Pope: choose life over false gods

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Don't use peer pressure, greed or laziness as an excuse to chase after false gods and become a wildly successful failure, Pope Francis said.

Slow down, reflect and choose the path that takes you closer to God and your loved ones, he said Feb. 19 during his morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

One mistake in life, he said, is "always seeking one's own success, one's own benefit without thinking about the Lord, without thinking about one's family," he said. Vatican Radio and L'Osservatore Romano released excerpts from his homily, which examined the day's first reading from Deuteronomy, in which Moses sets before the people "life and prosperity, death and doom," and encourages them to choose life by following the Lord.

Christians are still faced with the same difficult choice every day, the pope said, "to choose between God and the other gods - those that have no power to give us anything, just tiny little what-nots that are fleeting."

"It is not easy to make the right choice because "we always have this habit of following the crowd a little," Pope Francis said.

It's time to renew your subscription

The annual North Country Catholic subscription campaign begins Sunday in all parishes of the diocese.

Bishop LaValley has encouraged every Catholic family to welcome the NCC into their homes. "During the upcoming year, I will depend on the North Country Catholic to be a critical source of communication as we work together to meet the priorities and goals of our diocesan vision," he said. The list of subscribers who supported the NCC as patrons in 2014 appears on pages 8-9.

ASH WEDNESDAY AT THE CATHEDRAL

PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE
Father Joseph A. Morgan, rector of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg, rubs ashes on Bishop Terry R. LaValley’s forehead at the Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Deacons Francis Bateman and John White look on.

JOYFUL ENCOUNTER

As Season of Lent begins

CNS PHOTO/GIAMPIERO SPOSITO, REUTERS
A child reacts after being kissed by Pope Francis as he arrives to lead the weekly audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday.

Throughout the first week of Lent, Pope Francis preached about how to observe the season. On Friday, he said, "Real fasting isn’t just restricting food choices, it must also include cleansing the heart of all selfishness and making room in one’s life for those in need and those who have sinned and need healing. "Faith without concrete acts of charity is not only hypocritical, "It is dead; what good is it?" he said, criticizing those who hide behind a veil of piety while unjustly treating others, denying workers fair wages, a pension and health care. Being generous toward the church, but selfish toward others "is a very serious sin: It is using God to cover up injustice."

Faith-filled parish life

Human trafficking program in Lake Placid, First Reconciliation in Wells, parish missions across diocese

SR. RACHEL’S JOURNEY: Rachel Daly takes 1st steps in Franciscan order, p. 4
EDITOR'S NOTE

Just a little ‘preaching to the choir’

The editor is fully aware that she's “preaching to the choir” when we tout the value of the North Country Catholic in the pages of the North Country Catholic.

But, as a member of various parish choirs since the early 1970’s, I know that a little bit of preaching doesn’t hurt a bit! Every so often, it’s good to be reminded about why we do what we do.

As always, Bishop LaValley makes a good case for subscribing to the diocesan newspaper as we move forward together in realizing our diocesan vision.

During the coming year, we will feature articles about every aspect of the priorities and goals which we are pursuing in our North Country parishes.

Together we’ll explore the fruits and challenges brought to light by the diocesan census. We’ll also publish stories about all the efforts toward building a culture of vocations and strengthening faith formation in our families.

While we all know that our families and our parishes are the primary sources of that faith formation, we Catholics are also enriched when we look beyond parish boundaries. Reading the North Country Catholic brings us in touch with what’s happening in other faith communities in the diocese (e.g., see pages 3, 4, 5, 14 and 16 in this week’s paper) and across the country (check out page 10.)

And, when one of our “own” Catholics makes her/his mark far beyond our borders, we will share that good news too.

Every week, the NCC delivers important messages from Bishop LaValley and Pope Francis. Readers will be inspired by the wisdom of Msgr. Whitmore and Father Muench and be encouraged by the faith of younger “living stones” in our midst.

And, beyond the formation and information the diocesan paper offers, the North Country Catholic is the place where all the Catholics in our massive diocese can connect with each other and be reminded that we are part of one family of faith.

Personally, I think that’s pretty important as we travel together along our Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled journey.

The annual NCC subscription campaign begins on Sunday. Please renew your subscription in your parish and consider becoming a patron subscriber to ensure the financial stability of our vital ministry.

The price of an issue - 60 cents - wouldn’t cover the cost of a cup of coffee these days. Even a coffee fanatic like me believes that this vehicle of evangelization, communication and unity in our beloved diocese is worth more than that!

A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

A challenge to ‘dedicate your Lent’

Dedicate your Lent. Choose to remember your time of special prayer and acts of mortification for Lent as the intention of praying for someone, someone who needs prayer, someone who is suffering or in need. Or possibly, you might choose to dedicate your Lent to a cause that you feel strongly about.

I guarantee this will change the spirit of your Lent; it will become more than just some various spiritual acts. Rather Lent will be a campaign of bombarding God, seeking the Lord’s help for someone in need. This will make Lent a time of something special for someone important to you.

I would also like to suggest that you find a spiritual guide for your Lent. I am thinking of a special saint who will become your guide to drawing you closer to the Lord. It may be reading some of that saint’s writing. It may be in joining in that saint’s spirit in prayer and meditation.

This year one of my guides for Lent is Catherine Doherty, the foundress of the community of Madonna House. I have listened to Catherine often during her life and read what she has written. She is not a canonized saint yet, it is easy for me to recognize her holiness.

The important message for me this Lent is her call to me to love prayer and silence. So, I hope that she will lead me to this silence and prayer. This, I believe, will open me to the presence of Jesus. Her writings may make me ready to allow Jesus to bring peace into my life and find silence in which to pray.

