A time to heal, help, forgive

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Mercy is what makes God perfect and all-powerful, Pope Francis said in his document officially proclaiming the 2015-2016 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

"If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected," the pope wrote in "Misericordiae Vultus," ("The Face of Mercy"), which is the "bull of induction" calling a Holy Year to begin Dec. 8.

Standing in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica April 11, Pope Francis handed copies of the document to the archpriests of the major basilicas of Rome and to Vatican officials representing Catholics around the world.

Portions of the 9,300-word proclamation were read aloud before Pope Francis processed into St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate first vespers of Divine Mercy Sunday. In his homily at vespers, the pope said he proclaimed the Year of Mercy because "it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."

Living Stones: foundations of parishes

Bishop's Fund Appeal

NEW NOVICE: Sisters of St. Joseph welcome Sister Patricia Carmella... p. 12
**Come out, come out, wherever you are**

Not a moment too soon, Spring has sprung! After surviving the most grueling of winters, we’re basking in some much deserved sunlight in northern New York. I dare say, each of us is expecting that sun to wipe away all our gloomy memories of January, February and March.

In our part of the world, the time has come for us to shake off the last of the snow-bound mentality and embrace the opportunities for getting together.

For the young people in our midst, this year’s Youth Rally opens on Friday evening and continues all day Saturday. The packed weekend in Plattsburgh (and Morrisonville!) promises to be a chance for teens to learn about their faith, learn about themselves and have a good time, too!

For those of us just a little older, we know that invitations to parish and diocesan gatherings will be on their way with banquets, conferences and summer retreats.

On a personal level, I’m just grateful that dog-walking responsibilities move from agony to pure joy!

This year we have a unique springtime opportunity to expand our vision beyond our front doors.

For hundreds of Catholics across the diocese, getting out of the house means getting in touch with their neighbors as the diocesan census initiative gets underway.

Here in Ogdensburg, many Cathedral and Notre Dame parishioners have already begun the door to door operation. It’s been fascinating to hear some of the early results.

One volunteer met a woman who wanted to go to church more often but couldn’t leave a sick husband and a man who had considered getting his marriage blessed but wasn’t sure he could.

These kinds of stories are sure to be repeated in homes across the North Country.

And it only means one thing. The census project may be completed by the middle of August but the necessary ministry that is revealed will just be getting started!

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**A Pastor’s Perspective**

The power, beauty of a Catholic funeral

I would like to take a moment this week to consider with you the Catholic funeral. Our funeral ritual is truly excellent.

I was thinking of this funeral ritual this week because I was asked to celebrate a funeral for a 92 year old man in the parish.

Over the years, I have celebrated many funerals and I continue to find the ritual spiritually meaningful.

Each funeral for me is a time of meditation on my own mortality.

I learned very early in my priesthood what an important responsibility a funeral is. The time of death for a family is a time for us priests to walk down that difficult road with this family.

As we assist a family in preparing the funeral liturgy, we have the opportunity to help them through this profound change in their future.

This is an important time in the ministry of any priest. The time of the funeral begins with the wake service. These wake services are good, even important.

Here in the North Country, our communities are close and we wish to be with a family in their time of grief as a support shout – to yell at God possibly, at times of crisis.

The Church building then is a home – a home for a community, a home for a family, a place to be at home with our God.

This Church building is then a perfect place for us to be brought – to bring this body of ours – as we return to home with the Lord.

So, our body is brought home to our parish Church as a family and community remember and honor us.

This body that was brought to new life in Baptism in this Church is now brought home to return to the Lord.

As a parish, everything that we do at this Church building is called a celebration. Each sacrament is a celebration.

Parents bring a child to the Church for Baptism and there is a celebration of new life.

Each marriage is a celebration of the beginning of a new family blessed before the Lord.

Each time a parish community unites together for Mass as there is a celebration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus through the Blessed Eucharist.

The funeral is a celebration – a celebration of someone’s life at a Mass.

The funeral is a time for a family and friends praying together in celebration, a family celebrating the memory of a loved one.

Central to our prayer at each funeral is the spirit of the resurrection of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are a resurrection people.

In faith, we believe that we will share in the resurrection of Jesus and have new life with the Lord.

So, we pray for our loved one in the faith that they will certainly be with the Lord, experiencing new life in resurrection, the resurrection of Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus – our resurrection truly has already begun; the resurrection continues each and every day. With the Lord each day is an opportunity to find new life, a time for resurrection.

From John’s Gospel:

“Your brother will rise again,” Jesus assured Martha. “I know he will rise again,” Martha replied, “in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die.”

