Pope: abandoning elderly is a sin

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Seeing the elderly only as a burden "is ugly. It’s a sin," Pope Francis said March 4 at his weekly general audience.

"We must reawaken our collective sense of gratitude, appreciation and hospitality, helping the elderly know they are a living part of their communities’ and sources of wisdom for the younger generations, the 78-year-old pope said March 4 at his weekly general audience. Continuing a series of audience talks about the family, Pope Francis said he would dedicate two talks to the elderly, looking at how they are treated in modern societies and at their vocation within the family.

"An elderly person is not an alien," he said. "The elderly person is us. Soon, or many years from now -- inevitably anyway -- we will be old, even if we don't think about it. "If we do not learn to treat the elderly well," the pope said, "we won't be treated well either" when the time comes.

In a talk punctuated with references to his own family life, his grandmother and his experience visiting homes for the elderly in Buenos Aires, Pope Francis said even Christians are being influenced by cultures so focused on production and profit, that the biblical exhortations to respect the aged and draw upon their wisdom are being ignored.

College students on Lenten retreat

College students from across the diocese gathered at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg Feb. 20-22 for a Lenten retreat.

Amanda Miner, director of campus ministry in Canton said, said, "The retreat was meant to be a time of rest and refueling for the students during Lent. Retreats like these give students the tools to live their faith on secular college campuses."

Bishop LaValley celebrated Mass and six priests of the diocese were on hand to assist at different points during the weekend.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

CRS collection: March 14-15

Catholics in the North Country invited to ‘Help Jesus in Disguise,’ Peter’s Pence appeal also set

FULL STORY, PAGES 4 & 9

PUBLIC POLICY: State bishops plan new ways to make a difference... p.3
EDITOR'S NOTE

Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled

Our Church sends us an invitation for Lent to discover the mercy of God. God's mercy is great – Jesus teaches this to us in many ways throughout the Gospels.

Soon, on a Lenten Sunday, the Gospel reading will be Jesus’ wonderful and familiar parable that we call the Parable of the Prodigal Son. I am certain that you remember the story. A man has two sons and the younger son asks for his share of his inheritance now. He then goes off, squanders the money and faces poverty. He then decides to return to his father’s house and work as one of the servants. The surprise of the story – and there are usually surprises in Jesus’ parable – is that the father sees him coming and, rather than becoming angry, races out to meet him and welcome him back with a celebration.

The father becomes an image of God the Father, demonstrating the wonderful mercy towards his son. Jesus seems to indicate that God's mercy is so great that he will always welcome us even if we stray.

There is a second part to the story. The older son hears the celebration and becomes annoyed and angry and refuses to take part. The Father – again and goals of our diocesan vision. In advance of our most recent meeting March 5, department heads were given a very specific task: explain how your activities and work are responding to each diocesan priority and goal.

I’m sure the bishop was gratified to hear all the answers! It’s been almost a year since June through August I was Washington and skipping one week in Ogdensburg, New York.

This is especially true as our efforts are laser-focused on the priorities and goals of our diocesan vision. In advance of our most recent meeting March 5, department heads were given a very specific task: explain how your activities and work are responding to each diocesan priority and goal.

As we look ahead to this year’s Chrism Mass (March 26 at St. Mary’s Cathedral), Catholics in the diocese can take heart that significant strides have been made in accomplishing the priorities we listed. Every diocesan department has taken responsibility in some way for “creating a culture of vocations,” “strengthening faith formation in family life” and “building parishes with living stones.”

Catholics across the diocese can also take heart that progress has been made in meeting the goals attached to these priorities.

Youth ministers have been identified, long range parish planning has begun and you’re probably starting to hear invitations to volunteer for the Find Your Home in Christ census. The ground work for longer range goals is also well underway.

I, for one, am curious to hear how Bishop LaValley will keep the momentum going with his homily at this year’s Chrism Mass. I would imagine that everyone who filled the pews last year, we’ll want to be informed and inspired this year too.

See you on March 26!

A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

Lent: a time to discover the mercy of God

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See you on March 26!
Diocesan public advocacy efforts

As many of you know, the Bishops of New York State, in collaboration with the New York State Catholic Conference, are restructuring our Catholic public policy/advocacy efforts. (See story below) For several years, many of our parishioners have faithfully attended the annual Catholics at the Capital Day in Albany. This year that event did not take place. Instead, education and advocacy efforts will focus within the local dioceses. The Bishops have set the legislative priorities for 2015. The identified issues can be found on the New York Catholic Conference website: (www.nyscatholic.org).

This is an online advocacy opportunity. I encourage you to raise your voice in support of the issues on the Bishops’ legislative agenda. If you haven’t already, sign up to the action network. Join thousands of Catholics from around the State in working for public policies that respect the sanctity and dignity of human life, support families and work for the common good.

As followers of Christ, we are called to create compassionate and just communities on the local, national and international levels. With faithfulness to the teachings of the Catholic Church, we raise our informed voices in the public forum.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts in the past. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with legislators and being the Living Stones that make ourparishes vibrant families of faith that witness to what we say we believe.

Bishops of NYS to take multi-pronged approach to public policy initiatives

ALBANY - In recognition of the changing nature of public policy advocacy and communication, and in an effort to use the Church’s resources in these areas most effectively, the Bishops of New York State have determined that the Catholics at the Capitol lobby day in Albany will not be held this year and is not likely to be held in subsequent years.