Catherine Doherty writes this about silence: “Silence is the greatest expression of love. Such silence is deep, unfathomable and endless. Such silence partakes already of eternity. Such silence touches the face of God, upon whom without God’s grace, more cannot gaze and live. This kind of silence embraces Christ,

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‘Please welcome the NCC into your home’

During the past year, our diocese has made great strides towards realizing the Diocesan Vision that I proclaimed at the April 9 Chrism Mass. As we make this Christ-fed, Christ-led and Hope-filled journey of faith, we are embracing three priorities: Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life, and Building Parishes with Living Stones.

During the upcoming year, I will depend on the North Country Catholic to be a critical source of communication as we work together to meet these priorities and their specific goals. Special articles in the paper will continue to show what the new vision means for parishes and people of the diocese.

The pages of the North Country Catholic in 2015 will feature reports about the diocesan-wide census, the work of new youth ministers, the progress of the We Are Called Vocational Awareness program and more.

This weekend the annual North Country Catholic subscription campaign begins in all the parishes of the diocese. I know that those who subscribe to the North Country Catholic enjoy reading the timely and relevant articles on prayer, scripture, Church and religious news that are featured every week. In coming months, special attention will be given to Pope Francis’ pastoral visit to the United States and to the World Meeting of Families to be held in Philadelphia.

If you are a current subscriber of the North Country Catholic, please renew your subscription in this week’s campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who don’t currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

During these challenging times in our world, it is more important than ever that we welcome a Catholic perspective on the news of the day into our homes.

As with every bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 1946, I have relied on the North Country Catholic to be a primary vehicle for evangelization in this diocese as well as a source of information and unity for Catholics who live in our North Country and beyond.

Mary Lou Kilian, Christine Ward and the many contributing writers produce a wonderful diocesan newspaper. I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the NCC into your home.

CDA court offers program on human trafficking

LAKE PLACID - Despite dire weather predictions, a small group gathered at St. Agnes School Feb. 8 for a presentation on Human Trafficking.

Members of Catholic Daughters, Court Dr. Tom Dooley, #2183 had decided a year previous that this was a topic that needed to be brought to the public’s attention.

Coincidentally, the date of the presentation corresponded with the Feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, a day declared by Pope Francis, as the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

Bishop Terry LaValley had requested that all parishes within the diocese commemorate this day in some fashion.

The presentation consisted of a Power Point developed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services. It was divided into three parts:

• Catholic Teaching on human trafficking and what is human trafficking? (Presented by Emma Lou Smith)
• Who are victims of human trafficking and what specific situations exist in which individuals can be trapped? (Presented by Sheila Venezia)

• What are the signs and what to do if you suspect a case of human trafficking? (Presented by Pat Beneshan)

Father John Yonkovig opened the meeting with a prayer, and Pat Beneshan followed with an introduction.

As part of the Power Point, eight statements, true or false were broached to ascertain participant’s knowledge of human trafficking. While the answers to six of the eight statements were generally known, two elicited more incorrect than correct answers.

These two statements are as follows: “Human trafficking is usually in the form of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution” and the second “Most victims of human trafficking are kidnapped and do not know their captors.” Both of these statements are false and the presentation further expanded on the reasons.

While human trafficking occurs in all countries, including the U.S., the predominant type of trafficking varies depending on the part of the world in which it occurs. Another variance is the nationalities of those trafficked. However in nearly all areas of the world, women and girls outnumber men and boys while East Asians make up the majority of those trafficked.

In the United States the gender of the victim is 56% female while the type of trafficking can be divided into labor 72%, sex 20% and a combination of both 8%.

The session closed with a prayer for those enslaved. The prayer was written by Catholic Relief Services and can be viewed on Confrontglobalpoverty.org. A variety of reading materials and brochures with references were available.

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Rachel Daly begins journey towards final vows as Franciscan Sister of Renewal

‘A time to grow in holiness’

By John T. Ryan
Contributing writer

PERU – Each Sunday St. Augustine’s parishioners pray that one of their number will respond to God’s call to the religious life. On Sept. 21, 2014 their prayers were answered when the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal of Bronx, New York received Rachel Daly as a candidate for their religious community.

Rachel attended St. Augustine’s School and graduated from Seton Catholic in 2010. Last spring she earned an English degree at the University of Dallas. She was in Peru visiting her parents Matt and Bobbi Daly for Christmas and took time to speak with The Peru Gazette.

Older people recall a time when many Catholic young people decided to become a priest or nun. That is not the situation today; religious vocations have been declining for many years.

Rachel explained why she chose a religious vocation. “I’ve known sisters throughout my life – Sisters Helen and Kathleen at St. Augustine’s School and Sister Debbie Blow at Seton Catholic was a big part of my life through high school,” she said. “That exposure to religious life opened the concept of a vocation to me.”

She also recalls an experience when she attended Camp Guggenheim, the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s summer resident camp for teens. “A Carmelite sister came to speak to us about religious life,” Rachel said. “My friend was fascinated with her and wanted to talk to her. So the two of us did, and we found that sister to be joyful, beautiful, and clearly very happy.”

The University of Dallas was also a welcoming place for anyone considering a religious vocation.

Rachel said, “Several of my fellow students considered the religious life. A girl I lived next to as a freshman actually entered an order around the same time I did.”

Between her college junior and senior years Rachel participated in a summer internship where she came into contact with Franciscans who worked with the poor. She said, “I got a taste of the Franciscan spirit.”

Rachel chose the Franciscan Sisters of Renewal after visiting their New York City convents where she discovered a real sense of family among the sisters. The sister’s mission of working with the poor, the homeless and evangelization was also in line with her desires.

