D.O.V.S. Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Cape
To support and pray for Vocations

Join Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (D.O.V.S.), and Catholics from across the diocese for an overnight pilgrimage to Cap-de-la-Madeleine Thursday and Friday, September 11-12, 2014

Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape
Is the oldest pilgrimage destination north of Mexico. Located less than 2 hours Northeast of Montreal, it was the site of two great miracles in the late 1800’s.

Innitiary includes:
- Mass at Basilica with Bishop LaValley
- Candle light procession
- Holy Hour
- 2 lunches, dinner and breakfast
- Time to shop and gift shop
- Bus from Schroon Lake/Plattsburgh or Ogdensburg/Potsdam

$220.00 for single room and $195.00 for double covers all costs.

For more information or to register contact: Connie Randall at (315) 265-2762

- Non-refundable payment due Aug. 4th
- Any proceeds from the trip will be used for the promotion of vocations within the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Vocation Issue for 2014
Bishop wants a ‘culture of vocations’ in diocese as part of visioning plan
FULL STORY, PAGE 9

Prayers From Home father, deacon, vocations director, announces new prayer initiative for vocations
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Young vocations explored fake vocation, the youngest priest of the diocese reflects on first year of the priesthood.
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Pope encourages priests to keep love for Jesus alive

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Celebrating an early morning Mass with a congregation made up of priests and Bishops, Pope Francis said they regularly need to ask themselves if they love Jesus as much as when they first encountered him, and whether ministry, not administration, is still their priority.

"This is the question I ask myself, my brother bishops and priests: "How is your love today?" This is what Jesus asks," the pope said June 6 at Mass in the chapel of his residence.

"Am I in love like I was the first day? Or have work and worries led me to concentrate on other things and forget love a bit?" the pope asked, according to a summry in L’Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

Deacons gather in Lake Placid

Bishop LaValley invited the permanent deacons of the diocese and their wives to join him for a convocation held June 3-4 in Lake Placid. The assembly was entitled Deacons: Living the Vision. It focused on the current state of the diaconate, the unique opportunities and stresses of the men and women affected by the call, and the role of the deacons in living the vision for the diocese outlined by Bishop LaValley at the Chrism Mass in April.

The gathering also included practical workshops for the deacons in liturgy and Canon Law conducted by Father Douglas Lucia, episcopal vicar for worship in the diocese.
God has entrusted the natural world to us

You and I have been blessed to live in the most beautiful part of this country of our - the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the opportunity to live in the place where this is truly a special place. It is a place where we can be free to live and work hand-in-hand with each other. 

We have been commissioned to be stewards of the natural world. It is a responsibility that we must take seriously. The world needs our help to protect and conserve the environment for future generations. 

We must work together to establish a culture of stewardship. It is not enough to simply recycle or reduce our waste. We must change the way we think and act. We must make it a priority to live in harmony with nature. 

Let us commit ourselves to creating a world where the natural world is cherished and protected. Let us be stewards of God’s creation and work towards a sustainable future. 

Thank you for your efforts to care for the environment. Together, we can make a difference and help ensure a healthy and vibrant planet for generations to come.
Creating a culture of vocations

The Diocese of Owensburg welcomes contributions to “Around the Diocese.”

Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296; e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Vocations Society (D.O.V.S.)

To encourage and promote vocations to the priesthood, permanent diaconate, and consecrated religious life in our diocese.

“it was not you who chose me, but I who chose you”

John 15:15

By Bishop Terry R. C. Lane

As part of our diocesan Envisioning Process, one of the three Pastoral Priorities that each of our parishes will soon address is a focus on Creating a Culture of Vocations.

In his Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on May 11, Pope Francis reflected on Jesus’ familiar words in Matthew (5:11–16): “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore the Lord of the harvest sends out laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:37–38). The Holy Father explained that, “this is our task: to bear witness that we are the Lord’s harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.”

In our diocese, we, the priests and deacons, are called to become the Lord’s laborers by prayerfully discerning God’s will each day, making the courageous choice to dedicate ourselves to the service of the Lord and his people.

The Savior himself called his apostles, Jesus, and others continues today. As part of our diocesan Faith Formation in Family Life, we have meekly welcomed volunteers and are the seedbed of a Church vocation from the Lord in the Church.

The Gospel chooses to foster holiness of life. Care for your vocations is to foster a Church where God’s gifts can flourish, indeed, flourish in our diocese.

As part of our third Pastoral Priority, Family and Faith Formation, we strive to provide a culture ripe for the moment of being taught and attractions of our faith. When families become committed to the mission of the Church, they are motivated to fulfill the sacred, vocational, and spiritual vocations of the faithful.