Instead a multi-pronged approach to advocacy with the state legislature will be developed, some of which will be implemented in the 2015 session.

“This new approach is expected to include a more segmented, targeted approach to advocacy, so that we have the right people in Albany, advocating for the right issues at the right time,” said Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference.

He noted for example, in February both the New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors and the Catholic School Superintendents held advocacy events at the Capitol and regionally. These events brought leadership from numerous Catholic Charities agencies and schools offices across the state to lobby on human services and education funding issues as the state budget is being negotiated.

In place of Catholic at the Capital Day in Albany

“In recent years, in this era of on-time state budgets, the March Catholics at the Capitol event would often occur after a budget framework had already been agreed upon, leaving our voice in regard to funding largely muted,” Barnes said.

Similarly, life and family issues typically come to a head at the end of session in June. So the Conference will be prepared to work independently and with its partners and allies to arrange advocacy days on an ad hoc basis in order to maximize impact, as was done successfully in 2013 when Gov. Cuomo proposed his abortion expansion bill.

In addition to advocacy events at the Capitol throughout the year, the new approach will include advocacy initiatives in the local dioceses and a continued emphasis on building the Conference’s already-robust Catholic Action Network and social media presence.

“The Catholic Conference has been holding the Catholics at the Capitol day (formerly known as the Public Policy Forum) since the mid-1980s, with a largely unchanged format and focus,” Barnes said. “The Bishops strongly believe that the Church must recognize the changing times, and continue to evolve so best to meet the needs of poor and vulnerable New Yorkers through advocacy in the public square.”

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Chrism Mass 2015

Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled

All the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ on Thursday, March 26th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg, New York.
Bishop Terry R. LaValley spoke about immigration in a Feb. 25 speech to the Italian American Civic Association in Watertown.

**Bishop cites local group as model**

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon Staff writer

**WATERTOWN** -- Bishop Terry R. LaValley turned to the Watertown New York Italian community to promote peaceful coexistence and a non-judgmental approach to immigration in a speech February 25 at the Italian American Civic Association.

"You have much to teach our communities, our country indeed our world when it comes to integrating people from one culture to another while allowing it to maintain its proud heritage," the bishop told the audience.

Noting the roadblocks to acceptance Italian, Polish, French and Irish immigrants in particular had when coming to the United States at the turn of the last century Bishop LaValley said it was "these societal and governmental attitudes that led to the establishment of many Catholic schools and Catholic hospitals."

"In some parts of our world today," the bishop continued, "we have more than roadblocks but the outright heinous murdering of innocent people by ruthless savages who refuse to allow any integration of peoples whose faith is different from their own manufactured so-called religions. And closer to home," he continued, "the whole current question of immigrant status relates to tolerance on another level."

Bishop LaValley was invited by the Association to speak at one of the events marking the IACA’s 75th anniversary in the Watertown community.

The Association’s club rooms are located only a few hundred feet from St. Anthony’s Church in Watertown, a parish which boasts its strong Italian heritage and membership.

"Your strong Catholic faith," Bishop LaValley said, "which is an identifying feature of your proud Italian heritage is witnessed through hard work and support of your faith family; strengthening families, supporting your community, celebrating your faith and embracing your Italian heritage.

"What a gift," he said. "It almost makes your Bishop an Italian wanna-be."

Bishop LaValley also spoke of the importance of civic organizations and lamented the trend away from associations dedicated to community involvement.
MARCH 1 AT ST. MARY’S CATHEDRAL

AT THE RITE OF ELECTION

And Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates

“Thank you for coming to our St. Mary’s Cathedral this afternoon to be counted among the elect,” Bishop LaValley in his homily for the March 1 Rite of Election. “Your presence this day brings such joy to all of us.”

Bishop LaValley took time to speak with each of the catechumens, candidates and their sponsors during the Rite.

PHOTOS BY BETTY STEELE

Alex Pinkerton signs the Book of the Elect as her sponsor John Pinkerton looks on. Alex will receive the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation - at the Easter Vigil at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Deacon Patrick Donahue of the diocesan Department of Faith Formation invites RCIA directors from across the diocese to introduce the catechumens.

Anita Soltero, director of religious education at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh, reads from the scriptures during the ceremony.
Catholic Charities accepting CCHD applications

OGDENSBURG - Catholic Charities is now accepting applications for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development local grant process for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The criteria to be used for submitting a proposal is:

1. Project must be aimed at alleviating the causes of poverty.
2. Project must be a new initiative or an enhancement of an established project.
3. Sponsoring group must be a non-profit, 501c3 organization.
4. Project must have the potential to be funded after the CCHD funds have been expended.
5. Projects must be consistent with the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. (Applicants do not have to be Catholic.)

This year two grants for $4,000 each are available. Applications can be requested from Catholic Charities by mail, phone or e-mail. If you have any questions or to receive an application, please write to: Catholic Charities, 6866 State Hgw. 37, Ogdensburg, NY 13669, or call: (315)393-2255; or e-mail your request and mailing address to: ccdirect@wadham.edu

Grant applications are due by May 20. Grants will be awarded by the end of June.

