schools,” Harwood said.

Eriksen said that, unlike the work in Los Angeles, the Philadelphia plan repeated the “courage and humility” of the Los Angeles plan.

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“We talk about Catholic education,” Eriksen said. “I am confident that the Philadelphia plan represents elsewhere could put the brakes on the ongoing decline in the number Catholic schools and students nationwide.

“I know that the decline has slowed down, and I think we’re going to see a flattening and then a turnaround,” she said. “The rate of closure for schools has really slowed down. We have discussed that actually went up last year.”

A major part of the new fund’s work will be recruiting, development and fostering innovative programs.

“Our mission is to transform Catholic schools,” Eriksen said. “We have to go and do mission in every facet of our schools.”
Catholics urged to ‘get involved’

By John T. Ryan

Catholics urged to ‘get involved’

Ogdensburg – Catholics of all ages took part in the rally.

Call for prayer and a recognition of religious freedom was the common theme at a prayer rally Aug. 12 at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

“The common theme was a call for prayer and a recognition that more people must become active in preserving America’s historic freedoms and heritage,” Bishop LaValley said.

Bishop LaValley concentrated on the right to freedom of speech, assembly, religion and to bear witness to the teach- ings of the Gospel.

“Our government wants to define religion and restrict our ministry to worship alone,” he said. “More and more religion is being squeezed out of public life.”

Bishop LaValley urged all people who believe in religious freedom to be more active in influencing legislators.

“Notify your political leaders at the state and national level that the erosion of our religious liberties must stop,” he said. “Begin with this unjust law,” he said. “Educate your- self and hear witness in our communities in a spirit of charity and respect.

“And, as we are doing this today, he said, ‘pray for our leaders, political and reli- gious, that they may act in a moral manner respecting the rights of others and spirit of harmony and mutual cooperation.”

The event was coordinated by Col. Bill Ose of Knights of Columbus Council 7364 in Ogdensburg.

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Catholics of all ages took part in the rally.

Brother Knights and over 800 people attended the rally which included remarks from the Rev. Michael Adams, who organized the rally on the steps of the State Capitol in Albany.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley of the Diocese of Ogdensburg urged all Catholics to again rally in Ogdensburg for the protection of conscience rights sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Northern Conference. The program included Liturgy of the Word, a recitation of the rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Deacon David Sanburg, Bishop Lithka and Deacon John White.

Monument remains a focus for pro-life prayer

The event was coordinated by Col. Bill Ose of Knights of Columbus Council 7364 in Ogdensburg.

For several years following its dedication, annual prayer rallies were held at the monument, but as time passed the prayer venue changed. In 2003, the New York State Council Knights of Columbus initiated a statewide prayer rally on the steps of the State Capitol in Albany.

Ose organized that rally for several years, but this year, he decided it was time to once again rally in Ogdensburg.

Knights of Columbus members and many others responded to his call and Ose said it was privilege to host this year’s rally attendance.

Next year, he thinks the rally will once again be held in Ogdensburg.

"This is only the beginning," he said. "Many people had conflicts in their schedules this year and they want to attend.

Next year, I think we’ll have a lot more people."

Three participants of the Aug. 12 prayer rally stop to reflect at the Monument of the Unborn on the front lawn of St. Mary’s Cathedral. The monument was erected with funds raised by the Knights of Columbus Northern Conference and dedicated by Bishop Paul S. Loverde in 1996.

The event was coordinated by Col. Bill Ose of Knights of Columbus Council 7364 in Ogdensburg.
Pope addresses role of laity in the church

Pope Benedict XVI: Providence, a Catholic social doctrine

The Aug. 22-26 assembly in Iasi, Romania, brought together representatives of Catholic Action groups from around the world. The international forum promotes lay involvement in parish and community life, particularly through study and acting on the principles of Catholic social teaching.

Pope Benedict’s message, released by the Vatican Aug. 23, said the church needs a “maturing and committed laity, able to make its specific contribution to the mission of the church.”