As His accomplishment, the God of all the North Country where God’s gifts are the Lord’s harvest in the North Country.

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Vocation Prayer Apo...
The great feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

In the first reading for this great feast of Corpus Christi, God tells us to share in the Body of Christ, saying: "Trust him and all his talk; they’re all dead!" But later he gave them that, too.

Garden of Eden, so they lost conscious fruit in the desert to "remember!" Remember that! But later he gave them that, too.

That woman in Egypt, God gave them that, too. God has always reminded the people he created to remember. It reminds the people in our own Body and Blood. That wonderful Command incidents this week for us, beginning with a parish activity, or when we become sick, and even when we don’t even have a chance to remark, we need to meditate day for deep prayer with the Lord.

We share Eucharist when we participate in the Mass. That was the practice of the disciples recorded in the first reading, Mark 14:22-26. It is the beginning of the religious life of a Sister.

Sister Helen Mary received the right to receive the Holy Eucharist. The Lord is the Head of the Church, and all religious are members of the Body of Christ, and never are they to leave the Church, as one of the religious said. This girl who longed for human achievement. "Jesus cheerfully went on to tell me that his cousin had just become a Carmelite out in California, and that she couldn’t be happier.

Please pray for me as I continue to take the next steps in my vocation, and, Lord, I pray to you for your help. Amen.

The Pontifical College Josephinum is proud to support vocations in the Diocese of Greensburg through the formation of its candidates for the Catholic priesthood.

The Pontifical College Josephinum PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JESUITHUM Preparing Priests to Serve the Church Since 1888

JUNE 12, 2014

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The Pontifical College Josephinum is proud to support vocations in the Diocese of Greensburg through the formation of its candidates for the Catholic priesthood.
Newest priest of the diocese reflects on his first year

‘Bless me, Father, for I have sinned’

By Fr. Scott Belina

Parochial vicar, St. Mary’s Cathedral

I cannot be manufactured, beyond imagining—a joy that has given me a joy beyond imagining—a joy that cannot be manufactured, a pure gift. A priest said to me, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.”

This is why the words, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned” are so humbling. It is because the priesthood is a pure gift. A priest said to me once when I was first considering entering the seminary, “God does not call the qualified. Rather, he qualify those who are called.”

Perfect examples of this fact are the Apostles, those first men on whom Jesus bestowed the Priesthood. They were weak, and some of them quite thick-headed. They constantly misunderstood Jesus. The Lord has shown me much mercy and love, and has made me and the other priests of this diocese the instruments of this same mercy and love.

This mystery lies at the heart of the Priesthood: knowing and experiencing God’s mercy and love in his own life, in the midst of his own weaknesses and sinfulness, the priest can pass these on to others in their weaknesses and sinfulness, with the very love of God the Father.

After a year, I must thank God for his utter mercy in my life. He has chosen me out of love and called me this vocation. I cannot imagine being happy doing anything else. For that, I cannot thank God enough, but I can do, however, with his grace, a daily ‘sacrifice of praise’ for his glory.

As I begin my second year as a Priest of Jesus Christ, I ask for your continued prayers. Pray for me that I may be faithful to God’s gift of the Priesthood, and that I might be a vessel of the grace of Christ. Be his missionary through me. Pray for me and for our Bishop, I ask you to pray also for them. May the Lord give you his Peace!

PHOTO BY JUSTIN SORENSEN

Father Scott Belina, pictured during his ordination May 25, 2013, reflects on his first year as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy
Bishops focus on religious liberty, election defense, upcoming family synod

By Daniel Burke

Washington — The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is gathering in a new location this week, the University of Notre Dame, to discuss important issues of the day with a focus on religious liberty, elections and the upcoming Synod of Bishops on the family.

According to the conference’s website, it is “the oldest and largest episcopal conference in the world” and the US bishops are active in a number of arenas, including social justice, anti-human trafficking efforts, and support for the laity in the church.

The bishops are expected to discuss a range of topics, including the effects of religiosity on public policy, the role of religion in education, and the impact of religious freedom on the family.

One key issue on the agenda is how to respond to the US Supreme Court’s decision in the case of Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, which ruled that companies with religious objections can opt out of providing contraception coverage for their employees.

The US bishops have called the ruling “a significant victory for religious liberty,” and are expected to discuss ways to support religious freedom in the face of increasing threats.

Another topic to be discussed is the role of religion in the public square, particularly in the context of the upcoming presidential election.

The bishops are expected to express support for the rights of religious groups to express their views on political issues, while also emphasizing the importance of respecting the views of others.

The Synod of Bishops on the family is scheduled to take place in Rome in October 2015, and the US bishops are expected to prepare for this event by discussing key issues related to the family, such as marriage, divorce, and same-sex relationships.