Bishop’s Schedule

March 11 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
March 12 – 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at St. Patrick’s Church in Chateaugay
March 13 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
March 14 – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
March 15 – 10:30 a.m., Mass at Church of the Holy Angels in Altona
March 17 – 2 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Spratt Conf. Room in Ogdensburg

Rest in Peace

This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergy members who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg:

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911
March 16 – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Director at 315-393-2255; or e-mail: terrianneyanlavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, toll free 1-866-264-4930; or e-mail: terrianneyanlavich@yahoo.com

To Report Abuse

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

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne 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

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Environmental Stewardship

Beyond the Supermarket: You are what you eat

By Yvona Fast
Diocesan Faith and Ecology Group

In the Bible, Jesus multiplied loaves and fishes. Today, our food choices are limitless. We can eat out or cook in. We can get ‘take out’ or buy pre-prepared, fully cooked TV dinners that we just heat in the microwave. Our foods come from around the world — from China, from Mexico, from California. But how do my food choices affect the environment?

Eating in instead of out and planning my meals saves money, reduces waste and conserves energy. Whole, fresh, unaltered foods have more flavor and nutrients than their processed, packaged cousins, which are stripped of natural vitamins and contain added chemicals. I buy in bulk to reduce packaging, and store food in reusable containers rather than disposables.

I can choose local, seasonal, sustainably produced foods. Foods that are locally grown support the local economy and decrease the amount of fuel required for transport. Today, 20 percent of America’s petroleum output goes toward transporting food around the country. The average supermarket food item traveled 1,500 miles from source to table. Buying locally produced food reduces my carbon footprint, produces less greenhouse gas and helps stop global warming. Do I really need apples from New Zealand when perfectly good apples grow in the Champlain Valley? Locally grown food is fresher and tastes better because it is picked ripe, rather than expected to ripen during shipment.

I have learned to be aware of how my food choices affect the environment. You are what you eat — so make natural, wholesome, healthy food choices.

Author of the award-winning cookbook Garden Gourmet: Fresh & Fabulous Meals from your Garden, CSA or Farmers’ Market. Yvona Fast lives in Lake Clear and has two passions: cooking and writing. She can be reached at www.wordsaremyworld.com.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley’s columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!

ST. MARY’S RAFFLE
GRAND PRIZE: $10,000

Enter for your chance to win $10,000 CASH!
(Winner pays NY sales tax) Drawing will be held April 5, 2015.
2 Mini prizes of $100 will be drawn on Feb. 8th and March 8th.
All proceeds to benefit St. Mary’s Church in Canton and its ministries.
Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

St. Mary’s Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

NAME
ADDRESS

Telephone
Number of Tickets _______ Amount of check $ ________
$10 EACH or 6 for $50

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www.twitter.com/Pontifex
#Pontifex
COLLEGIANS on retreat

By Amanda Miner
Staff Writer

OGDENSBURG – Chamil Perera, a student at Clarkson University in Potsdam, was one of 20 college students from campuses across the North Country who gathered at Wadhams Hall Feb. 20-22 for a Lenten retreat.

He told the North Country Catholic that the theme of the retreat, “I will give you a new heart” (Ezekiel 26:36), captured his experience perfectly.

“Indeed I felt Jesus touching my heart and renewing my spirit to engage with Him with more prayer and to serve Him by sharing His love with my brothers and sisters in college,” he said.

“It was a wonderful experience to see my friends again from the fall retreat 2014 and get to know new faces from St. Lawrence and SUNY Canton,” Chamil said.

Students also came to Wadhams Hall from SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Plattsburgh and Jefferson Community College in Watertown.

As the weekend opened with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession, the students were able to spend time with many diocesan priests, including Fathers Thomas Higman, Scott Belina, Bryan Stitt, Mark Reilly, Douglas Lucia and Msgr. Robert Aucoin.

Saturday’s schedule included workshops on Courage and the Saints, How to Improve Your Prayer Life, and New Age Trends & The Occult.

Kristen Skovan, SUNY Potsdam, said that she particularly enjoyed the workshop presented by Father Higman who broke down the meaning of fortitude and presented St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Gianna Molla as examples of moral courage.

The priest then shared some very modern examples of courage to help the students relate. Students read letters from James Foley and Kayla Mueller, who were recently captured and killed by ISIS. They worked in small groups to find examples of fortitude in their words.

Ms. Skovan said, “I found the talks on this retreat inspiring. My faith was strengthened through discussions on courage and vulnerability.

My favorite part of the retreat was getting to experience being closer to God with people my age who I could relate to,” she said. “So many times we get wrapped up in our own world, sometimes it’s nice to step aside for a weekend and give a thank you back to Him.”

The students were each assigned a saint to “adopt” during Lent. They also received holy water after confession to bring back to their dorms and, after learning about spiritual warfare, they each were given Miraculous Medals on chains.

Bishop Terry LaValley celebrated Mass on Saturday evening of the retreat and then spent some time with the students during dinner.

Other highlights included Stations of the Cross led by Father Belina, a talk on confession by Father Stitt, a discussion about adoration led by Msgr. Aucoin and a viewing of the movie “The Giver,” followed by discussion.

Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg, was one of six diocesan priests who assisted at the retreat. He led the Stations of the Cross for the college students.