The pope asked Catholic educators to work with and for the church through their programs, active participation in ecclesial life, and with an attentive and positive gaze upon the world in a continuous search for the signs of the times.

He asked the members to help with the new evangelization, proclaiming salvation in Christ with language and methods understandable in our age.

In addition, he encouraged them to continue studying and applying Catholic social teaching, particularly with the aim of bringing about a “globalization of solidarity and charity” and fostering “mutual interdependence” and the church’s mission of bringing hope to the world.

Philadelphia Catholic schools are under new management

By Chris Poulton

Philadelphia’s 17 archdiocesan high schools and its four schools for special education are officially under new management.


It is believed to be the first time a diocese has given control of a major part of its schools to an independent and essentially lay board.

Archbishop Chaput said in a statement that the agreement between the archdiocese and foundation “is unlike any agreement that a diocese has achieved with its lay leadership.”

The willingness of lay leaders with a love for Catholic education to step up to this encouragement to commit in a way that respects the role in the church of the clergy, but people who truly are co-responsible for the church and are allowed to exercise it, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Co-responsibility requires a change of mentality, particularly regarding the role in the church of the laity, who should not be considered ‘collaborators’ of the clergy, but people who truly are co-responsible for the church and are allowed to exercise it,” Pope Benedict XVI said.

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Bishop’s Fund supports continued ed. of priests

The history of church leadership praying at the party conventions goes back more than 100 years and was revitalized in 2000 by priests and bishops who offered prayers at both the Democratic and Republican conventions. The tradition has continued every four years since then.

The Church has a long history of praying at the political conventions. The tradition began in 1908 with a request from President Theodore Roosevelt to the Archdiocese of New York to ensure that clergy from the archdiocese would pray at the Democratic and Republican conventions. The archdiocese, along with others, accepted the invitation, and the tradition continued through the years.

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Living with justice, mercy and love

It is oxymoronic— if not tasteless— to “celebrate” a day marking something that is fundamentally disheartening. As the Holy Father and Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, remind us in these troubled and confused times, issues of preservation of human life, care for the sick and elderly, the unemployed, and the immigrant should be first and foremost in our concerns, and in the quickness of all those who lead the policies of our government.

On the Shores of Saranac Lake

A weekend of family... faith... fun

Most children and young people are heading back to school after this weekend. Their college-bound older brothers and sisters have already started the new semesters. Remember that excited feeling? For those of us lucky enough to attend a Catholic school, we knew the nuns would quickly help us back to a disciplined time of learning, not only the “three r’s, but all the wonderful world of math and science and history all make sense because all of those subjects had their origin in God’s truth and purpose for savings and living.

That’s what Monsignor Whitmore does to this Sunday’s first reading. After giving the people the Ten Commandments, he tells the people to observe every one— not to take any thing away or add to what they teach.

If they do this, then the nations of the earth will see, “This nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.”

If you believe America is gradually drifting farther and farther away from God’s wisdom, as Scripture reminds us, only foolish people would allow that to happen.

In the letter from St. James, that we read today, the apostle reminds us that “all giving and every thing, whether it be good or evil, is from above.” It is from God.

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More than 300 Akwesasne Mohawks will make trip to Rome for canonization

**Blessed Kateri has been my inspiration**

By Angela Cone

Covering Catholicism

Ever since the Vatican opened the way for Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha’s canonization in 1980, her devotees’ passion has been building. Akwesasne Mohawk descendants in New York and Canada have haunted a crypt in a white shrine, waiting for a saint they have sought and prayed to with great love. In July, members of the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation gathered in Rome to see the largest group of native people ever to witness the making of a new saint at St. Peter’s Basilica.

It took two dozen buses and about $80,000 in donations from Mohawk elders, upstate dioceses and tribal governments. In addition, to making annual retractions and pilgrimages to shrines throughout the northeastern U.S. and Canada, the faith community is making final preparations to send more than 300 Catholic to Rome in October to witness the making of the first Native American saint.

