Springtime in the Diocese

Faces of Faith

Catholics of the North Country share their talents and share their faith

PHOTO BY FR. SCOTT FOBARE

Students from Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh musically told the stories of John the Baptist, Jesus, and Judas when they presented their production of Godspell Jr., during the weekend of May 17. The performers, from left, were Shannon Gudleuwski, Caylee Gillette, Samantha Basulka, Haley Moore, Jami White, Elizabeth Fisher, Davis Chapman, and Nolan Osborne.

Drama Smith of Hogansburg puts the finishing touches on her painting of St. Patrick’s Church in Hogansburg. The painting will be among artwork on display during “The Beauty of Belief: a celebration of art and faith in the Year of Faith” to be held Aug. 1 at CMPL’s Prayer Tower and Gallery. The event will feature music, including high-quality choral, vocal, or instrumental pieces that are sacred and spiritually refined, as well as artists sharing the beauty of faith through visual art. Tickets for art work to be accepted through Aug. 3. Pictures of submissions can be e-mailed to beautyofbelief@rcdony.org. Further information is available from Carol Gonthier at 518-521-7256.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley anoints the hands of the newly ordained Father Scott Anthony Belina during the ordination ceremony held Saturday at St. Mary’s Cathedral. A native of St. Anthony’s Parish in Watertown, Father Belina studied for the priesthood at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary near Philadelphia, Penn. Full coverage of the ordination will appear in next week’s issue of the North Country Catholic.
As Bishop Terry R. LaValley laid his hands on the head of Fr. Scott A. Belina, Saturday, creating the newest priest for our diocese, the diocesan life bureau at last began its weekly round-up into its weekly newsletter.

With the help of our editors, Betty Steele, and Mary Lee Kilian, we are able to present you all with a beautiful photo from the ordination and was planning to go back again, but he told me, he wasn’t at all sure that he would become a priest. He was prepared to continue the discernment process with prayer and study and ministry, but he was not convinced that God was calling him to the priesthood. Still, when the Vocation Office released the list of seminarians, September’s name was there. Scott just had completed a year of the seminary and was already thinking about his work’s issue. I have no doubt that a time will come when we are celebrating another important event in the diocese and a time to share with each other and to invite someone, a well-known speaker, to share with us something important about our diocese. We all belong to this diocese and that is why Scott and I are disciples of Jesus always ready always to dedicate our lives to the people of our parish.

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg congratulate our jubilarians! 40 Years Reverend Paul F. Ledermann Reverend John M. Demo Reverend Steven M. Murray 50 Years Monsignor John R. Murphy Monsignor C. John McVay Reverend John M. Demo Monsignor C. John McVay Fr. James A. Gaffney Monsignor John R. Murphy Fr. James A. Gaffney began his ministry in the mountains. Today, driving across the diocese of Ogdensburg, the driving gathering of all of our priests – our Presbyteral Assembly – is in progress in Alexandria Bay. Each year we priests gather to spend some time together, all belonging to the diocese but we are spread all over the North Country, so you don’t see as many familiar faces as you might expect when it was important that we take a break and the time to really be with some ships and brotherhood as part of the diocese. It is also a time to share with each other about how we can make the diocese of Ogdensburg a better place.

Each year, we take time to explore more of the diocese, sometimes with other priests, other times with a few men, or a group of nuns. We do not take this time lightly. This year the speaker is a lay man who is involved in evangelizing work in the Irish church. I will let you know about that sometime. Today, driving across the diocese, I am reminded at just how spectacularly beautiful our diocese is. I started my journey to the Assembly in the mountains.

Today, this is characterized for me by all of our priests and we unite together with our Bishop. Our pastoral care throughout the parishes of this diocese is always so important for us to bring the message and love of Jesus to the people of this North Country.

I notice quickly that as I speak with these priests of my diocese, the conversation often goes to the families, a topic which has been mentioned to various parishes in the diocese and I enjoy hearing about the parishioners who were part of my life while I was a part of those parishes. It is interesting, with a note of pride – that we are priests.