NORTHCOUNTRYCATHOLIC.COM
YOUNG ESSAYISTS HONORED

Grand Knight William Stowell of the Knight of Columbus Council 7364 of Adams and Father Martin Cline, pastor of St. Cecilia’s Church, are shown as they present awards to Matthew Sullivan, Michelle Kellar, and Abigail Hulbert for their winning essays. This past fall the council held a Catholic essay contest which was open to all Catholic Students in public and parochial schools in grades eight through 12. The theme of the essay this year was “The Importance Of Religious Freedom.” Stowell said that “the contest opened the doors of young minds, enabling them to be creative, thoughtful and able to defend their Catholic beliefs.” The council awarded Matthew Sullivan first place in the ninth grade level, Abigail Hulbert, first place in the eighth grade level and Michelle Kellar, second place in the eighth grade level. The first place winning essays will be sent on to compete at the state level.

YOUNG PRIESTS WELcomed

The Program for the Ongoing Formation of Newly-Ordained Priests recently resumed its activities with a presentation by Bishop LaValley March 4. Pictured at the Bishop’s residence, from left, are Fathers Tojo Chacko, Scott Belina, Justin Thomas, Howard Venette (director), Thomas Higman, and Bishop LaValley.

Funeral held for Sr. Rosalie Tapley

LAKE PLACID — A Mass of Christian Burial for Mercy Sister Mary Rosalie Tapley, age 82, was held March 4 at in the Reiss Memorial Chapel in Uihlein Living Center. She died March 1 at Mercy Center, Dallas, Pennsylvania, where she had been a resident since 2008. Burial will be in the spring at St. Alphonsus Cemetery, Tupper Lake.

Sister Rosalie was born June 22, 1932 in Watertown, the daughter of Francis and Rosalie (Welch) Tapley. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in Tarrytown, New York, Feb. 1, 1951 and after profession she became a Certified Practical Nurse and received a BS in Nursing at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry in 1971.

Her nursing career took her to Sanatorium Gabriels, The Sisters Infirmary, St. Francis Hospital in Port Jarvis, Mercy Hospital Watertown and Upstate Medical Center and Loretto Geriatric Center both in the Syracuse area.

In 1977 she relocated to St. Margaret Convent, Lake Placid, and for a time was a nurse at Uihlein Mercy Center.

Sister Rosalie is survived by her brother Paul and his wife Leilani, a niece and nephew and a sister-in law Mary Tapley. She was predeceased by her parents and one brother Robert.

Online condolences may be shared at www.mbclarkfuneralhome.com

‘SOUP’ER SERVICE

While some people may have been disappointed about how this year's Super Bowl played out, Trinity Catholic students are proud to say they donated over 2000 cans and boxes of non-perishable foods to the local Massena food pantry and St. Vincent de Paul. The TCS “Soup”er Bowl is a way students give back every year to their community and learn the value of charity and service to others. Pictured here are kindergarten teacher Loralee Marsh, Anthony Bolia, Liam Drake, Caroline Cromie and SVDP representatives, Phil Ashley and Deacon Tom Proulx.
SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

Collection Weekend
March 14 & 15, 2015

HELP Jesus IN DISGUISE
People of faith urged to make home 'the way you want the world to look'

In pursuit of religious liberty

By Nate Madden
Catholic News Service

FORT WASHINGTON, Md. (NS)—The discussion on religious liberty is not the purview of a single denomination or faith tradition, but one that affects every U.S. citizen, said speakers on a panel looking at the issue.

And one key to thwarting state encroachments upon free exercise of religion is religious exercise itself, said panelist Tony Perkins, who is president and CEO of the Family Research Council.

"You make your home the way you want the world to look," he said Feb. 28. "People say, 'They won't allow prayer in school anymore,' then pray with your kids at home. They don't allow the Ten Commandments in the courthouse anymore, but where are they in your house? That's where it begins, but it shouldn't be restricted to that.

The panel discussion took place during the Conservative Political Action Conference, held at a convention center in a Maryland suburb of Washington.

Moderated by syndicated columnist Cal Thomas, the panel also included radio talk show host Dana Loesch and U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebaurer, R-Texas.

The discussion covered topics from religious expression in schools and the workplace, economic disenfranchisement of those who espouse church teaching in the public square and nonreligious implications for threats to religious liberty in the United States.

Thomas cited the examples of a couple of bakers, a photographer and a florist who were sued, and in a couple of cases had to close their businesses, because they refused for religious reasons to provide their services to same-sex couples planning their wedding.

He also mentioned the federal mandate that most religious employers provide contraceptives even if they object to such coverage on moral grounds and what he described as "legions of Christian students" in public schools not allowed to invoke Christ's name in speeches because they were told that it "violated the Constitution."

"Had they used the name as a curse word, that same First Amendment presumably would have protected their right to do so," he added.

"They won't allow prayer in school anymore,' then pray with your kids at home. They don't allow the Ten Commandments in the courthouse anymore, but where are they in your house?" Tony Perkins, president and CEO of the Family Research Council.

"I'm not sure if religious liberty even exists anymore," said Loesch, who recalled that as child, she and her elementary school classmates had to have signed permission slips to sing Christmas carols in a school play.

Loesch also stressed the responsibility of "living by example" that she said people of faith have.