Rachel is just beginning an eight-year journey before taking her final vows. “I’m learning the life,” she said. “It’s about becoming something in order to have something to give. We don’t just bring food to people – we also hope to bring Christ. So this time is about growing in holiness.”

Rachel begins her day with a midday prayer of Readings followed by an hour of private meditation, morning prayer and Mass. There’s also a midday prayer, a late afternoon holy hour, evening prayer, rosary and night prayer. Two days each week she attends classes, and on other days she might do chores, study or assist in her community’s food distribution and soup kitchen apostolates. Fridays are devoted to prayer, silence and fasting.

The sisters are not all work and no play. Evening dinner is an “extended meal” when lively conversation and interaction are encouraged. Each Sunday the sisters enjoy a late morning brunch and an afternoon of rest, during which they might take walks, have a community outing or write letters home.

Asked what has been the most difficult aspect of her candidacy, Rachel responded, “Letting go of my own will. Before entering I was a college student and could design my own schedule. It’s an adjustment to get used to living in community and not only having myself to think about. I’m having to let go of doing what I want, when I want.”

Rachel Daly has been called to serve at a time when the Catholic Church has a new and dynamic leader in Pope Francis. Rachel said, “Pope Francis is working to renew the Church. Christ gave the Church a mission to go to the end of the earth and share the Gospel and to be bold. As a church if we’re not doing that then we’re calcifying. Pope Francis is reminding us to be Christ-like and to be gentle and humble, which is very similar to our community's special Franciscan call. So it’s a gift to be living in an intensified way what Pope Francis is asking of the whole Church.”

(Reprinted with permission from The Peru Gazette)
Bringing Gospel to life in story

By Pam Broiles
Parishioners, St. Ann's, Wells


Father Sony Pulickal, pastor in Wells and Lake Pleasant is shown with the children who made their First Reconciliation Feb. 7, Amelia Germain, Jack Germain and Bridget Allen.

Bringing Gospel to life in story

By Maena Cragg
Contributing writer

It was less than two and a half years ago that the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles out in Gower, MO joined together praying a novena to St. Therese to ask for her help in relieving some of the debt they had inherited. It was in the middle of that novena that they were approached by a producer for Decca records and asked to make an album.

Benedictines of Mary, led by Potsdam native Mother Cecilia, record another album

That album was “Advent at Ephesus”, which quickly shot to the top of the traditional classical chart as well as becoming one of the top sellers on Amazon, all without most of the sisters even knowing. They simply shared the music that they sang on a daily basis with the world, and the world loved it.

Although a lovely story, you may be wondering what the connection is to our own Diocese of Ogdensburg. The prioress of the convent, Mother Cecilia, was born and raised in Potsdam.

In this, the Year of Consecrated Life, it seems especially appropriate to recognize this beautiful vocation from our diocese. Before she listened to God’s call in her own life, she was a professional musician, a French Hornist in the Columbus Symphony.

She was interviewed by NPR and CBS Sunday morning, where she showed the secular world how much pure joy there was to be found in a religious vocation.

Catholics and non-Catholics alike are being in debt again, but has plans to expand the convent and build a second building to house the priests who come to stay on retreat. Any support given, whether in purchase, donation, or simply prayer, is much appreciated.

Those interested in buying the newest album, “Easter at Ephesus”, or any of the others, may contact the novice mistress at Benedictinesofmary.org as well as at the Benedictine retailers like amazon.com. Those interested in a vocation with the Benedictines may contact the novice mistress at the convent. No matter what, know that Mother Cecilia has no intention of ever giving praise to Him.

Interestingly, the sisters’ main work is not singing, but creating beautiful vestments for priests. Each one is handmade, and each comes with hours of prayers attached for the priest who will be wearing it.

The sisters also milk their own cow, getting not only fresh milk to drink, but butter, cheese, and yogurt and ice cream. They grow many of their own fruits and vegetables and collect eggs from their own chickens. The most important parts of their day, though, are spent in prayer.

Through God's grace, though the three albums are internationally acclaimed, almost nothing has changed about the sisters and their daily life.

The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, will soon be coming out with a fourth album, "Easter at Ephesus". Although the release date is not until March 3rd, the album is available to pre-order now.

Though their debt has been paid in full, they have a new, though delightful, problem. There are too many new sisters joining and there are no longer enough rooms in the convent to hold them all.

Mother Cecilia has no intention of ever being in debt again, but has plans to expand the convent and build a second building to house the priests who come to stay on retreat. Any support given, whether in purchase, donation, or simply prayer, is much appreciated.

Those interested in buying the newest album, "Easter at Ephesus", or any of the others, may contact them at Benedictinesofmary.org as well as at any of the major retailers like amazon.com. Those interested in a vocation with the Benedictines may contact the novice mistress at the convent. No matter what, know that Mother Cecilia has her home diocese constantly in her prayers. We are truly blessed to have nurtured this vocation in our diocese, and pray, in this Year of Consecrated Life, to nurture many more.
Bishops put high priority on fighting assisted suicide

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) - As New York lawmakers began to consider a bill to legalize physician-assisted suicide, the New York State Catholic Conference launched a new website "to offer Catholics moral clarity and guidance on the church’s teachings regarding end-of-life decision-making."

"Talking about death and dying can be difficult and uncomfortable, yet perhaps no conversations are more profound or necessary for all of us," says the "About" section of the site, www.catholiconline.org. "The fact is that most of us will face challenging decisions regarding treatment and care at the end of life, either for ourselves or our family members."