Today, I drove across the diocese of Ogdensburg. I was able to see a spectacular great sight.

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

We celebrate our jubilarians.

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Missionary Projects of the Dioceses of Ogdensburg congratulate our jubilarians!


Thank you for your faithful support and God Bless!

From the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Congratulations on 40 years in the priesthood.

Fr. James A. Gaffney
SPAGHETTI SUNDINNER

Moorestown – The Family Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper on June 14 from 4:30 to 7.
Place: 307 Main St., St. Mary's Catholic Church
Contact: Beth Schirmer, 622-9486
FAITH/MISSION SUNDAY

Cazenovia – At St. Peter’s Catholic Church, the Bishop will be present with Mass and Benediction on June 14. Cathedral Mass at 11 a.m.
Place: St. Peter’s Church, 23 N. Main St., Cazenovia
Contact: Call 268-4111, ext. 400

Rites held for Sr. Ruth, RSM

- North Country Catholic
  - May 29, 2013
- By Amy Schirmer

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

St. Mary’s, 23 N. Main St., Cazenovia
Date: June 23
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Contact: Place: Mary’s Family Room

HOEY 3 Letters of recommendation, and a current resume no later than June 7, 2013, should be submitted to: Amy Rotheschirmer, 344-7202

WANTED: Dynamic Teacher

St. Mary’s School, 2 Powers Street, Canton, New York 13617

- North Country Catholic
  - May 29, 2013
- By Amy Schirmer

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Looking back with joy, ahead with hope

BY KEVIN J. RYAN
"Looking back with joy, ahead with hope," Bishop Terry R. LaValley said at the Year of Faith Mass in Lake Placid. He was honored with Father J. Michael Demott, pastor of the Catholic Community Church in Watertown; and Father J. Michael Gaffney, pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. The Year of Faith Mass, celebrated by Bishop LaValley, was a fitting conclusion to a year focused on the saints, Our Father, and Jesus Christ.


gong "The joyful moments of the Year of Faith for Bishop LaValley were one of service to Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Life is a tremendous challenge to the church.

Additional剪辑 of the 20th anniversary of the priest's first installment, "The Hangover Part III," which has no sex, no alcohol and almost no nudity, albeit that last element is eventually present via a closing credits gag.

"What's left from director Todd Phillips, who co-wrote with Craig Mazin, is a gag party 'comedy' filled with changes from the first two films. Among the usual animal ars Schiano involving Animal Planet's 'Puppy Bowl' is truly magnificent, what proves to be a truly magnificent film of coldblooded murder.

This time, Alan Gershen (Gabriel Macht), the iconic rich boy, finally has to mature - at age 42, it's about time - following the death of his father, Sid (Jeffrey Tambor). Aliens' friends Phil Senn, Bradley Cooper, and Viva Patrice (Ez El Bisti) stage an intervention to get their unstable pal together for a Year of Faith Mass in Lake Placid. The challenges Along with the joy, the life of a bishop is marked by challenges and concerns. Bishop LaValley is faced with questions about "the lack of connection Catholic Church had with the church, the lack of participa- tion in the sacraments. "Faith seems to be so much on the margins of peoples’ lives,“ he said. "That’s why this Year of Faith is so critical," he said. "The timing is inspired as we celebrate 40 years of people’s relationships with Jesus, faith and the Catholic faith.

Bishop LaValley said that his is also concerned that, in northern New York, there are so many social and economic needs that are hard to ad- dress.

He said, "the shortage of vocations to the priest- hood is a tremendous challenge to the church.

Father Stitt (diocesan voca- tion director) is very excited about the young and connects well with young people. He is one of those priests Bishop LaValley said, "We need his efforts to continue along with those of the priests and the people."
Today we celebrate the greatest gift Jesus left to us: the precious treasure of His Divine Presence in the Holy Eucharist. In the sacrifice of the Mass, in our daily crosses, our souls are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. That there will only be one as you Father in me, in you.”