"The biggest threat to religious liberty is apathy," she explained. "We as people of faith need to lead better by example, and to be more active in the community. Christians have always led in this regard ... but I feel that over the past 10 or 15 years there's been a great deal of apathy in the church."

Perkins agreed, saying Americans "have lost religious freedom in this country because we have refused to exercise our religious freedom."

"Americans who are people of faith have failed to follow the mantra that 'if you see something, say something,' and that silence has led to a loss of religious freedom."

He cited a recent Rasmussen poll in which 82 percent of the respondents said they believe that Americans should not have to "quarantine their faith within the four walls of a church."

Noting the much-anticipated oral arguments in four same-sex marriage cases the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear, Perkins said the same poll also showed that 61 percent of Americans believe that the court should not "impose same-sex marriage on the entire nation."

"If the court does try to impose this on the whole nation, it won't solve the issue," said Perkins. "Rather, I think it will lure us into one of the most tumultuous cultural times this nation has ever seen."

Loesch argued that "it's time to make Christians a protected class."

"You have group A who is offended if you worship Jesus, you've got group B who is offended if you want to hand out a Bible, and a mentality that says you have a right to get litigious if you get offended," she said.

"It is not fair and it is not equal that, in order to accommodate someone else, that you must be deprived of a right," she said.

Thomas asked her, "If you are living a life that would be pleasing to God, shouldn't you expect to be persecuted?" Loesch responded, "I think so and I think it's a badge of honor."

Perkins urged both believers and nonbelievers to cooperate on the issue.

"Whether you're religious or nonreligious, religious freedom is the freedom upon which all other freedoms hinge," he said. "And the future of our country is only as bright as our religious freedom is."

Added Loesch, "You don't have to be a Christian to be affected by a loss of religious liberty ... because if one freedom can be taken away, all of them can be taken away."

Papal response to God's 'exaggerated' pardon

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (NS)- When the Bible says, "though your sins be like scarlet" God will make them "white as snow," it exaggerates, just like God exaggerates in his willingness to forgive people, Pope Francis said.

"The Lord forgives generously," the pope said March 3 during his early morning Mass. God never says, "I will forgive you just this much, then we'll see about the rest."

No. The Lord always forgives everything."

"The Lord exaggerates. But it is the truth," the pope said at the Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where he lives.

The Lenten call to conversion is a call to seek God's forgiveness and demonstrate sincerity by acts of charity and works of justice, Pope Francis said.

"How can I convert?" one could ask, he said. The prophet Isaiah responded by telling people, "Learn to do good."

"The dirt on your heart isn't washed away like a stain" on clothes, like "going into the drycleaners and coming out clean," the pope said.

As the day's first reading, Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, makes clear, the stains of sin are removed "by doing, by taking a different path, another road instead of that of evil."

"And how do I do good? It's easy," he said. Isaiah sums it up as, "Make justice your aim: Redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow."

Adding "the abandoned elderly and children without access to school to the list," Pope Francis said that when one goes out to heal the "wounds of humanity where there is so much pain," then "you will cleanse your heart."

Turning to the day's Gospel reading, Matthew 23:1-12, the pope said Jesus warned his disciples -- and he warns people today -- about the hypocrisy of "saying the right things, but doing the opposite."

"All of us are clever," he said, and have the ability to find a way to "seem more virtuous that we are: It's the path of hypocrisy."

Hypocrites, he said, "pretend to convert," but their hearts do not belong to God. "They belong to the father of all lies, Satan. This is fake holiness. Jesus prefers sinners to those people a thousand times over."

Repentant sinners may be sinners, he said, but at least they are honest about it.

With Simon Peter they say, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man," Pope Francis said.
Cardinal Edward M. Egan, retired archbishop of New York, dies at age 82

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Cardinal Edward M. Egan, who retired as archbishop of New York in 2009, died March 5. The cause of death was cardiac arrest. He was 82.

After collapsing at his residence that afternoon, he was taken to NYU Langone Medical Center, where doctors pronounced him dead at 2:20 p.m.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York told Catholics of the archdiocese he was saddened to tell them "our beloved" Cardinal Egan "has gone home to the Lord."

"Join me, please, in thanking God for his life, especially his generous and faithful priesthood. Pray as well that the powerful intercessory prayers of Jesus, in which our cardinal had such trust, has ushered him into heaven," said Cardinal Dolan, who succeeded Cardinal Egan.

"My sympathy to his natural family, who will grieve for their uncle, and to you, his spiritual family here in the Archdiocese of New York," he added.

In a telegram to Cardinal Dolan, Pope Francis offered his heartfelt condolences.

"I join you in commending the late cardinal's noble soul to God, the father of mercies," the pope said, "with gratitude for his years of episcopal ministry among Christ's flock in Bridgeport (Connecticut) and New York, his distinguished service to the Apostolic See, and his expert contribution to the revision of the church's law in the years following the Second Vatican Council."

A former auxiliary bishop of New York, then-Father Egan was named to head the Diocese of Bridgeport in 1988 and was appointed as archbishop of New York in 2000. He was named a cardinal in 2001.

In retirement, Cardinal Egan assisted in the works of the New York Archdiocese.

For the Vatican, he served on the Council of Cardinals for the Study of the Organizational and Economic Problems of the Holy See for five years and participated in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI.