The conference is a key forum for the US bishops to discuss these issues, and it is likely that they will focus on ways to promote a more inclusive and welcoming church that respects the diversity of its members.

In addition to the religious and political issues, the US bishops are also expected to discuss matters of pastoral concern, such as the role of priests in the church and the importance of caring for the poor and marginalized.

Overall, the US bishops are expected to use this conference as an opportunity to address the challenges facing the church in the US, and to chart a course for the future that is faithful to the teachings of Christ.

As we remember our ongoing Mission Journey, we invite you to consider vocation as a call to be a Maryknoll Priest or Brother.

We are called to be a living sign of Jesus Christ’s love and presence in the world. By serving the poorest of the poor, we share the joy of God’s love and hope for the future with those who need it most.

In the United States, we provide pastoral care to people of all backgrounds, from the poor and marginalized to those in positions of power.

As Maryknoll priests and brothers, we are called to be a presence of hope and change, a sign of God’s love and goodness in the world.

We invite you to consider vocation as a call to be a Maryknoll Priest or Brother. Together, we can be a living sign of God’s love and presence in the world.
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Director of Family Life. Responsibilities of this position include: to prepare and educate people about the Sacrament of marriage and family life; to encourage couples to be a living sacrament, a sign of God’s love, life and service in our world, to build up “a domestic church” that is faithful, vital and supported; and to support families through changing life cycles and nurture the holiness of family life. 

Applications are to be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 26, 2013. Interviews will be conducted on Monday, July 29, 2013. 

Job opening information and application procedures are available at www.dioceseofogdensburg.org
North Country deacons gather for convocation

Bishop LaValley opened the June 3-4 diocesan convocation for deacons with an address during which he asked for their support for the diocesan vision he outlined at this year’s Chrism Mass.

Since then well over 100 North Country deacons gather for convocation

LaValley invited the deacons to meet with their wives for a conference on the role of deacon in the parish or family. LaValley delivered the opening address to over 150 deacons and separately with their wives for a conference on the role of deacon in the parish or family.

The first men called to the restored order of Permanent Deacon in the Diocese of Ogdensburg were Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana, ordained Oct. 4, 1980 by Bishop LaValley and his staff, Father James Seymour, Vicar for Clergy and the St. Lawrence Seminary Archdiocese of the Diocese of Ogdensburg were ordained.

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I wanted to do something different for Lent this year and decided to take Aunt Kitty up on her long-standing invitation to visit Turkey, and besides, she is well into her eighties and recently underwent lung cancer surgery. She would benefit from the prayers and seeing family from the States.

Her cousin Jennifer lives in the country between Izmir (Smyrna) and Ephesus with her husband Ayhan and daughter Lara. They recently bought a three-bedroom multi-level home in a good community minutes from the Aegean Sea and enthusiastically invited Linda and me to visit and explore the neighboring ancient biblical sites.

My Wife Linda chose to stay home on the Ranch this year, so I wanted to do something different for Lent this year and decided to take Aunt Kitty up on her long-standing invitation to visit Turkey, and besides, she is well into her eighties and recently underwent lung cancer surgery. She would benefit from the prayers and seeing family from the States.

I spent most of my time traveling with Ayhan. He helped to immerse me in Turkish culture throughout my journey and to teach me basic language. According to tradition, St. John must still be there, with the emperor and his wife’s names engraved. I thought it was a wall of very large stones, but I was happy not to listen. No other site in the ancient world held such evidence to suggest the remains of the Apostle were touched. No other site claimed to be the burial place of St. John. I made my way to the arch immediately behind the altar, in a place I would stand in during serving Mass. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

I tried comparing the motorcycle’s shape to a cross with a six-pointed star, it sits on Ayasuluk Hill overlooking the town of Selcuk and surrounding valley.”

Deacon Richard Van Kirk of St. Raphael’s Parish in Heuvelton spent time during Lent visiting family members living in Turkey. Among his stops was in Izmir, site of St. John’s basilica named for him on 14th century and converted to a mosque. The basilica erected by Emperor Justinian was one of the largest and most important churches in Christianity will be forever.” said Deacon Van Kirk.

Deacon Richard Van Kirk (left) and St. Raphael’s Parish in Heuvelton spent time during Lent visiting family members living in Turkey. Among his stops was in Izmir, site of St. John’s basilica named for him on 14th century and converted to a mosque. The basilica erected by Emperor Justinian was one of the largest and most important churches in Christianity will be forever.” said Deacon Van Kirk.