“Do you believe this?”
Knights of Columbus Present Gifts from Chapter Ball

The 49 Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Ogdensburg support a multitude of parish, religious and community causes and organizations within their respective communities. Each year they also unite at a Chapter Ball and Charity Auction to support Catholic schools, pro-life organizations and other worthy programs. Over the past few weeks, Knights have been presenting the $6,000 raised at the most recent Charity Ball to the Champlain Valley Right to Life ($1,000), Liferight of Watertown ($1,000), Camp Guggenheim ($2,000) and Augustinian Academy, Carthage ($2,000). Above, left, William Ose of Adams, Chapter vice-president and former state warden, presents a $1,000 check to Liferight of Watertown president Betty Ann Honan. Ose is the Chapter Ball chairman and founder. At right, former Chapter president David Clark of Plattsburgh presents a $2,000 check for Camp Guggenheim to Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry.

Bishop's Fund reaches $1.275 million goal

By Valerie Mathews
Diocesan Bishop's Fund director

The overall goal of the 2014-2015 Bishop's Fund Appeal for the Diocese of Ogdensburg is in reach provided all the committed pledges are honored before the end of the diocesan fiscal year (June 30, 2015).

At this time, 97.41% of the $1,275,000 goal has been received with $59,965.10 in pledges yet to be fulfilled.

Contributors who have made a pledge to this year’s appeal, are encouraged to complete their pledge before June 15, 2015.

Provided all the committed pledges are honored before June 30

If you have not made a gift or wish to make an additional gift, donations can be mailed to: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at www.rc-dony.org/development.

Correction

An error in the Bishop’s Fund goal appeared in a headline of the April 15 issue of the North Country Catholic. The correct total is $1,275 million. We apologize for the mistake.

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WATERTOWN - Some 200 people, many of them parishioners of St. Patrick’s Church, gathered in the Black River Valley Club, to witness a rare papal honor for a local architect.

“Watertown and St. Patrick’s may well be proud of the only Knight Commander of St. Gregory in this diocese,” said Ogdensburg Bishop Joseph H. Conroy after he conferred the title upon David Dell Kieff at a banquet on the evening of Thursday, June 11, 1925.

Pope Pius XI had designated Mr. Kieff, 59, to receive one of the church’s oldest honors for laymen, recognizing his architectural services, without compensation, for designs of churches, schools and convents throughout the diocese.

The Kieff name

Mr. Kieff’s name and expertise were associated with building or remodeling projects at Watertown’s Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St. Anthony’s and St. Patrick’s churches; St. James in Gouverneur, St. Mary’s of Lake Placid, St. Patrick’s of Chateaugay, St. Peter’s of Lowville, St. Cyril’s of Alexandria Bay, St. Patrick’s School at Arsenal and Massey streets in Watertown, and Catholic schools at Ogdensburg, Carthage, Gouverneur and Canton.

Also to his credit was the design of Gabriels Sanatorium and work at Watertown’s Mercy Hospital the year following his papal honor.

Five speakers, including retired state Supreme Court Judge Henry Purcell, joined Bishop Conroy in a banquet hall decked out in the papal colors of yellow and white to offer tributes to Mr. Kieff.

The toastmaster read the papal statement in Latin, then in English, and Mr. Kieff was presented a red enameled cross. In the center of the cross rested a blue medallion carrying the image of St. Gregory, with a dove fixed near the right ear.

An inscription on the medallion said in Latin, “For God and for Pope Gregory XVI, Supreme Pontiff.”

A large reproduction of the medallion was posted at the rear of the banquet hall.

About the honor

The honor was established in 1831 by Pope Gregory to reward the civil and military virtues of subjects of the Papal State. The honor presented to Mr. Kieff, Knight Commander, was the highest of four classes provided under the Order of St. Gregory.

There have been several residents of the United States who have received the honor of being made Knights of St. Gregory, but few have been named Knight “Commander” in this country.

As Knight Commander, Mr. Kieff would be frequently called upon to act as the bishop’s personal lay attendant at various religious ceremonies or other functions in which the bishop was a central figure.

Service well established

His service to parish and diocese was well established. When Watertown Council 259 Knights of Columbus was established in 1897, Mr. Kieff was a charter member and the first grand knight. He held that office from 1897 to 1900, and for three more terms in 1905, 1912 and 1913.

Additionally, he had the distinction of being the first man to hold office as Master (highest appointive office) of the Seventh District of the Knights of Columbus, comprising the entire Diocese of Ogdensburg.