The parish’s Mohawk language choir is scheduled to perform its hymns to a global audience there. Members of the parish have been actively promoting Blessed Kateri’s cause since at least 1980, when she was beatified. It was a decade before she became a saint.

Blessed Kateri was born in 1656 in an Algonquin village in present-day Auriesville, N.Y., to a Christian mother and a Mohawk father. When she was four, a smallpox epidemic orphaned her and gave her impaired vision and pox scars. She was raised by an anti-Christian uncle, but Jesuit Father Charles de Lazare and a Christian friend baptized her two years later and exposed her to many perspectives about Christianity in 386 and was baptized two years later and experienced os- tensive recognition - especially when she was 24.

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She died at the age of 24 after uttering the words, “Jesus, I love you.”

Her scars reportedly vanished after her death and people immediately began attributing miracles to her in- tercession.

Pope Pius XII declared her venerable in 1941.

Indigenous people have called Blessed Kateri’s saint- hood an acknowledgment of their place within the Church and society.

“It’s really a blessed thing,” said Rosemary Bonaparte, an Akwesasne Mohawk who was not baptized as a child. He was (continued)
Columbus council 13102 is sponsoring October under the direction of the Living Society will sponsor a Sunday weekly hot dog lunch and chicken bbq. Chapel, downstairs calling 236-5848 to reserve. Sackets Harbor- A Parkinson Walk to be planned for the entire family. Following liturgy there will be a picnic at noon after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass. Contact: Lita Maroney at 379-1650 for sign up. Registration deadline is Sept. 2.

Sackets Harbor - Divine Mercy Devotions for the 11 a.m. Mass. Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.syracusecwc.com. The theme for this sixth annual Vermont Catholic Conference is “By Faith” (Hebrews 11:1) to coincide with the “Year of Faith”.


date: Oct. 27

Place: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Features: The theme of Vermont Catholic Conference is “By Faith” (Hebrews 11:1) to coincide with the “Year of Faith”.

PLACE OF CHURCHES

St. Hedwig's Feast Day - The theme of the annual St. Hedwig's 85th anniversary dinner is “Every Hour for Faith and Family”. Time: Thursday before the First Friday of October. Fees: $40 for adults, $10 for children under 12, $5 for children under 5, Free for babies.

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY - The theme of the annual St. Hedwig's 85th anniversary dinner is “Every Hour for Faith and Family”. Time: Thursday before the First Friday of October. Fees: $40 for adults, $10 for children under 12, $5 for children under 5, Free for babies.

SCHOOL HOUSEWIVES - The theme of the annual St. Hedwig's 85th anniversary dinner is “Every Hour for Faith and Family”. Time: Thursday before the First Friday of October. Fees: $40 for adults, $10 for children under 12, $5 for children under 5, Free for babies.

GOLD TOURNAMENT

Indian Lake - The theme of the annual St. Hedwig's 85th anniversary dinner is “Every Hour for Faith and Family”. Time: Thursday before the First Friday of October. Fees: $40 for adults, $10 for children under 12, $5 for children under 5, Free for babies.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOTATIONS

Watertown - The theme of the annual St. Hedwig's 85th anniversary dinner is “Every Hour for Faith and Family”. Time: Thursday before the First Friday of October. Fees: $40 for adults, $10 for children under 12, $5 for children under 5, Free for babies.

MASS OF THE YEAR OF FAITH

September 7, 2012 - October 3, 2013

The Year of Faith themes will be incorporated in promotional material for the diocese.

ST. LUCY'S - The theme of the annual St. Hedwig's 85th anniversary dinner is “Every Hour for Faith and Family”. Time: Thursday before the First Friday of October. Fees: $40 for adults, $10 for children under 12, $5 for children under 5, Free for babies.

Blessing of the Animals - Serves as a source of unity and solidarity with nature. It is a reminder of our responsibility to take care of the earth and all that dwell upon it.

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We Catholics are going to be hearing and reading a lot about ‘Faith in the Year’ over the next 15 or so months as the international observance gets started Oct. 11. 