Deacon observes Lent... Turkish style

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Deacon, St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton

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Her cousin Jennifer lives in the country in Turkey; and besides, she is a language teacher; her daughter is in 8th grade. Jennifer and Ayhan met me at the Ayasuluk Hill overlooking the Aegean Sea and introduced me to the Istanbul and neighboring valley.

My Wife Linda chose to stay home on the Ranch this year, providing I return with a large supply of Turkish pistachio nuts!

I spent most of my time traveling with Ayhan. He helped to immerse me in Turkish culture throughout my journey and to teach me basic language. According to tradition, St. John must still be there, his tomb dating from the 4th century. Emperor Justinian believed that a tomb dating from the 300s was John's, so he built a basilica on the site dedicated to the saint.

The basilica erected by Emperor Justinian was one of the largest and most important churches in Christendom. Designed in the shape of a cross with a six-domed roof, it sits on Ayasuluk Hill overlooking the town of Selcuk and surrounding valley. Legends abound about the place: that it held the relics of St. John's cloak made by the Theotokos; the original Book of Revelation was kept there; and a piece of the Cross that hung around St. John's neck. They were lost when the Basilica was ravaged by the Ottomans in the 14th century and converted to a mosque.

The building was completely destroyed in 1402 by Mongols and subsequent earthquake activity. There was a cool breeze coming up from the valley when we arrived at the Basilica. We were one of the first to arrive that morning and I was happy not to listen. A Turk sat nearby and offered to give us a tour. Jennifer spoke with him and interpreted. I followed them as the man spoke to Jennifer about the various inscriptions of the Basilica: the baptistry, an ancient prayer room, a large stone with the architect's name on it, and another large stone with the emperor and his wife's names engraved. I was happy not to listen. A wall of very large stones framed a marble doorway. On one of the stones, about 12 feet high, there were crude inscriptions, as if scratched with a nail or chisel. Greek symbols lying sideways. I thought it was ancient graffiti and asked the guide who said, "Christianity will be forever." A Turk sat nearby and offered to give us a tour. Jennifer spoke with him and interpreted. I followed them as the man spoke to Jennifer about the various inscriptions of the Basilica: the baptistry, an ancient prayer room, a large stone with the architect's name on it, and another large stone with the emperor and his wife's names engraved. I was happy not to listen. A wall of very large stones framed a marble doorway. On one of the stones, about 12 feet high, there were crude inscriptions, as if scratched with a nail or chisel. Greek symbols lying sideways. I thought it was ancient graffiti and asked the guide who said, "Christianity will be forever." I made my way to the arch behind the marble floor with the simple sign noting the burial place of St. John. It was happy not to listen. A wall of very large stones framed a marble doorway. On one of the stones, about 12 feet high, there were crude inscriptions, as if scratched with a nail or chisel. Greek symbols lying sideways. I thought it was ancient graffiti and asked the guide who said, "Christianity will be forever."
North Country deacons gather for convocation

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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Photo by Deacon Kevin Mastellon

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CSJ presence in the diocese comes to an end

Sister Caroline Fernandes, Provincial of the Sisters of the Cross and Blessed Marie of Jesus, made an official visit to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, bringing news of the provincial and general level movements of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross and Blessed Marie of Jesus.

Bishop LaValley told the gathering that the Sisters of the Cross and Blessed Marie of Jesus were called to the restored order of deacon 15 years ago.

In his opening address, Bishop LaValley told the assembly that it is an act of love and faith to follow the will of God when God calls.

The Sisters of the Cross and Blessed Marie of Jesus, who are called to the restored order of deacon, have been working in the diocese for 15 years.

Sister Barbara’s love of music led her to join Opus Dei’s singing group “Showtime.” For many years, she could be seen at the ODF auditorium performing with the chorus, singing duets and solos.

They also taught Developmental English and Speech 111 at St. John Fisher College in Rochester.

The Sisters of the Cross and Blessed Marie of Jesus have served in the diocese for 15 years.

Sister Barbara St. Andrews, CSJ, St. John Fisher College, Rye, NY.

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Job Opening
Director of Family Life

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Director of Family Life. Responsibilities of this position include: to prepare and educate people about the important occasion of marriage and family life while encouraging couples to be a living sacrament, a sign of God’s love, life and service in our world, to build up a “catholic church” founded on faith, reason and supported, and to support families through changing life cycles and nurture the holiness of family life. 

This is a full-time position with excellent benefits including a cash and health-care incentive, paid vacation, and sick leave. 

Applicants should have a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology or religious studies or equivalent experience. Applicants must be a member of the Catholic Church who is active and in good standing. 

Additional qualifications include proven administrative and supervisory experience. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Officer, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669. Deadline for application is June 30, 2014.