Developed with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, the site provides links to resources, church teaching, advance directives and a variety of Catholic sources all across the country.

The Catholic Church teaches that physician-assisted suicide is immoral and unethical.

In a Feb. 9 interview with the Daily News, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said he and the state’s other Catholic bishops have put a high priority on fighting any effort to legalize physician-assisted suicide. Others opposed to assisted suicide include evangelical Christians, Orthodox Jews and Mormons.

Under the New York measure, two doctors would have to confirm that a patient is terminally ill and mentally competent. It says two witnesses must attest that the patient’s request to be helped to die is voluntary, and includes felony penalties for coerking or forging a request. The bill also covers physicians against civil or criminal liability, and participation in a suicide would be voluntary.

Cardinal Dolan, who is chairman-elect of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee, told the Daily News that "real death with dignity" is seen in the cases of "those who die naturally, who take each day at a time, savoring everything they’ve got."

In their 2011 statement on assisted suicide, "To Live Each Day With Dignity," the U.S. bishops declared assisted suicide "a terrible tragedy, one that a compassionate society should work to prevent."

"A choice to take one’s life is a supreme contradiction of freedom, a choice to eliminate all choices," they said. "And a society that devalues some people’s lives, by hastening and facilitating their deaths, will ultimately lose respect for their other rights and freedoms."

The church promotes palliative care for patients with a terminal disease, including pain control, treatment of depression, among other symptoms, along with spiritual care.

Currently, four states have legalized assisted suicide: Oregon, Washington and Vermont, through legislative or voter action; and Montana, through a court ruling.

In addition to New York, lawmakers in Alaska and Colorado have taken up the issue in their legislatures.

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Normandy, Lourdes and More

September 15-21, 2015

Visit the D-Day battlefields, museums, and American cemetery in Normandy. See the Sainte Marie-Eglise Church, the Abbey of Mont St. Michel, one of the most photographed spots in France, and the Bayeux Tapestry. In Lourdes visit the grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, participate in the candlelight rosary procession, have plenty of free time for private devotions.

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If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact:

- Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri-anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

To sign up to receive the NCC in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

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Bishop’s Schedule

Feb. 25 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
7 p.m., 75th Anniversary Dinner at the Italian American Club in Watertown

Feb. 27 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg

March 1 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
2:30 p.m., Rite of Election at St. Mary’s Cathedral

March 2 - 12 p.m., Mass at Upstate Correctional Facility in Malone

March 3 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg


Feb. 28 – Rev. J.H. Tabaret, O.M.I., 1886


Synod on the Family

Anyone wishing to respond to the questions for the Synod on the Family to be held in Fall 2015, may do so by going the diocesan website (www.rcdony.org) and clicking on the banner “The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World” and following the instructions. Contact lan Fawcett at ifawcett@rcdony.org for username and password.

Environmental Stewardship

Why I Do Dishes?

A few years ago I participated in a Lenten program called 4.5 that offered suggestions for protecting God’s creation, embracing Gospel justice and nurturing our spiritual lives. It heightened my awareness of how my simple choices have a ripple effect on everything. Something as ordinary as going to a pot luck supper began to raise questions for me. The Styrofoam plates and cups, individually wrapped plastic silverware, paper packets from the sugar, salt and pepper all culminated in huge bag of trash at the end of the meal and caused me to ask the question: What was the cost of this meal to the earth and to one’s pocketbook? The Styrofoam products will be around for hundreds of years. The plastic was made from petroleum and the paper was made from forests. Added to these costs are those of manufacturing, transporting, marketing and shopping for these products as well as the cost of trash removal. With cupboards filled with reusable dishware, I asked myself ‘when did this happen?’ When did a large bag of trash become the substitute for the community building experience of washing dishes? While I didn’t know the answer to my question, I decided that I would begin to reclaim the practice of using reusable dishes at any social gathering that I planned. Of course, initially there is some resistance, but soon the sounds of laughter and a spirit of cooperation replace the complaints about having to do the dishes. An opportunity to build community replaces the large bag of trash that leaves a mess in our home, God’s Creation.

SISTER BETHANY FITZGERALD, SSJ

FAITH AND ECOLOGY GROUP

NORTH COUNTY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN

Here is what one subscriber has to say:

"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

To sign up to receive the NCC in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556
‘I depend on our Catholic newspaper to serve as a critical means of communication as we move forward together with a mutually shared vision for the future of the church in our beloved diocese.’

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Subscribe to the North Country Catholic today

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Discover what the new diocesan vision means for the parishes and people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
The North Country Catholic is grateful for the financial support it receives from its extraordinary patrons, sustaining patrons, special patrons and patrons.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge those people who supported the mission of the Catholic Press in 2014 with a gift of $250, $100, $50 or $35.

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New evangelization was a key theme of Baltimore gathering

Congress goal: increase zeal of church leaders

By George P. Matysek Jr., Nancy M. Jackson
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) - Soon after Sherry Weddell’s new book, “Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus,” was published, she was approached by a man who told her that until he had read her book, he didn’t know it was possible to have a personal relationship with God.

Twice a year, in even-numbered years, an event for church leaders is held in a large setting near the nation’s capital. More than 1,200 attended the Feb. 12-14 event at the Baltimore Hilton.

Church leaders from every language and nation to be a "house of prayer for all peoples," then preaching, formation and religious instruction must attract.

Effective preaching
A focus on the new evangelization was a key theme throughout the gathering, with Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori noting in a Feb. 13 homily that if its goal is to gather people from every language and nation to be a "house of prayer for all peoples," then preaching, formation and religious instruction must attract. Effective preaching is not just about the mere presentation of information or ideas, he said, no matter how important or profound such information or ideas may be.