Today’s feast is a time for inserting both our belief in Eucharist, the humility to receive it worthily, and the conviction that it’s by very nature, the power of Christ’s divinity must be shared. As it unites us with the One who satisfies all our yearnings for love and fulfillment, so must we let that power flow through us to a world more desperately in need of God than ever before.

To our readers who write:

Abortion cannot be safe

The pro-abortion stance is one of legal and the definition of safety is free from harm or risk. Obviously nothing is safe with abortion. In addition to the death of the unborn baby of every abortion (~ 1,250,000 annually), the women who choose abortion suffer a multitude of problems. Studies have shown increased risk of cervical, liver and especially breast cancer. Women who carry the first baby to term or their chance for breast cancer is almost “1/2.” Women who abort their 1st pregnancy almost double their chance, with 2 more abortions there is a 3-4 fold increase. Consistently without abortion in 10 women will contract breast cancer in their lifetime. If abortion is most important, there are about 1,000,000 of these annually. Thus, 10,000 of these would get breast cancer without abortion. But abortion increases the risk by ~2 times. (91,000 x 2 = 182,000) that contracting some related health. A recent analysis of just a few abortion-related complications indicates the number of indirect deaths attributable to abortion exceeds 25,000 per year. An American obstetrician surveyed 486 of colleagues regarding their experience with abortion patients. 67% revealed that they had hospitalized women with complications following legal abortions; 97% had treated patients for complications, 28% of the doctors (4%) reported patients of theirs dying from legally induced abortions. Women who have had abortion are:

• more likely never to engage in stable relationships
• more likely to become pregnant again and need additional abortions
• more likely to subsequently require welfare assistance
• more likely to never marry and perhaps a strong of unsuccessful relationships
• approximately 55% percent of the women who have abortions suffer psychological damage, some of which are chronic
• more likely to suffer from depression, grief, isolation, guilt, low self-esteem, sexual activity, drug and alcohol abuse.

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MAY 29, 2013

The Diocesan Staff
Pope Francis to visit birthplace of his namesake in saint’s h?rd day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will visit the birthplace of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, Nov. 13, 2023, on the occasion of the saint’s feast day, May 23. Archbishop而导致圣名的神父说他说他被祝福了并且他说他是个“伟大”的人。该名牧师的亲戚和内人是上主圣母的朝圣者，并且他决定去参加罗马的庆祝活动，并在圣女玛利亚教堂做了一场祷告。他说他被祝福了并且他说他是个“伟大”的人。

at a glance

Pope: proclaiming the Good News brings joy

“Without the presence and constant action of the Holy Spirit, the Church lives and she cannot fulfill the mission God has entrusted to her, to make disciples of all peoples.”

At the papal audience

The church exists to evangelize in a world that is full of people who have not yet heard the Gospel of salvation. We need to be a church that is happy and joyful, a church of love, a church that is open to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit brings unity

“The language of the Spirit, the language of the Gospel, is a new language” — a language that understands and expresses in every culture and part of life the meaning of love that everyone can understand and experience in their own lives.
Court to hear case on prayers at public meetings

By Amy Kotlarz
Catholic News Service

MOROCCO, AT DAK The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday will hear oral arguments in a case from upstate New York about the practice of praying at open public meetings.

One of the questions the high court may consider is what steps a municipality should take to ensure the religious diversity of prayers offered at such meetings.

The court announced May 20 that it will hear the case of Greece, N.Y., v. Galloway, which centers on the constitutionality of prayers at the beginning of town board meetings in Greece, a suburb of Rochester.

According to background on the case filed by attorneys representing the Town of Greece, public prayer has been offered at town board meetings since 1999 by the Greece Chamber of Commerce, a Christian legal organization founded in 1994 that advocates for the religious liberty of Americans and people around the world, contends that the town did not regulate the content of the prayers, permitted citizens of any religious tradition — or no tradition — to volunteer to say prayers, and did not discriminate in who was selected as “prayer-givers.”