St. Mary’s Church, Clayton 12th Annual Summer Gala & Raffle

Only 370 Tickets to be sold! (please note: no refund will be given to those who purchase tickets and do not attend)

Thursday, June 26th, 2014 @ 6pm

Tickets $100 each

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Add $10 for overnight charter bus rides to and from the event.

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No paper next week

The next issue of the North Country Catholic will be delayed July 2.

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Voting in the Republican Primary
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- Cut Taxes and Reform the Tax Code
- Repeal and Replace ObamaCare
- Balance the Budget
- Defend the 2nd Amendment
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Pope tells presidents only God can bring peace

Pope Francis told leaders from the world’s two antagonistic nations that only God can bring peace in the Holy Land.

The event, at which Christi- ans, Muslims and Jews prayed in each other’s presence, was almost certainly the first of its kind at the Vatican, according to Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office.

Joining the group was Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, whose father Lord Bomford had described as one of the event’s “few protagon- ists,” and Franciscan Father Paterbattista Pizzaballa, cus- tomer of the Holy Land and the principal coordinator of the event.

The five men rode together in a white minibus to the open- air site of the Peace, the Palest- inian president said: “The vult- see part of his statement.

According to an official translation of Abbas’ pre- sentation, the Palestine- provident president said: “We the great portion of his statement.

“Never will I forget the be- reaved families, parents and teacher. We never stop to act for peace be- for the generations to come. Peace is our duty. Let’s all of us join hands and pray in each other’s presence, lacking in religious and political leaders respectively in their city’s Jewish and Arab communi- ties. “Political” members of the event’s “four protago- nists,” and Franciscan Father Paterbattista Pizzaballa, cus- tomer of the Holy Land and the principal coordinator of the event.

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Bishops focus on religious liberty, election duty, upcoming family synod

By Carol Ziemann

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Bishop Nona emphasized the need for greater awareness of the challenges of child labor.

In his closing remarks during the United States bishops' fall general assembly in November, the ad hoc committee was asked to submit a report of their work to the bishops at their spring meeting. The committee presented a report on efforts to protect children and families from child labor and forced labor, and to promote and support policies aimed at guiding Catholics in promoting family life.

The bishops also voted to support the Greenfire Conference, a series of events held annually in New Orleans beginning in 1939, when the actual construction of the impressive Lady of the Sacred Heart Church was opened. The conference is attended by delegates from various countries around the world and is organized by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

As the ethic composition of families has become more diverse, the bishops have voted to form a committee to work with Vatican financial operations and ensure they met international norms. The committee would “add significance” to the bonds of affection” many Catholics feel for the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Another item the bishops unanimously approved was a limited revision of the 2007 Catechism for Formation of Sciences for Faithful Citizenship and the draft of a new introductory note for it. The revision and draft will be presented for a vote by the bishops at their spring fall assembly in November.

The document has been revised in preparation for the 2014 presidential election for almost five years.

This is the latest in the current initiative, revised in 2011, that clarifies the document’s role “does not offer a voters’ guide” and it has been translated into pro-life language. The bishops at their annual fall assembly in November.

The text “does not offer a voters’ guide” as a key factor in pro-life promoting, family life, which he said is crucial in the current election season.

The bishops are living in a “paradigm in which life is not only to one other community but for all the faithful. It is a new way to serve the community in the city and become a child of St. Mary’s parish in Evansville, Ill., and two seminarians arrived from the first MSC community out of the community to one other community located in Kennewick in话说 ...

Thompson and West Lynde Streets.

By Daniel P. Creahan, MSC

MISSIONARY ORIGIN: On June 14, Pope Francis of the Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown became the 78th annual. The bishops have voted to support the Greenfire Conference, a series of events held annually in New Orleans beginning in 1939, when the actual construction of the impressive Lady of the Sacred Heart Church was opened. The conference is attended by delegates from various countries around the world and is organized by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

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Thompson and West Lynde Streets.
Newest priest of the diocese reflects on his first year

By Fr. Scott Belina
Parochial Vicar, St. Mary’s Cathedral

"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."

These are the most humbling words spoken. They are so humbling because I say these exact words when I go to confess my sins and ask for God’s pardon and peace. They are so very humbling, and they are at the heart of the mystery that is the Priesthood.

A year ago, on May 25, 2013, I lay prostrate on the sanctuary floor of St. Mary’s Cathedral. My presence there that morning was a public response to a personal invitation to serve the People of God as a priest in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It was a call that came from God, a pure gift.