With his death, the College of Cardinals now has 226 members, 125 of whom are under 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Egan was a current member of the Committee on Migration and a consultant to the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, as well as a member of the board of bishops for the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Edward Michael Egan, the son of Thomas J. and Genevieve Costello Egan, was born April 2, 1932, in Oak Park, Illinois.

He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois; a licentiate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome; and a doctorate summa cum laude in canon law, also from the Gregorian.

He was ordained a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese Dec. 15, 1957, at the North American College, in a ceremony that also included J. Francis Stafford, another future cardinal. After further studies in Rome, he returned to Chicago in 1958 to serve as parochial vicar of Holy Name Cathedral Parish, assistant chancellor and secretary to Cardinal Albert G. Meyer.

Back in Rome for doctoral studies from 1960 to 1964, he also served as assistant vice rector of the North American College. Again in Chicago from 1965 to 1972, he was secretary to Cardinal John P. Cody, archdiocesan vice chancellor and co-chancellor for ecumenism and social relations.

Named an auditor of the Roman Rota, the Vatican tribunal primarily responsible for hearing requests for marriage annulments, in November 1972, then-Father Egan was professor of civil and criminal procedure at the Studio Rotale and of canon law at the Gregorian; commissioner of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments; a consultant to the Vatican Congregation for Clergy.

Appointed an auxiliary bishop in New York April 1, 1985, he was transferred to Bridgeport Nov. 5, 1988, and named archbishop of New York May 11, 2000. He retired in May 2009 at age 77; canon law requires bishops to turn their resignation into the pope at age 75.

From Bishop LaValley

It is with profound sadness that we have learned of the unexpected death of Edward Cardinal Egan. Cardinal Egan was a true friend of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He enjoyed his visits to the North Country and cared very much for the welfare of this local Church. I recall with special fondness his presence at my Ordination and Installation as the Fourteenth Bishop of Ogdensburg. His Eminence was a supportive and caring presence in my own life and in the life of the Catholic Church in New York State and the Church universal. To His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, to Cardinal Egan's family, and to the Auxiliary Bishops, Priests, Religious, and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of New York, I extend my deepest sympathy and that of the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and assure them of our prayers for the repose of his soul and the consolation of those who mourn his loss. May he rest in peace! Amen.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley
SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Ides of March: what should we worry about?

“Beware the Ides of March” they warned Julius Caesar centuries ago. It was the day of his death! What should we be warned about on this Fourth Sunday? Today marks the half-way point in our Lenten journey. What have we done so far this Lent to allow the Lord to change and renew us? If we have really conformed our hearts and our prayer to surrender to the Lord’s action in our lives, then the spirit of the liturgy today (Rejoice!) means something.

Centuries ago, catechumens to be baptized on Easter, were showered with roses on this day (so the celebrant at Mass wears rose vestments). In the first reading today, we hear about the sinful laxity of the people in regards to temple worship and observance of the Law.

Princes, priests and people had all ridiculed the prophets’ message of reform, so God is furious! He sends them in exile in Babylon for seventy years! In today’s responsorial psalm, they sit by the Euphrates river, longing for a “kuphar” (a boat) to carry them home to Jerusalem. “May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not...” they cry.

The Gospel from Luke today is a dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus. We wonder about the serpent on the pole that Jesus refers to. Why could the same serpent that fatally bit so many of them also be a means of healing when they look at it?

The serpent is evil and reminds them of their sins, so as they gaze, they humbly repent and are saved.

So too Jesus, when He is lifted high on the cross, carries in His own person, the sins of all humanity.

As Jesus says in that Gospel, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life...”

By gazing on Jesus on the Cross, we see what our evil has done, and we repent and are saved.

IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL
MYSTERY PLAYERS
LENT 2015

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www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

OUR READERS WRITE

Healing the Grandparents

Grandparents are often directly impacted by an abortion loss, but rarely given consideration when we look at the complicated grief after abortion.

- They may have convinced their son or daughter that this was the best course of action and/or threatened rejection and abandonment if their daughter continued with the pregnancy.
- They may have tried but were unable to prevent the death of their grandchild (a traumatic loss) or only learned of the abortion after the event.

Grandparents need to hear a confirmation that they suffered the loss of a grandchild and, depending on their role in the event, may have some unresolved feelings of grief, guilt, and anger from this loss.

Family secrets and these unspoken and powerful emotions can wreak havoc on family life.

If the abortion of their grandchild(ren) was experienced as a traumatic loss they may suffer depression, anxiety, sleep disturbance, addiction and other common symptoms of trauma.

While this is an event in the past, sometimes the distant past, it can be very much impacting their lives, their health and family relationships in the present as well as their relationship with God and the church.

In the Shockwaves Campaign grandparents of aborted children will learn about healing programs like Rachel’s Vineyard where they are welcome to come and grieve and heal of this loss, as a family if possible, and resolve the conflicts that still exist in their relationships with their daughter or son who had the abortion. For more information:


NANCY BELZILE
WILLSBORO
SILENT NO MORE NEW YORK

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.
- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

Welcome Spring!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

**Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal**
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Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the North Country Catholic, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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
THE LAZARUS EFFECT

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

There’s not much new explained about the hazards of tampering with nature in the second-rate horror exercise “The Lazarus Effect” (Relativity). There’s also little that’s frightening. They score a twofer by restoring a dog to the land of the living while also curing his cataracts. No one, in the manner of Colin Clive’s Henry Frankenstein, announces, “It’s alive!” Instead, Clay reflects, “This might work!”