He was also a member of the Bishop Conroy General Assembly, Fourth Degree.

Other Knights of St. Gregory

Other Knights of St. Gregory in the Diocese of Ogdensburg:
- By Pius XI, 1938:
  - Thomas F. Conroy, Plattsburgh (commander);
  - Martin J. Shaughnessy, Watertown.
- By Pius XII, 1958:
  - James A. Fitzpatrick, Plattsburgh; William J. Herron, Malone; Julian J. Reiss, Lake Placid.
- By Pope John XXIII, 1960:
  - Ronald Hynes, Newton Falls.
- By Paul VI, 1971:
  - Dr. John W. Hayes, Saranac Lake.

For the community

Mr. Kieff extended his public service well beyond the realm of his Catholic faith. During World War I, he participated in drives for war funds, and was prominent as a “four-minute” speaker, earning a certificate of honor. He was entertainment chairman for a county war activities organization, and served on the executive committee of Jefferson County Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1917, 1918 and 1919.

It seemed that he could not say no.

His commitments included trustee (1931-1941) of Mercy Hospital, a director (for several years) of the Hospital Service Corporation of Jefferson County, organized in 1937 to provide the sick hospitalization at a minimum cost; the first director (1921) of the Watertown Community Chest, on which he was a board member for two decades.

Also, he was president of the Watertown Chamber of Commerce in 1919 and 1932, and was chairman of a public relief committee established in 1930 to act as a centralized welfare agency to eliminate duplication of various welfare organizations.

He even had time for government, serving on the Watertown City Council and then as mayor. Elected to begin a four-year term in 1935, he chose not to seek reelection.

Franklin County native

Born in Bombay, Franklin County, David was a child when his father Michael died. He was brought up on a farm by his mother, Bridget Ward Kieff.

David set out for Watertown about 1881, when he was 16, to learn a trade. Completing a course in architecture at a business school, he was accepted into a Watertown architectural firm to begin a practical study of architecture.

Not long after his 22nd birthday on July 3 in 1887, he became a partner in the firm, which took on the name Hose & Kieff. Six years later, he was sole proprietor.

By about 1925, it was estimated that 70 percent of all the substantial buildings in Watertown were designed by his office.

Mr. Kieff was well established in his career before beginning a family life. That all started on June 22, 1910, when he and Rosalie A. Van-
Catholic social teaching: preserving marriage

This is the third in a series of articles on issues of Catholic social teaching as explained by the New York State Catholic Conference. The conference was founded to translate Catholic teachings into action in the public policy arena. These teachings, which are centered on the innate dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God, form the basis of the Conference’s legislative agenda.

This Week’s issue is strengthening and preserving marriage

Summary
In 2010, New York State became the final state in the country to legalize no-fault divorce. The NYS Catholic Conference opposed this legalization and believes it will result in an increased number of divorces and all of the significant negative consequences that divorce brings.

Conference Position
The New York State Catholic Conference supports efforts to strengthen and preserve marriage, defined as the lifelong covenant between one man and one woman. Recommendations to accomplish this goal are noted below.

Rationale
A growing consensus confirms that children raised outside of intact marriages are at higher risk for experiencing higher rates of poverty, welfare dependency, crime, school failure, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and adult criminality, mental illness and emotional distress, domestic violence, unwed teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, poor quality family relationships, and child abuse.

Adults, too, benefit from marriage. Married people live longer, healthier lives with higher levels of emotional well-being and lower rates of mental illness and emotional distress, and they make more money than otherwise similar singles.

Many social, economic and psychological benefits of strong marriages flow to society as well.

The Catholic Conference encourages initiatives to strengthen marriage and reduce unnecessary divorce. Such initiatives include incentives from government such as a reduction in marriage license fees/waiting period, an increase in the child tax credit, and a reduction in marriage “penalties” such as those in the tax laws and welfare programs.

The Conference urges pre-marital education in conflict management, communication skills, and financial responsibilities, and the possibility of a high school requirement course in marriage and relationship skills. An explicit pro-marriage message should be added to all family life/health education programs.

For interested couples, particularly low-income couples, the government should consider vouchers/tax deductions/reerrals for marriage education, mentoring, counseling and divorce education/mediation programs that are designed to reconcile the spouses, rather than merely ease the procedural process of divorce.

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3 out of 4 persons with HEPATITIS C are baby boomers.

3 out of 4 persons with hepatitis C are baby boomers - born between 1945-1965.
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For the 2015 Youth Rally

Just ‘one word and this word is joy’

By Sister Ellen Donahue, SA
Episcopal Delegate for Religious Life

Pope Francis had one word for consecrated men and women and that word was “JOY”.