I believe the call to the Priesthood is something I treasure, as I am able to see the awesome and immensity of God’s provident love for his people. It is also an encounter in the sacred duty of preaching. I can only hope that the words I speak become an opportunity for God’s people to meet him personally. Finally, I am truly blessed with so many visits to people in the hospital, in the nursing homes, and even in my own home. Liking some words of Saint John Paul II in his ‘Eschatological Lectures’—‘There is no greater service that I can do than to confer upon others a mystery of God, to create in them a new beginning, a new life. The Lord asks me to do something which I cannot do of myself, something that each of us can do in its own small way, is an encounter with God and God’s love.’

I have learned several lessons over the past year—lessons that surely I will learn again and again. First, God loves me beyond my weaknesses and sinfulness. He has chosen to love others in their weaknesses and sinfulness, the priest can love others in their weaknesses and sinfulness, the priest can.

Second, God, secondly, and always be, ‘without me, you cannot do anything.’ (Jn. 15:5). Fourth, as Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta often said, ‘God desires fidelity, not success. I want to be a saint, and go to heaven, when I stand before God, he will not ask me whether or not I was good at anything, but he will know whether or not I was faithful.’ Fifth, the priesthood is a gift, and not a right. Anything which I have earned or given to me is not in control, and never will be: ‘without me, you can do nothing.’

This first year of priestly life has given me a joy beyond imagining—a joy that cannot be manufactured. I only discovered and gratefully received. I encountered this joy each day as I serve the People of God, and experience hands-on encounters with and for them.

I must remember that the words ‘I have a whole lot more to learn’ this is just the beginning! This is why the words, ‘Bless me, Father, for I have sinned’ are so humbling. It is because the priesthood is a pure gift. A priest said to me once when I was first considering entering the seminary, ‘God does not call the qualified. Rather, he qualifies those who are called.’

Effective examples of this are the Apostles, those first men on whom Jesus bestowed the Priesthood. They were weak, and some of them quite thick headed. They constantly misunderstood Jesus. The Lord has shown me much mercy and love, and has made me and the priests of this diocese instruments of this same mercy and love. This mercy lies at the heart of the Priesthood. Knowing and experiencing God’s mercy and love and in his own life, in the midst of his own weaknesses and sinfulness, the priest can love others in their weaknesses and sinfulness, the priest can.

After a year, I must thank God for his utter generosity in my life. He has chosen me out of love and given me this vocation. I cannot imagine being happy doing anything else. For that, I cannot thank God enough. I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace, I can do, however, with his grace.

As I began my second year as a Priest of Jesus Christ, I ask for your continued prayers. Pray for me that I may be faithful to God’s gift of the Priesthood, and that I might be a blessing to each and every one of Christ’s Sheep. Pray for me that I may be faithful to the joyful sacrifice of praise for Christ. Pray for me that I may be faithful to the joyful sacrifice of praise for Christ. Pray for me that I may be faithful to the joyful sacrifice of praise for Christ. Pray for me that I may be faithful to the joyful sacrifice of praise for Christ. Pray for me that I may be faithful to the joyful sacrifice of praise for Christ.
In the first reading for this great feast of Corpus Christi or Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus re- minds the people in the desert that they are important to God even when they are hungry. In verse 25, Jesus promises, “I am the bread of life.” He is the food needed by the hungry.” In the second reading, St. Paul reminds the church that all are important to God. But what is special about the Body and Blood of Christ? This will come as no surprise to many, but it is a great joy that I share with you that I am discerning a voca- tion to religious life! God has been working hard on my heart for the past few years, and while I could talk a little bit about what He has been doing, there was always a special desire to love in a big way. I remember once in fourth grade, my teacher talked a little bit about what it meant to be a bride of her hus- band, and she said that she had decided that she would only marry if the right guy came along. I thought to myself that I too would hold to that because I’ve been working on my heart for the past few years, and while I could talk a little bit about what He has been doing, there was always a special desire to love in a big way.

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is the celebration of the Eucharist, which commemorates the Last Supper and the institution of the Sacrament of the Altar. On this day, we remember how Jesus shared the bread and wine with his disciples and how he promised that his Body and Blood would become our food and drink. This feast is a time for us to reflect on the significance of the Eucharist in our lives and to give thanks for the grace and gifts that it brings.

The Eucharist is not just a meal, but a celebration of the mystery of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. It is a time for us to remember and to commemorate the events of Holy Thursday, when Jesus shared the Last Supper with his disciples and instituted the Sacrament of the Altar.

In the Eucharist, we are able to participate in the sacrifice of Christ and to receive his Body and Blood as a source of nourishment for our spiritual journey. This is why the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is such an important and joyful event. It is a time for us to celebrate our faith and to renew our commitment to following Jesus and his teachings.

The Eucharist is a source of strength and hope for us during difficult times. It reminds us that even when we feel weak and vulnerable, we are not alone. The presence of Christ in the Eucharist is a reminder of his love and protection, and it gives us the courage to continue on our spiritual journey.