"Effective preaching should be engaging," Archbishop Lori said. "It should be brimming with the attractiveness of the Gospel, that is to say with the attractiveness of the person of Christ. It should engage the faith with the struggles and challenges of daily life, while offering hope, vision and fresh strength."

Archbishop Lori noted that preaching should draw people not to a set of rules, "but to a wholly new way of life that can only be lived in communion with Christ, a communion that is achieved in and through the sacraments, most especially the Eucharist."

Church leaders offer formation and religious instruction not as requirements, he said, but "as those who seek to know, love and follow the Lord."

Congress participants heard from more than 80 speakers on a wide range of topics covering everything from church management to Bible study, liturgy and the sacraments.

Keeping young adults
Weddell cited a Canadian study examining why young adults raised in Christian traditions, including Catholicism, remained in or left their faith.

Those who stayed, the study found, "had an experience of God or answered prayer; they were able to ask questions openly and discuss spiritual questions; they understood the Gospel; and they had older adults living as 'disciples' around them, modeling faith."

"We can't depend on inherited religious identity," Weddell said. The audience laughed as she noted that church leaders tend to separate everyone into two tracks: "the saint track and the rest of us, who were normal." That didn't allow for someone who has begun the journey to discipleship.

Part of the problem, she noted, is that "we never created a safe space for (young people) to wrestle with saying ‘yes’.” We presume the yes," she continued, believing it occurred in religious education classes or youth group, or in learning catechism as children.

She advised church leaders ask people to tell their stories about their relationship with God.

‘Intentional discipleship’
In a Feb. 13 talk about trends affecting the Catholic Church, Matthew Pinto, founder of Ascension Press, said he sees a noticeable movement toward "intentional discipleship."

He speculated that the leadership of Pope Francis will cause "progressive" Catholics to have a greater deference to the papacy in the years to come, while it simultaneously challenges "orthodox" Catholics to "come out of their comfort zones" in serving those in need.

"I think in decades to come, we are going to see doctrinal orthodoxy with a social justice emphasis," Pinto said.

Other trends Pinto said the church must be aware of include the rising acceptance of homosexuality, shifting demographics, the emergence of new groups of laypeople ready to serve the church, increasing challenges to religious freedom and the growth of the new evangelization as promoted by the last three popes.

Personal encounter with Christ
Damon Owens, executive director of the Theology of the Body Institute, emphasized in a Feb. 13 presentation that in helping people live by God's law, church ministers must encourage a personal encounter with Christ.

"The cold objective law is received by the heart as a rebuke until it becomes personal," he said.

Likening God's laws to guardrails that keep people safe, Owens said it isn't enough to "stay on the right side of the road."

"Merely following the law is not a joy-filled life," he said. "It's about an encounter of the heart. Then we can see the law not as the restrictive restraint, but as protective guidance."

Congress participants, who bailed from across the East Coast and beyond, perused books and other resource material set up in a large exhibit hall. There were also opportunities for eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Helen Harris, a cantor, catechist, lector and extraordinary minister of holy Communion at St. Joseph in Martinsburg, West Virginia, said she attended the congress for the first time to learn more about her faith and ministry.

"I want to know what canon law expects of us when we are passing that faith to catechumens coming through (the) RCIA process," she told The Catholic Review, Baltimore's archdiocesan newspaper. "It's important to learn how to do that in the way the church wants us to do it. It is important to pass on the faith not only to people around us, but we have to continue to grow in our own faith."
Pope: Don't let meatless
Fridays be selfish,
soulless, seafood splurge

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Real fasting isn't just restricting food choices, it must also include cleansing the heart of all selfishness and making room in one's life for those in need and those who have sinned and need healing, Pope Francis said.

Faith without concrete acts of charity is not only hypocritical, "it is dead; what good is it?" he said, criticizing those who hide behind a veil of piety while unjustly treating others, such as denying workers fair wages, a pension and health care.

Being generous toward the church, but selfish and unjust toward others "is a very serious sin: It is using God to cover up injustice," he said. Feb. 20 during his homily in a morning Mass celebrated in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

The pope's homily was based on the day's reading from the Book of Isaiah in which God tells his people he wishes to see his people crying out "full-throated and unreservedly" against injustice and sin, "setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless." In the reading, God also points out the hypocrisy of the faithful who fast, but treat their workers badly and fight and quarrel with others.

Pope Francis said Lent is about fulfilling all commandments both toward God and others, according to reports from Vatican Radio and the Vatican newspaper.

Lent is not about the formal observance of "doing a little whatever" and not eating meat on Fridays, while giving oneself free reign to "grow in selfishness, exploit others and ignore the poor," he said.

Real fasting must also include cleansing the heart of all selfishness and making room in one's life for those in need and those who have sinned and need healing.

There might be someone who thinks, "Today is Friday, I can't eat meat, but I'm going to have a nice plate of seafood, a real banquet," which, while appearing to be an abstinence from meat, is the sin of gluttony, the pope said.

Another person might say: "I am a great Catholic, Father, I like it a lot. I always go to Mass every Sunday, I receive Communion," to which, the pope said he would reply, "Great, and how is your relationship with your workers? Do you pay them under the table? Do you give them a fair wage? Do you contribute toward their pension? To their health insurance and social services?"

Some people may regularly make financial contributions to the church, but, the pope asked, how generous are they toward their loved ones and their dependents?

Are they generous and just to them, too, Pope Francis asked.

People cannot "make offerings to the church on the back of injustice," he said. "It is not a good Christian who doesn't do justice to the people who depend on him and who does not 'deprive himself of something essential for him in order to give it to another who is in need.'"