The pooch isn’t overjoyed with his jumper-cable “resurrection.” The resulting overload of brain chemicals gets every single synapse clicking along so well that hallucinations -- and, inconveniently, telekenisis -- result.

Even attributed to a canine Carrie, this remains the most boring power in all of horror filmdom, since making lab equipment fly around will never rise above a cheap special effect.

As the film opens, the quartet have already gotten carried away with the implications of their work, and are busily attempting to jolt life into dead animals.

Oppportunity knocks when Zoe is accidentally electrocuted during the attempt to revive another dog. Frank quickly rigs her up to the equipment, only to be startled when she bolts back into action.

Like the dog before her, Zoe 2.0 isn’t quite right, and is soon chasing her pals around the lab while dealing with the childhood trauma of having started a fatal fire. The fright factor consists of Zoe popping out of the shadows when she’s not reading minds or skittering down hallways.

Before her revivification, Zoe is revealed to be nominally Catholic. This means she reflects on her mortal soul after Frank teases her, “Two glasses of wine and the inner Catholic girl comes out.”

As limned by director David Gelb and screenwriters Luke Dawson and Jeremy Slater, Zoe’s bargain-basement theological exposition has little enough to do with the actual faith. She regards hell, for instance, as a personal creation in which one keeps repeating a painful moment from life.

For better or worse, though, such musings zoom past before the movie gets down to the genuine business at hand -- to wit, an unconvincing portrayal of mayhem and death.

The Catholic News Service classification is 0 -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

ALSO PLAYING

CNS PHOTO/RELATIVITY MEDIA
Sarah Bolger and Olivia Wilde star in a scene from the movie "The Lazarus Effect."

CNS PHOTO/Fox
Vince Vaughn stars in a scene from the movie "Unfinished Business." The Catholic News Service classification is 0 -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.
Margot Robbie and Will Smith star in a scene from the movie "Focus." The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC is on FACEBOOK
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RETREAT 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: sr-bethssj@gmail.com by March 11.

FASHION SHOW
Chazy — Join us for our “Spring into Fashion” Fashion Show.
Date: March 15
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Cost: $5
Features: Fashions and accessories by Christopher and Banks and C.J. Banks.
Refreshments and door prizes, as well as discount coupons for attendees.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Champlain — St. Mary’s Parish will be having a pancake breakfast.
Date: March 22
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: Champlain K of C hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children 5-12, $5; under 5, Free

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
Rooms available for overnight guests.
Contact: olaprayerhouse@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 and over a small “adult” beverage of either Guinness or Bailey’s)
Features: Take-outs available.
Traditional Irish dance by Elizabeth Church and George Schnob. 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 22958 of St. Augustine’s Parish mission of charity.

WEEKDAY LENTEN ADORATION
Plattsburgh — This year St. Peter’s Church will offer weekday adoration.
Schedule: Mon. and Tues. at 7 a.m.
Mass until 9 p.m.
Place: St. Frere Andre’s Chapel
Features: Adoration will end on Ascension Thursday.
Contact: To sign up for adoration, call the rectory at 563-1692 or stop in the Chapel anytime during adoration hours.

EUCHARISTICADORATION
Plattsburgh — Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Place: St. John’s “Holy Family” Adoration Chapel, downstairs
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m

ST. JOSEPH’S DAY
Binghamton — St. Joseph’s Church will be holding the annual St. Joseph’s Day Mass and meatless cover dinner to follow.
Date: March 19
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Features: Dinner will be meatless to share to the St. Joseph Table Dinner.

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER
Fort Covington — St. Mary’s will be having a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner.
Date: March 22
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children under 12, $5
Features: Take-outs available.

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

LENTEN RETREAT
Adams — “Back to Basics” Lenten Retreat to be held.
Date: March 23-26
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Mass at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday)
Place: St. Cecilia’s Church
Speaker: Fr. Martin Clune, pastor of St. Cecilia/Queen of Heaven

DAY OF RETREAT
Watertown — A day of retreat has been planned.
Date: March 29
Time: 11 a.m. to 4:30
Place: SJJ Motherhouse
Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers.

ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER
Elizabethtown — St. Elizabeth’s will hold its annual St. Patrick’s day dinner.
Date: March 15
Time: 2 p.m. to 6
Place: St. Elizabeth’s parish hall
Cost: Adults, $11; Children under 12, $5
Features: Take-outs will be available after 1:30 p.m. Tickets for a cash raffle and other items will be available.
A dinner of Corned Beef/ Ham, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, homemade bread.

ST. JOSEPH’S DAY DINNER
Watertown — The Sisters of St. Joseph will have their monthly bereavement meeting.
Date: March 23
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Heartside Hospitality Center
Features: Rev. Toby Schilling, Chaplain at Samaritan Medical Center to speak on topic “So You’re Angry”

IHC REGISTRATION
Watertown — Registration for new and returning students in grades 1-6 set
Date: March 17 at IHC Primary and March 18 at IHC Intermediate
Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Contact: If new to the area please call (315) 788-7011 for an appointment.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown — The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.
Date: March 26
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Anthony’s Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children, $4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $7.50 each
Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers.