Alliance Defending Freedom is representing the Town of Greece on a pro bono basis.

In May 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit struck down the town’s prayer policy and recommended potential changes. Among those recommendations was that Greece should invite non-Christian prayers from outside the town’s borders to pray at its town meetings and take steps to ensure that the prayers said were non-denominational and non-sectarian.

Alliance Defending Freedom, a Christian legal organization founded in 1994, did not discriminate in who volunteered to say prayers, and contends that the town did not regulate the content of the prayers, permitted citizens of any religious tradition — or no tradition — to volunteer to say prayers, and did not discriminate in who was selected as “prayer-givers.”

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MAY 29, 2013
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

SCENES FROM THE CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARIES OF PRIESTLY SERVICE

PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop Terry R. LaValley, one of the priests celebrating special anniversaries in 2013, presided at the Jubilee Mass May 22 during the annual Presbyteral Assembly in Alexandria Bay. At left, Deacon Scott A. Belina assists the bishop three days before his ordination to the priesthood. Above, Father Scott Seymour, pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander (Morrisonville) and St. Joseph (DeCou Mills), served as leader of song.

Always for Others
by Susan Beanme

You are the image and likeness of God
But with you the morning awakens
With the call of love
But always for others.

God gifted you with a myriad of souls
Healed you yourself you were a child
But always for others.

God blessed you with wisdom
To use to guide him to his plan
And love to carry them out
But always for others.

Many works with you
Guiding and loving you
For in you, you are a Christ
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The parish family of Saint Mary's Cathedral offers prayerful and joyful congratulations to
Bishop Terry R. LaValley
as he celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Thank you, Bishop, for following the call of Christ!
Thank you for being a priest for us!
May God bless you always!

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The Monthly Prayer Request

JUNE 2013

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THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST

JUNE 2013

would you pray for a priest each day?

PRAY FOR DIOCESE
- Pray for Bishop Terry R. LaValley and his work as Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
- Pray for the priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

PRAY FOR THE PARISHIONERS
- Pray for the parishioners of the parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
- Pray for the needs of the people in the parishes.

MEMBERS OF THE PARISHES
- Members of the parishes: St. Andrew's, St. Michael's, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, and St. Barbara's.
- Members of the parishes: St. Patrick's, St. Peter's, St. John's, and St. Margaret's.

JUNE 2013

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Thank you, Bishop, for following the call of Christ! Thank you for being a priest for us! May God bless you always!

Photo by Betty Stover
Greece, public prayer has representing the Town of Rochester. town board meetings in prayers at the beginning of dates back to 2008. It centers Susan, et al., a dispute that religious diversity of prayers should take to ensure the re-making the Greece Chamber of Commerce and a local newspaper. Greece clergy members who were invited by the town served everyone in the community when it endorses one served everyone in the community when it endorses one made potential changes. Allowing prayers at public meetings after the town's borders to pray at its town meetings and take steps to ensure that the prayers said were non-

Catholic scours to review decision to allow gay youths

AMERYVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America's National Council voted late May 23 to allow openly gay youths admittance as members into the 103-year-old organization, effective Jan. 1, 2014. In a statement, the organization said it had been mandated by the policy change that since the policy change does not take effect until next January, it will have "adequate time to study its effects." The National Catholic Committee on Scouting said that since the policy change does not take effect until next January, it will have "adequate time to study its effects.