"This is the distinction between formal and real," he said, which Jesus underlined, too, when he condemned the Pharisees and doctors of the law, who adhered to "many external observances but without the truth of the heart."

Unfortunately, he said, many "men and women have faith but they separate the tablets of law," that is, they obey the first commandments and obligations to God while ignoring or being selective about the rest of the commandments concerning others.

"They are united: love toward God and love to your neighbor are one, and if you want to practice real, not formal, penance, you have to do it before God and also with your brother and sister, your neighbor," he said.

The pope asked that during Lent people think about what they can do for people who are in very difficult situations, for example, to help "children and the elderly who don't have the possibility of being seen by a doctor."

Perhaps they have to wait "eight hours to be seen and then they give them an appointment for the week after," he said.

"What will you do for these people? What will your Lent be like?"

He also asked people to make room in their hearts for those who have sinned, those who "have made mistakes and are in jail."

To those who may protest about associating with people who have been imprisoned, the pope said, "He is in jail, but you -- if you are not in jail, it is because the Lord helped you to not fall."

Pray for them, he said, so that the Lord may help them turn their lives around.
**Lent is a time for change; God can change us**

Lent is a time for change. When women go to the beauty salon, and men go to a barber shop, they hope to look different, and maybe even feel different when they come out! After a week and a half of Lent, do you feel any change yet? Thousands of years ago, Abraham and his son Isaac certainly felt the shock of change in what happened to them in today’s reading. God tells Abraham to take his son, Isaac, the “child of promise”, and to travel to the land of Moriah, up a mountain there, where he is offer Isaac in sacrifice!

This request must have devastated Abraham in heart and mind. He must have felt that God had tricked him years ago when He promised himself and Sarah that their descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Nevertheless, he obeys God to the point of raising his knife to kill his son. How was he to know that this was only a test? An angel stops his arm, and God, now satisfied, renews the covenant He had made. And Abraham is really convinced that, if he is to please God, he must offer himself absolutely everything of himself, of his dearest possessions, and his every hope of future joy.

After this experience, Abraham and Isaac were certainly changed. And God knew that He could trust them to do anything He asked.

God wants to change each one of us this Lent. He wants to remove all those flaws and sins that keep Him from working through us in His World. Even if we’re satisfied with the way we are now, Jesus our Brother wants us to change. Why?

He wants to combat the evil that is spoiling everything. He needs us to love everyone, to share our faith and our values with those who may be wavering, and be channels of God’s power through our prayer and sacrifice.

Another great encounter with God is offered us in this Sunday’s Gospel. It was offered first to Peter, James, and John on a mountain, Mt. Tabor, which rises almost two thousand feet about the level land of Lower Galilee.

Tired from the climb, the three disciples wake from a snooze, only to find Jesus who has been praying, suddenly radiant before them, talking with two men. They recognize these strangers as Moses and Elijah. Moses represents the Law, and Elijah represents the prophets.

As Jesus is talking with them, He is radiant with glory. He is glowing even more with the Father’s love as the thunderous words sound out, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him!”

There is another key for our Lenten observance: listening to God. When we listen, God can change us. As the song says, “This time, change our hearts.”
KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Iconic spy James Bond gets younger, hipper competition via "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (Fox).

This suave but excessively violent adaptation of Mark Millar and Dave Gibbons' 2012 comic book series "The Secret Service" is directed and co-written -- with Jane Goldman -- by Matthew Vaughn ('X-Men: First Class').

Terribly British to its core, the film is, at one level, an amusing sendup of classic espionage movies, with agents wearing bespoke suits and displaying impec­cable manners even as they kill bad guys with a daz­zling array of cool gadgets.

Unfortunately, "Kingsman" is too pseudo-sophisticated for its own good, and goes off the rails with unbridled mayhem and vulgarity.

Some of the action se­quences, including one of a congregation massacred in­side a church, display a pro­found lack of taste, not to mention cinematic judg­ment.

That's a pity, as the film offers a positive message for wayward youth on achieving reform by learning to look out for others.

Colin Firth stars as Harry Hart, code-named "Galahad." Hart's moniker reflects the fact that the members of the top-secret Kingsmen organiza­tion, to which he belongs, consider themselves a new breed of knights in shining armor (or at least pin­stripes).

This "independent interna­tional intelligence agency," overseen by Arthur (Michael Caine), is headquar­tered behind a tailor's shop on London's Savile Row.

The Kingsmen are com­manded to find new, more youthful recruits. Galahad seeks out Eggsy (Taron Egerton), a troubled hooli­gan unaware that his late fa­ther was a Kingsman who died saving Galahad's life.

Galahad pledges to redeem this sacrifice by helping the young man. Indeed, under Galahad's tutelage Eggsy gets the ultimate makeover.

There's no time to lose, as the world is at risk (natur­ally) from a megalomaniac named Richmond Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson). Con­vinced that climate change is caused by overpopula­tion, Valentine -- perversely inspired by the story of Noah and the great flood -- decides the best remedy for environmental woes is to cull the human race.

So he hands out free cell phones (how modern!) em­bedded with a computer­ized booby-trap designed to wreak mayhem.

"Kingsman" carries this ridiculous premise to quakey extremes. However tongue-in-cheek their presenta­tion, the gruesome pro­ceedings become so awash in blood that even many adults will likely be re­pelled.

The film contains strong gory violence, and frequent profane and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Fifty Shades of Grey" (Universal)

Unusually explicit for a mainstream film, director Sam Taylor-Johnson's adaptation of the first volume in a trilogy of novels by E. L. James has a pornographi­cally narrow focus and a po­tentially dangerous message. Filling in for her roommate (Eloise Mumford), a socially awkward college student (Dakota Johnson) interviews an intimidating business tycoon (Jamie Dor­nan) for the campus newspaper, and the two fall for each other.