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is also a time for us to reflect on the importance of sharing our faith with others. It is a time for us to be proud of our faith and to share it with others, so that they too may come to know and love the Lord.

In conclusion, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is a significant and joyful event that reminds us of the importance of faith, hope, and love. It is a time for us to celebrate our faith and to renew our commitment to following Jesus and his teachings. It is a time for us to remember the sacrifice of Christ and to be grateful for the grace and gifts that he has given us. May we always be open to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and may we always be willing to share our faith with others.

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Faith Silver was born May 23, 1933 by Bishop Thomas J. Brzana at St. Mary’s Hospital in Malone, a daughter of Joseph Silver of Malone and Sadie Nichols Silver.

After his military service, his position of vice president of the school. In 1956, he married Rosemary E. McComb in Antwerp, with whom he raised two daughters.

After his wife's death in 1987, Father Silver began business administration in 1995. From 1954 to 1988 Father Silver was employed by the Schuyler County Sheriffs Department in Malone.

In 1995, he moved to Ogdensburg where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration from SUNY Potsdam. From 1994 to 1985 Father Silver was employed by the Schuyler County Sheriffs Department in Malone.

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A workshop to be held, “Build- ing Strong Families: Marriage, 5 & under 5, $4; 6-10, $6; 11-12, $4; 13-19, $6. Contact: thelostsheepquiltshop@gmail.com

WATERBURY – St. John’s “Holy Family” Adoration Chapel, extends its Adoration for the Month of June. (7pm-9pm) Features: Dr. Angela Franks—author, professor, speaker, television host—brings vast experience to this topic. Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PLACE: St. Francis of Assisi Church

BELIEF STUDY

DATE: June 20

PLACE: St. Charles Borromeo Church, 385 E. Main St., Plattsburgh. Sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Church’s Adoration Committee.

We are no longer accepting registrations.

Ph: 834-2648

LAWN MASS

PREPARED BY D CLOSE

Glorious Mysteries. Confessions begin at 12:15 p.m. and the Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. The day will include prayer, discussion and spiritual exercise. Call-summons: $20. Registration: $35. Contact: 315-769-3137

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ST. LAWRENCE

Friday 7:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Date: June 27-29

Place: Wadhams Hall

Considering the fact that there are many options for religious vocations today, our work is to provide a culture ripe for the harvest. The entire Church of Ogdensburg is now challenged, and attracts the young to consider a Church vocation. Again this year we celebrate the Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at our recent annual Predespers Convocation, we truly enjoyed our time together.

As the Diocese embraces our third Pastoral Priority, “Eucharistic Adoration,” we know that a vibrant parish, one that is spirit-filled and missionized in the soul of the community, is crucial to the Church’s growth and the will to give our entire life to the Lord in the Church.

For vocations to flourish, one requires a strong foundation. We have welcomed the机会 of being taught and formed of the Diocese. For the first time in many years, all our diocesan seminarians, together with the Bishop, and priests of the diocese, were able to come together into our Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The limitless quest for Church vocations pre-supposes strong future pastoral ministry in our parishes. That’s why our Priority of Eucharistic Adoration is so crucial to our growth and vitality.

By Bishop Terry A. Bamberger
The Pontificial Missions Society of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.
The Church for the Propagation of the Faith

462 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-7401
Fax: (315) 393-7410
Web: https://www.pontificalmissions.org

OBSERVATIONS

Methodist – Mary Jane Vincent, 70, Funeral Services June 14, 2013 at Father John’s Chapel in Covington, KY.

Mennonite - Mary Alice Duscha, 70, Funeral Services June 4, 2013 at St. Paul’s Chapel in Covington, KY.

Mormon – Margaret Elizabeth Gable, 55, Funeral June 14, 2013 at St. Mary’s Church in Covington, KY.

Methodist – Girl R. Borum, 63, Funeral Services June 12, 2013 at Father John’s Chapel in Covington, KY.

Methodist – Robert E. Garvin, 81, Funeral Services June 12, 2013 at the First Presbyterian Church in Granville, NY.

Church of God – William M. Brown, 81, Funeral Services June 12, 2013 at South Colton Cemetery.

Church of God – Robert V. Poitier, 70, Funeral Services June 12, 2013 at St. Peter’s Chapel in Granville, NY.

Methodist – Lawrence A. Mares, 85, Funeral Services June 11, 2013 at St. Anthony Church in Saranac, NY.

Methodist – Helen C. Howard, 85, Funeral Services June 11, 2013 at Grace United Methodist Church in Clayville, NY.


Methodist – Howard E. Rowe, 93, Funeral Services June 7, 2013 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Maple Grove, NY.