The parishioners of Holy Family Parish Family Plattsburgh, NY wish Father Steve Murray a Happy Anniversary and thank him for his dedication and caring presence.
Pope: proclaiming Christ brings joy

A T A GLANCE

Pope Francis to visit birthplace of namesake saint’s feast day

May 22: Pope Francis will visit the birthplace of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, in the Italian town of Pocero di Vico, May 29-30. The pope chose his name because St. Francis of Assisi was so devoted to the poor, a virtue Pope Francis has said that he, too, will strive to honor. Francis of Assisi, on the saint’s feast day, Oct. 4. The Vatican confirmed the trip for May 22 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.” Rev. 22:17

“Let’s live the Gospel with simplicity, humility and courage. Give witness to the newness, hope and joy of the Gospel.” Pope Francis

“Proclaiming the Gospel to every aspect of life.” Pope Francis

“Without prayer, what we do becomes empty and our proclamation lacks soul. It cannot be emptied by the Spirit,” the pope said.

“Let’s live the Gospel with simplicity, humility and courage. Give witness to the newness, hope and joy of the Gospel.” Pope Francis

“Proclaiming the Gospel to every aspect of life.” Pope Francis
Today, we celebrate the greatest gift Jesus left to us—the precious treasure of His Divine Presence in Holy Communion. As in His own Body and Blood as daily nourishment to warm our hearts, courage to stand up and courage to share our daily crosses.

When he solemnly shares our daily crosses, warm our hearts, courage for our souls, love to feed our love, the precious treasure of the greatest gift Jesus left to us.

He left us His own Body and Blood as daily nourishment—a priest, offering him bread and wine, and a special blessing. Melchisedek, incidentally, is also a priest.

Abraham, in turn, shows his gratitude by making a covenant with this priest, offering him a tenth (a tithe) of all his property. We can easily see why no one ever forgot this holy meal.

The second reading is also an important one, for it’s the first saying of Jesus to speak of what Jesus did at the Last Super; and to tell us of the very words Jesus spoke in instituting the Holy Eucharist.

The first reading tells us of the wonderful rescue mission. Abraham, who is not really a military man nor a king, with only a couple of hundred men, bravely rescues his nephew, Lot, who has been taken prisoner by a conspiracy of foreign kings.

The second reading tells us of the very words of Jesus and the act of the Eucharist. Jesus “took, blessed, broke, and gave” the food on that sixth night, Jesus tells us that He Himself will be the very food of sacrifice for the salvation of the world, and commands the apostles to do this over and over until the end of time.

All Four Gospels contain the great story of the multiplication of the loaves and a couple of fish that fed over five thousand. Jesus “took, blessed, broke, and gave” the food on that hillside, just as he would do later in the Upper Room. Through the Eucharist, we ourselves are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. “That they all may be one as You are in me, and in them.”

Today’s feast is a time for fitting up both our house of Faith in Christ, the humility to receive it worthily, and the conviction that it’s very nature, the power of Christ’s divinity must be shared. As it unites us with the One who satisfies all our yearnings for love and fulfillment, so must we let that power flow through us to a world more desperately in need of God than ever before.

O U R READERS WRITE

Abortion cannot be safe

The pro-abortion mantra is rare, safe, and legal— the definition ofsafe is free from harm or risk. Obviously nothing is safe with abortion. In addition to the death of the unborn baby, every abortion—1,250,000 annually, the woman who chooses abortion suffers a multi-task of problems. Studies have shown a raised risk of cervical, liver and especially breast cancer.

Women who carry their 1st baby to term or who choose not to have an abortion are 10 times less likely to get breast cancer.

Women who abort their 1st pregnancy already double their chance, with 2 more abortions there is a 24 fold increase.

Consistently without abortion 1 in 10 women will contract breast cancer. A mother’s 1st abortion is most important, there are about 12,000 of these annually. Thus, 100,000 of these would get breast cancer without abortion. But abortion increases the risk by at least 50%. (10,000 x 50% = 5,000) That means more related deaths. A recent analysis of just a few abortion-related complications indicates that the number of infant deaths attributable to abortion exceeds 25,000 per year.

An American obstetrician surveyed 466 of his colleagues regarding their experience with abortion patients. 67% revealed that they had hospitalized women with complications following legal abortions; 9% had treated patients for complications: 28% of the doctors (34%) of patients of theirs deserted for illegally induced abortions.