During the month of July, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be taking the first step in keeping up with the need to know news beginning with the three gatherings of parish representatives and the official diocesan opening ceremony being held July 19-21. And the NCC will be the place for the stories.

We plan to start our ‘A Story of Faith’ feature in the Oct. 15 issue with a reflection from Bishop Mark Reilly. 

‘Faith’ and Catholics of all ages and the states – have been/ will be involved in the celebration of Faith in God, reflections about the meaning of life and a life well lived has led to an increase in faith among some of the most faith-filled people in the diocese.

We will be featuring a year of special stories to show how our actions are connected to what we believe.

It will be interesting to see, as the year goes on, if there are any common themes among Catholics who call the North Country home.

I know I’m not the only one who would point my time to the staff of Guggenheim as a turning point in the growth of my own faith. More than 30 years after my ordination as a priest, our young friend, Rachel Daly captures everything that I experienced all those years ago, (p.16) I could also about sitting in Catholic school class studying in one of the most wonderful Grey Nuns singing in the Homely Church, one of the original ‘folk groups’ of the diocese, under the direction of seminarian, now Father Garry Cregg. 

Other people in the diocese will point to the inspiration of others’ – Blessed Kateri and Brother Andre.

The hound of priests who started their seminary study at Wadhams Fall would also have stories to tell about how they grew closer to God, better able to serve Him and His people during their ministry.

Every diocesan department will have a role to play in aiding in the mission of Year of Faith. 

The focus of Diocesan Communications will be publishing and in parish ministry I’m delighted that the North Country Catholic will be the place for the stories.

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What a privilege and a blessing!

By Rachel Daly

What a privilege and a blessing! I've had friends knit their brow and look at me with bewilderment when I de-scribe the sleep deprivation, the steady drip of camp food (you can draw your own conclusions about what that’s like), and the constant state of having a mysterious combination of sweat, sand, kitchen residue, sunscreen, and grit all over my skin. I am perfectly comfortable with the fact that no one who has never been to Camp Guggenheim will ever understand what is so special about it. And so, these criticisms more or less roll off my back. Because I don’t hesitate to say that the most important thing that Camp Guggenheim has blessed and privilege to do each summer is far and away the most important thing I’ve ever done with my life. It could be the most important thing anyone does with his or her life, and it’s only more magnified for me in the summer because I have the chance to do it in such a condensed and in- tense way, and that is to give of myself to others.

Time at Guggenheim: It could be the most important thing anyone does with his or her life, and it’s only more magnified for me in the summer because I have the chance to do it in such a condensed and intense way, and that is to give of myself to others.

This summer, I often prayed St. Ignatius of Loyola’s prayer for generosity, “Give of yourself to others. It comes with the territory who has never been to have fun! And if I might say so, we, and...”

Blessing

Preparation for canonization

Getting ready for the Year of Faith

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

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HORNING...MARY AS QUEEN

IN THE MONTHLY PRIEST REQUEst

...would you pray for a priest each day?

Rachel Daly, left, of Peru; Samantha Fazioli, Saranac Lake and Eliza Zalis of Plattsburgh are shown at the “camp store” during Sunday registration July 29, beginning the final week of the 2012 Guggenheim camp season.

For others it was being a shoulder to cry on. For me, it was, together an environment free from the influences of teenage life in which to just have fun. And if I might say so, we, and Camp Guggenheim know a thing or two about how to have fun! So as my summer draws to a close, I want to say thank you to each and every person who made it possi- ble for a camper to come to Guggenheim.

For some, this was just making that camper a little better in jelly sandwich when he couldn’t eat the camp food, and doing it with love. For others it was being a shoulder to cry on. For me, it was, together an environment free from the influences of teenage life in which to just have fun. And if I might say so, we, and Camp Guggenheim know a thing or two about how to have fun! So as my summer draws to a close, I want to say thank you to each and every person who made it possi- ble for a camper to come to Guggenheim.

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