HOLY HOURS
Adams/Henderson — Holy Hours set
Schedule: March 4 at St. Cecilia, 6:30 p.m.; March 16 at St. Cecilia, 5 p.m. (followed by potluck)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
Watertown — Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.
Schedule: Beginning Good Friday at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 12 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, & a procession. Bring images to be blessed.
Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday, call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

IHC OPEN HOUSES
Watertown — Immaculate Heart Central School to hold open houses for new and prospective families.
Primary/Intermediate schools: 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.
National Prayer and Penny Week

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

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) teaches our children the importance of prayer and sacrifice. This year, the Missionary Childhood Association celebrates National Prayer and Penny Week from March 8-15, 2015.

The Missionary Childhood Association’s Lenten prayer and sacrifice program

This program serves as MCA’s Lenten prayer and sacrifice program for Grades K-8. National Prayer and Penny Week Program continues to honor the legacy of Venerable Pauline Jaricot, the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

We have asked the Catholic Schools of the Diocese to participate this year in National Prayer and Penny Week. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, asks this of the Youth in our world, to continue to care for the poor and be sensitive to the needs of the Mission Lands.

National Prayer and Penny Week is a wonderful way to teach the concept of prayer and sacrifice together.

During National Prayer Week, MCA invites students to remember children in the missions, especially those who are waiting to hear the “Good News” proclaimed as we pray together as a mission family here at home:

God our Father,
You are love; you have created the whole world. Help us to see all of God’s children as gifts. Jesus, our Lord, You teach us that all life is sacred. Strengthen us to witness every day to Your love with our words, actions and sacrifices. Holy Spirit, giver of Life, as missionary disciples you invite us to share the Good News, cooperating with you and one another to walk with our brothers and sisters who live in poverty, loneliness, and despair. In a special way we ask You to bless all the missionaries sharing Your love in mission countries. We send this prayer across the world in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

Thank you to our students in the MCA program for all they do. God Bless!

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
Mercy will be celebrated.
Date: April 12
Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Schedule: A Divine Mercy movie, The Pope of Mercy, will be shown in the church hall at 2 p.m. Reconciliation will begin at 2:30. At 3 p.m. The Divine Mercy Celebration will include: The Blessing of the Divine Mercy Image, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet, homily and Benediction.
Features: Dedicated to the action of Pro-Life initiatives, Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, the Rosary for Life, and the Benediction.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
Houseville - The Feast of The Divine Mercy will be celebrated.
Date: March 19
Place: St. Peter's Church

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
Harrisville — St. Patrick's Day dinner to be held.
Date: March 21
Time: 4 p.m. to 6
Place: St. Francis Solanus Church
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 5-12, $5; under 5, Free
Features: Baked Ham, take-outs after 4, “Fraser Family and Friends” will be there to entertain with Irish music!

ACIES CEREMONY
Ogdensburg - The Annual Acies Ceremony for Legion of Mary members, auxiliary members and interested parishioners, will be held.
Date: March 22
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Deacon Winter Chapel of St. Mary's Cathedral.
Features: Father Scott Belina will lead the Exposition and Benediction, deliver the homily. The ceremony consists of an individual Consecration and a Collective Consecration to Mary. Active members will renew their Consecration to Mary.

APPRECIATION DINNER
Ogdensburg — The Knights of Columbus Council 258 will be holding an Appreciation Dinner and Dance.
Date: March 14
Time: Cash bar for Cocktails at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6 p.m., Dance, 7 p.m. to 11
Features: "A Sure Cure for Cabin Fever!" All members and their guest are invited for a Free Turkey Dinner. Live music with the Charlton Brothers Band.

RUMMAGE SALE
Canton — St. Mary’s School will be hav­ing a rummage sale.
Schedule: March 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 21 from 8 a.m. to 11

FISH & SHRIMP FRY
Gouverneur — Fish and shrimp fry to be held every Friday during lent.
Date: Feb. 20 — April 3
Place: St. James School
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 12 and under, $5; Children under 5, Free
Contact: Take-outs and deliver available, phone 287-0130 for faster service

FRIDAY FISH DINNER
Star Lake — St. Hubert’s will hold fish dinners every Friday during lent.
Date: Starting Feb. 20
Time: 5 p.m.
Cost: Dinners, $10 kids under 10, $5

Features: Deep fried or Oven baked fish. Take-outs available

CHRISM MASS
Ogdensburg — All the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to the Chrism Mass
Date: March 26
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: Bishop Terry R. LaValley Will led Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

LENTEN RENEWAL
Syracuse — Lenten retreat set
Date: March 24
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Christ the King Retreat House & Conference Center
Cost: $20 or what you can afford
Features: Sister Laura Bifulo, who serves in pastoral planning for the Diocese of Syracuse, will lead this presenta­tion. Lenten evening of renewal will use poetry, scripture, song and stories as companions and guides through our own spiritual geography.
Contact: spiritualrenewalcenter.com, phone: 315-472-6546 Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com

PHOTO BY ZACK LEADER
Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown with the students, faculty and parish staff of St. Mary’s School in Canton during his recent school visit. Pictured at left is Father Douglas Lucia, pastor. Flanking the bishop at right are Pamela Neal, principal; and Deacon James Snell.