Women who have had abortions are:

• at greater risk of suffering emotional and psychological problems.
• twice more likely to engage in drug and alcohol abuse.
• many more likely to become pregnant again, and to undergo additional abortions.
• even more likely to subsequently require welfare assistance.

• even likely to never marry or divorce and perhaps a long string of unceremonious relationships.

Approximately 95% percent of the women who have abortions suffer psychological damage, some of which are serious, chronic, neglected. It batters the self, anger, guilt, feeling of being raped, remaining sexual entities, sexual trauma, failure of teaching basic, even simple life truths, frequently constant thoughts about the child, loneliness, fear of making decisions, hallucinations related to the abortion, nightmares, thoughts about the child, guilt, anxiety, depression, grief, suicide, regret, repeated abortions, etc.

Of all the emotions women experienced during the abortion crisis, none brings more pain and distress than the one they now know and identify 5 to 10 days after their abortion:

‘Oh, my god, I am evil. I have to be, I must be. I can’t go on living like this. How can I ever be forgiven?’

Our readers write about abortion.

Blessings upon you as you celebrate 50 years in the priesthood.

St. Bernard’s Church, Saranac Lake
St. Paul’s Church, Bloomingdale
Church of the Assumption, Gabriels
St. John in the Wilderness, Lake Clear

JUNE 2

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

Genesis 14:18-20
1 Corinthians 11:22-26
Luke 11:19-26

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Congratulations on 25 years in the priesthood!

We truly are blessed to have you as our shephered.

The Diocesan Staff
Looking back with joy, ahead with hope

By Mary Lou Kilian

Bishop reflects on 25 years as priest, three years as bishop

"Being able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the first two priests, "The Hangover Part III," is a very powerful highlight of my life," he said.

After three years as diocesan bishop, Bishop LaValley said he still finds ways to connect with people and with the faith.

"I've had it so humbling to see the people of our diocese gathering in confessions or celebrating Mass through any of the sacraments," he said.

The jubilarians who took part in the Presbyteral Assembly are shown just before the May 22 Jubilee Mass at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay.

Community of St. Philip of Jesus pastor in Norwood, Father Aubin has given "everybody's energies are invested together for a Year of Faith celebration in November."

Looking ahead, Bishop LaValley said that "everybody's energies are invested together for a Year of Faith celebration in November."

Looking back, Bishop LaValley said that "Faith seems to be so much more tangible."
Rites held for Sr. Ruth, RSM

The North Country Catholic
MAY 29, 2013

The North Country Catholic announces contributions to “Share Our Diocese”

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 29, 2013

Envisioning Process for developing Shared Vision for the diocese continues

Listening Sessions - List of sessions, dates, locations, etc.

Rites held for Sr. Ruth, RSM

Plattsburgh - A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Ruth Smith was celebrated on Saturday, May 25, at the Sisters of Mercy Regional Motherhouse in Plattsburgh.

Sister Ruth was born in Watertown on Feb. 16, 1921, to the late Arthur and Betty (LaValley) Smith. Sister Ruth graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Watertown in 1939.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1939 and was professed in 1941. She received her B.A. from Mercy College in Houston, Texas, in 1952.

Sister Ruth was a teacher, including at the Sisters of Mercy Regional Motherhouse in Plattsburgh, for 45 years. She was also a chaplain at the Ramapo Correctional Institution in New Jersey for one year and at the Department of Corrections in New York for four years. She retired in 1984.

Sister Ruth was an Angel for the elderly, working in the care of the elderly and people with disabilities. She was a member of the Sisters of Mercy Volunteer and enjoyed serving the elderly.

She is survived by her brother, Ray Smith, of Milford, N.H.

The family appreciated about the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

What would you like to see?

To me, the Listening Sessions are the core of the work of our team. We want to truly understand the vision and priorities the people of God have for our diocese. "We truly need to hear from the people of God to make our vision and priorities responsive to the real needs of the Diocese," said Bishop LaValley.