As the virginal co-ed tries to bond with her aloof beau, however, she discov­ers he's an obsessive sadist.

Though it's framed in the familiar context of a good girl's crusade to redeem a naughty boy, her hesitant cooperation with the mogul's perversion risks conveying the idea that all women are potentially will­ing victims of physical abuse and humiliation.

The fact that their aber­rant interaction is mostly toned down, moreover, only aggravates the damage this armchair flirtation with the darker aspects of human nature has the ability to inflict.

Excessive sexual content, including graphic deviant behavior and nonmarital sexual activity with much nudity, a benign view of ca­sual sex and contraception, several uses of rough lan­guage.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompa­nying parent or adult guardian.

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CLINTON

RETAIL DAY
Plattsburgh— A retreat day to be held.
Date: March 14
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Place: 77 Brinkerhoff St. (former Regina Maria Retreat House)
Presenter: Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ
Cost: Suggested donation, $25
Features: "Lenten Journey" will focus on deepening our friendship with the Lord by exploring different ways of praying.
Contact: call: 315-212-6592 or email: srbethssj@gmail.com by March 11

SCHOOL OF HEALING
Ellenburg Center— Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will have a special prayer training class.
Date: April 9-12
Cost: $35 non-refundable fee due March 22
Contact: olaprayrhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253

FISH FRY
Chazy— Sacred Heart Parish to have their annual all you can eat fish fry.
Date: March 13
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30
Place: Parish Center
Cost: Take-outs and Adults, $10; Children 6-12, $5

ST. PADDY’S DAY DINNER
Peru— St. Augustine’s parish to have St. Paddy’s Day dinner.
Date: March 14
Time: 3 p.m. to 6
Place: Parish center
Cost: Adults, $9; Children 4-12, $4; 3 and under, Free
Menu: Traditional Corned beef or Ham, cabbage and “all the trimmings;” various desserts, beverages (adult fare entitles those 21+ to a small “adult” beverage of either Guinness or Bailey’s)
Features: Take-outs available. Traditional Irish music by Elizabeth Churchill and George Schob. Irish dancers, 50/50 Raffle and Green Basket Raffle (1 ticket for $1.00 or 6 for $5.00). The income generated from this event will be used to further the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Saint Monica #2598 of St. Augustine’s Parish mission of charity

WEEKDAY LENTEN ADORATION
Plattsburgh— This year St. Peter’s Church will offer Lenten weekday adoration.
Schedule: Mon. and Tues. after 7 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m.
Place: St. Frere Andre’s Chapel
Features: Adoration will end with Benediction on Tuesdays of Holy Week.
Contact: To sign up for one hour a week of adoration, call the rectory at 563-1692 or stop in the Chapel anytime during adoration hours.
Cost: Adults, $7.50; Children 6-12, $2.50; 5 and under, Free; $20 per family maximum.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER
Plattsburgh— A spaghetti & meatball dinner to benefit Seton Catholic “40 Days of Hope” project to purchase medicines for the North Country Mission of Hope!
Date: Feb. 28
Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30
Location: Seton Academy
Cost: $8 for adults, $5 Children under 12; takes outs at no additional cost

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Treadwell Mills— St. Alexander & St. Joseph’s Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.
Date: March 1
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph’s Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, $7; Children 6-12, $3; under 5, free

QUILTING CLASSES
Ellenburg Center— Upcoming Quilt Classes at The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop.

FRANKLIN

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR
St. Regis Falls— First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held.
Date: First Saturday of each month.
Time: Immediately following the 4:30 anticipated Mass.
Place: St. Ann’s Church
Contact: 518-856-9656

WATERTOWN LENTEN MISSION
Watertown— Watertown native Father Timothy Canaan will be the presenter this year for the annual Lenten Mission for the Catholic parishes in Watertown.
Schedule: The mission opens with Mass at the Church of the Holy Family March 2 at 7 p.m. It will continue on successive evenings, March 3 at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick’s; March 4 at 7 p.m., at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and concludes March 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony’s.
Features: Father Timothy will preach on the theme, “If You’re in Christ.” At each of the Catholic churches during the celebration of Mass. The theme is derived from the Diocesan evangelization effort announced by Bishop Terry R. LaValley one year ago.
Presenter: Father Canaan, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg since 1993, currently serves as pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of Saint John the Baptist in Plattsburgh and as diocesan Director of Campus Ministry. Shortly his ordination to the priesthood he began preaching retreats and has led close to 20 Parish Missions. He has also been the retreat director for Commissioned Lay Ministers, candidates for Confirmation, and Vocation Candidates.

PSALMS CLASS
Evans Mills— An 11-week course on the Book of Psalms has been planned, the sixth Bible course offered at St. Mary’s.
Date: Wednesdays beginning March 4
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30
Features: Jeff Cavins, a nationally-known Bible teacher, will lecture via DVD, with discussion led by members of Knights of Columbus Council 7471.
When Cavins has titled the course “Psalms: The School of Prayer” following the lead of the Catechism, which says “the words of the Psalms are not only understanding of the Lord’s saving works…. The psalms continue to teach us how to pray” (para. 2587). He will consider personal and communal aspects of the psalms.
Cost: There is a $30 fee for home study materials, which are optional.
Contact: Students are asked to sign up by Feb. 24 by calling Tom at 767-1065.

FEBRUARY ULTREYA
Watertown— Cursillo Community celebrating February Ultreya
Date: Feb. 26
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8
Place: St. Patrick’s Church chapel
Features: Cursillistas’ reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.