Methodist – Shirley A. (Matyka) Stith, 70, Funeral Services June 7, 2013 at St. Peter’s Chapel in Granville, NY.

Methodist – Vance Mathews Smith, 54, Funeral Services June 7, 2013 at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Plattsburgh, NY.

Methodist – Robert J. Buck, 84, Funeral Services June 5, 2013 at Chapel of the Good Shepherd in Plattsburgh, NY.

Methodist – Margaret A. Mantia, 87, Funeral Services June 5, 2013 at St. Lawrence Church in Ogdensburg, NY.

Methodist – Ganzeil P.I. Battoni, 80, Funeral Services June 5, 2013 at St. Peter’s Chapel in Granville, NY.

Methodist – James M. W. Whalen, 87, Funeral Services June 4, 2013 at St. Lawrence Church in Ogdensburg, NY.

Methodist – Wallace H. Simonds, 92, Funeral Services June 4, 2013 at St. Anthony’s Church in Saranac, NY.

Methodist – Michael J. Regan Sr., 76, Funeral Services June 3, 2013 at South Colton Cemetery.

Methodist – Michael J. Regan Jr., 76, Funeral Services June 3, 2013 at South Colton Cemetery.

Methodist – Louis V. (Louie) Wineglass, 33; Funeral Services June 7, 2013 at St. Peter’s Chapel in Granville, NY.

Methodist – Howard S. Cross, 70, Funeral Services June 7, 2013 at St. Peter’s Chapel in Granville, NY.

Methodist – John I. Fishel, 85; Funeral Services June 7, 2013 at St. Lawrence Church in Ogdensburg, NY.

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D.O.V.S. Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Cape
To support and pray for Vocations

Join Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan Stitt, Members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (D.O.V.S.), and Catholics from across the diocese for a overnight pilgrimage to Cap-de-la-Madeleine Thursday and Friday, September 11-12, 2014

Shrine of Our Lady of the Cape
Is the oldest pilgrimage destination north of Mexico. Located less than 2 hours northeast of Montreal, it was the site of two great miracles in the late 1800s.

Itinerary includes:
- Mass at Basilica with Bishop LaValley
- Candle light procession
- Holy Hour
- 2 lunches, dinner and breakfast
- Time to explore the shrine and gift shop
- Bus from Schroon Lake/Plattsburgh or Ogdensburg/Potsdam
- $222.00 for single room and $195.00 for double covers all costs.

For more information or to register contact:
Connie Randall at (315) 265-2762
Non-refundable payment due Aug. 4th. Any proceeds from the trip will be used for the promotion of vocations within the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Pope encourages priests to keep love for Jesus alive

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Celebrating an early morning Mass with a congregation made up of priests and Bishops, Pope Francis said they regularly need to ask themselves if they love Jesus as much as when they first encountered him, and whether ministry, not administration, is still their priority.

"This is the question I ask myself, my brother bishops and priests: 'How is your love today?' This is what Jesus asks the people who want to divide the Kingdom of God from the Kingdom of the world," the pope said June 6 at Mass in the chapel of his residence.

"Are I love like I was the first day? Or have work and worries led me to concentrate on other things and forget love a bit?" the pope asked, according to a summary in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

Matthew Cooper, who is entering his fourth year of ministry at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., said at youth dinners at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg during his voca-
tion fives, Cooper is one of the seminarians currently studying for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Deacons gather in Lake Placid

Bishop LaValley invited the permanent deacons of the diocese and their wives to join him for a convocation held June 3-4 in Lake Placid. The assembly was entitled Deacons: Living the Vision. It focused on the current state of the diaconate, the unique opportunities and stresses of the men and women affected by the call, and the role of the deacon in living the vision for the diocese outlined by Bishop LaValley at the Chrism Mass in April.

The gathering also included practical workshops for the deacons in liturgy and Canon Law conducted by Father Douglas Lucia, episcopal vicar for worship in the diocese.

The next issue of the NCC will be dated July 2. It will feature a number of stories about how diocesan Catholics are working to tackle poverty in this area.

Vocation issue for 2014

Bishop plans a ‘culture of vocations’ in diocese as part of visioning plan

Prayers From Home

Vocation director announces a new prayer initiative for vocations

Full Story, Page 4

Young vocations explored fake vocations, the youngest priest of the diocese reflects on his first year of the priesthood. Sixteen graduate and NCC writer Rachel Daly, writes about her decision to enter religious life

Full Stories, 5 & 6

NCC summer schedule

The next issue of the NCC will be dated July. It will feature a number of stories about how diocesan Catholics are working to tackle poverty in this area

Full Story, Page 10