Eight Listening Sessions remain to be held throughout the diocese (see schedule below). Applications have already taken place and several meetings are intended to give the people of the Diocese ongoing vision for the diocese and for Bishop LaValley to listen to the people.

At the Listening Sessions, the sharing of ideas will be guided by three questions:

1. What do you most appreciate about the Diocese of Ogdensburg?

2. What is your vision for the diocese in the next five years?

3. In the next 18-24 months, what three priorities should be pursued and fulfilled for more effective ministry and pastoral care?

What would you like to see?

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What would you like to see?
Wonderful place with wonderful people

Today, I drove across the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The stinging gathering of all of our priests – our Presbyteral Assembly - is this week in Alexandria Bay.

Each year we priests gather to spend some time together. All belonging to the Diocese, we are spread all over the North Country, so we don’t get a chance to see each other very often. It’s important that we take a week off to renew and strengthen the bonds of our brotherhood and as priests of the diocese. It is also a time to share with each other the stories of what we are doing, to discover what is important in the life of our diocese.

For the first time in my priesthood, I am living in the Adirondacks. I have traveled through these magnificent mountains often, visiting friends, but have never lived here. They are truly glorious. It is rather special to wake up each morning and see the Adirondacks. Whatever the weather, the mountains are always there.

This is so inspiring. So, I head over our country road; it’s also a time together, and also to in- vite someone, a well-known speaker, to share with us some important message about our sainthood.

This year the speaker is a lay man who is involved in evangelizing this year’s Adirondack team. I will let you know about that situation.

Today, driving across the diocese, I am reminded at just how spectacularly beautiful this place is. I started my journey to the Assembly in the mountains.

I am here to see my family – my brothers in priesthood – so I need to get out and see who is here, to see how they are doing. I need to discover what is new in the life of my diocese. I mention this to you because I have to make sure that I want to realize everything that is important in our diocese. We have a bountiful landscape and so much to offer – including the Adirondack Mountains, the beautiful beaches, the forests, and the excellent places to live. We are blessed.

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FACES OF FAITH

Catholics of the North Country share their talents and share their faith

The faculty of Holy Family in Malone took part in retreat day May 23 at the Guggenheim Lodge in Saranac Lake. In front, from left are Megan Sherwin, Kellie Durant, Shannon Bryant, Vanessa Rome, Laura Tuttle, Josie Sprague, Phyllis Trombley, Aimee Barse and Anne Marie Wiseman; back, Father Tom Higman, Jean Gratton, Laurie St. Hilaire, Dan Klebes, Sr. Rita Frances Brady, Kari Gadway, and Sharon LaFlesh.

His topic was "Collaborators in Keith Strohm of the Siena Institute based in Alexandria Bay. Christ's Mission: Unleashing the Power of Discipleship." Priests from all across the diocese took part in the Presbyteral Assembly held May 22 during the annual Presbyteral Assembly at Alexandria Bay.

The jubilarians are:
- 50 Years:
  - Father Peter A. Amico
  - Father Normand C. Cote
  - Father J. John McAvoy
  - Father Paul F. Ledermann
  - Father Michael Gaffney

40 Years:
- Father John M. Demo
- Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Corpus Christi celebration on Sunday

As part of the diocesan observance of the Year of Faith, a celebration of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi will take place Sunday in Ogdensburg.

The celebration begins at 9:30 a.m. with Mass at Notre Dame Church, followed by an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for adoration until 2 p.m., with a special Holy Hour from 11 a.m. to 12. At 2 p.m., a Eucharistic Procession will leave Notre Dame Church, journeying through the streets of Ogdensburg, to St. Mary's Cathedral.

At the cathedral, from 3 p.m. to 4, there will be choal prayer, Eucharistic adoration and a homily delivered by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

The celebration will conclude at 4 p.m. with Solemn Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.