IHC OPEN HOUSES
Watertown— Immaculate Heart Central School to hold open houses for new and prospective families.
Elementary School and St. John Bosco
Pre-School
Feb. 25 at 6 p.m., Open House, Intermediate School; March 3 at 6 p.m., St. John Bosco Open House, Primary School; March 9, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.—Kindergarten Screening & Enrollment (if you have made your choice by this date and/or arrived in the area, please call 315-788-7011 to make a appointment for your child to be screened for Kindergarten);
Upcoming open houses: March 24 at 6 p.m., Primary School; April 22 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School; May 19 at 6 p.m., Primary School; July 15 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School Aug. 17 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School.
Junior/Senior High School
March 9 at 6:30 p.m., 7th Grade Orientation (if you have made your choice by this date and/or arrived in the area, please attend this event with your “rising 7th grader”);
Upcoming open houses: March 25 at 6 p.m., April 21 at 6 p.m., May 20 at 6 p.m., July 15 at 6 p.m., Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
Watertown— Registration and screening for children who will be entering kindergarten at Immaculate Heart Central Primary School in September to be held.
Date: March 9
Features: Call 788-7011 for an appointment.
To be eligible for kindergarten next year, a child must be 5 years old on or before December 1. Parents should bring their child’s birth and baptismal certificates and immunization records.
CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 395-2202 fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rchdy.org

Mission Office thanks the NCC

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies Inc. of the Diocese of Ogdensburg would like to commend the enormous efforts of the North Country Catholic and its staff (Mary Lou Killian, Editor and her tireless associate Christine Ward) with their assistance in promoting the missionary spirit week after week.

The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA), the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. The Pontifical Mission Societies have, as their primary purpose, “the promotion, of a universal missionary spirit, a spirit of prayer and sacrifice among all baptized Catholics.”

Every week, the North Country Catholic promotes and exhibits our columns and photos in an effort to help publicize the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by educating the faithful with awareness of the Church’s universal mission. Our columns teach of sacrifice, encourage prayer and support of any on-going appeals.

Our appeals consist of Christmas/Advent, Lent, St. Peter the Apostle, Missionary Projects of the Diocese, Missionary Cooperation and World Mission Sunday. In addition to these appeals, children in Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association program for on-going support and prayers for children in developing lands.

Throughout the years, the North Country Catholic has always been there for the Mission Office to aid in our goal of promoting education and awareness. The Mission Office acknowledges that without the weekly column, so many of our faithful donors would not be able to keep up with the news from the Mission World.

In that regard, the NCC helps each week to transform the lives of others far, far away. This office will always be grateful for this assistance.

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg is proud to walk with the North Country Catholic on our long journey together of making the Diocese a better place through promoting prayers and personal sacrifices for the Missions.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — David M. Pearce, 50; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2015 at the Thiwatts-Zaumetter Funeral Home.

AuSable Forks — Mark Peduzzi, 63; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

Clayton - William L. Monteith, Jr., 80; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church.

Gouverneur - Richard V. Mazurowski, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Gouverneur - Mabel “Maybelle” (Whitaker) Pistoleti, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Hogansburg - Anna Mae (Garrow) Besaw, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

Lowville - Rosemary (Kornatowski) Morak, 79; Funeral Services at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Martinsburg Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain - Frederick “Peanut” Cayea, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2015 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Madrid - Betty A. Lindsley, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Parishville.

Maione - Sharon Collette Riggs, 64; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena - Jean E. Marion Griffin, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 14, 2014 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Dora M. (Saumure) Littlejohn, 81; Memorial Services Feb. 27, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

North Lawrence - Kenneth “Kay” H. Prosper, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2015 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Sand Hill Cemetery, Dickinson.

Ogdensburg - Arlene F. (LaRock) Jenner, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh - David L. Blikow, 68; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Albert A. Collins, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Michael L. DiCarlo, 57; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. Peter’s Church.

Plattsburgh - Roland J. LaForest, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2015 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Rouses Point.

Port Henry - Catherine Rose Aurilio, 96; Funeral Services May 16, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Port Henry - Sylvia Ann (Mckown) Hurlburt, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Potsdam - Danny G. Burkum, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Watertown - Frederic S. Kendall, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 21, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Watertown - Bernice E. “Bernie” White Shannon, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church.

West Chazy - Lyles Anthony Trombley, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2015 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in Ingraham Cemetery.

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HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
Watertown — Holy Hour for vocations to be held.
Date: Mon.-Fri.
Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Place: Holy Family Church
Contact: 315-782-2468

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March will be held.
Date: March 1
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church

MONTHLY BRUNCH
Columbus - The Knights of Columbus Council 11544 will be hosting their monthly brunch.
Date: March 8
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church

ST. LAWRENCE
MARCH 28 Christ the King - Albany
Time: 3 p.m.

LENTEN Eucharistic Adoration
Lowville — Lenten Eucharistic adoration to be held.
Dates: March 8 and March 19

FISH & SHRIMP FRY
Adams/Henderson — Fish and shrimp fry to be held.
Date: March 20
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church

MARCH 21 Holy Family - Little Falls
Time: 3 p.m.

MARCH 29 St. Jude - Wynantskill
Time: 3 p.m.

MARCH 30 St. Stephen's - Phoenix
Time: 3 p.m.

MARCH 31 St. Martin of Tours - New Hope, PA
Time: 3 p.m.

APRIL 1 St. Rose of Lima - Newton, CT
Time: 3 p.m.

APRIL 3 St. Patrick’s - Watertown
Time: 7 p.m.