In his own words, “I want to say one word to you and this word is joy. Wherever consecrated people are, there is joy”.

“In the world there is often a lack of joy. We are not called to accomplish epic sounding words but to give witness to the joy that arises from the certainty of knowing we are loved, from the confidence that we are saved.”


Five of our youngest Sisters will share with youth their remembrance of “the joy of the moment when Jesus looked at me” and share it with others.

The five Sisters on the panel are gifted women who will share their joy of the Gospel calling and where it led them.

• Sister Maria Flavia D’Costa is one of the founding members of the Watertown foundation of the Sisters of the Cross from India.
• Sister Suanne Johnson is Sister of St. Joseph and a teacher at Augustinian Academy in Carthage.
• Sister Mary Catherine Pham from sunny California is a new member of the contemplative order, Adorers of the Precious Blood and lives at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown.
• Sister Rachel Daly, a native of Peru, is a new member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in the Bronx.
• Sister Constance Sylver, is a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown and Formation Director for the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Constance will facilitate the stories from the panel members.

We are grateful to Deacon Brian Dwyer, Director of Office of Youth Ministry for giving our diocesan religious this opportunity to share their stories within the Year of Consecrated Life during the Annual Youth Rally.

Bishop’s Schedule

April 23 — 11 a.m., Opening Mass at the New York State Convention for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at Christ Our Life Church in Loudonville, NY.
• 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. Andre Bessette Parish at Notre Dame Church in Malone.

April 24 — 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg.
• 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. Augustine’s Church in Peru.

April 25 — 4 p.m., Mass for the Diocesan Youth Rally at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh.

April 26 — 10 a.m., Confirmation at St. Joseph’s Church in West Chazy.

April 27 – 3 p.m., Visit to Hospice of Jefferson County in Watertown.
• 7 p.m., Confirmation at Holy Family Church in Watertown.

April 28 – 11 a.m., Priests Advisory Committee Meeting for the Bishop’s Fund at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg.
• 7 p.m., Confirmation at St. Cyril’s Church in Alexandria Bay.

Environmental Stewardship

What are Rogation Days?

“All our work should begin and end with a prayer. Whether we are a farmer or weekend gardener, or window sill plant grower, we should begin our planting season with a blessing over our “craps”.

There is a time to plant tangible seeds, and for most of us, it comes with the mild April weather. The Church is there, ready to help, with the first of four Rogation, or Asking, Days on April 25th (the other three precede Ascension Thursday).

These are days of prayer and fasting to implore God’s mercy on our sins, and to ask God’s protection from natural calamities and His blessing on our harvest. Before we gardeners, farmers, window-box planters, go to the work with cultivators and gardening tools, our crops might grow a lot better if we asked God’s help first.

Prayer: To You, O Lord, we cry and pray: Bless this sprouting seed, strengthen it in the gentle movement of soft winds, refresh it with the dew of heaven, and let it grow to full maturity for the good of body and soul. Amen.”

Prayer Source: Family Liturgical Customs No. 4: Easter by Ethel Marbach, Abbey Press Publishing Division, St. Meinrad, Indiana, 1964

Rest in Peace

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

April 22 – Rev. Daniel Sullivan, 1933
April 23 – Rev. J. Victor Petit, O.M.I., 1898; Most Rev. Henry Gabriels, 1921
April 26 – Rev. Charles M. Mestre, O.M.I., 1870; Msgr. David Stinebrickner, 1998
April 27 – Michael F. Ambrose, 1934
April 28 – Rev. J. A. Larose, 1967

To Report Abuse

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, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY, 12923; e-mail: terriyanneyanulavich@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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VATICAN LETTER

Pope shares a personal, intimate devotion to Mary

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- From Easter to Pentecost - and especially during the Marian month of May -- Catholics recite the "Regina Coeli" prayer "with the emotion of children who are happy because their mother is happy" that Jesus has risen from the dead, Pope Francis said.

Although his devotion to the Mother of God is profound, it is simple in many ways: Mary is a mother to every believer, Jesus would not leave his followers orphans.

While his connection to Mary clearly is a matter of heart and mind, it is also physical. Whenever Pope Francis passes a statue or icon of Mary, he kisses it or allows his hand to rest tenderly upon it.

Honoring the Mother of God, of course, is a solid part of Catholic tradition and a mainstay in the devotion and teaching of the popes. St. John Paul II's motto, "Totus Tuus" ("All yours"), and the large M on his coat of arms were just the most graphic elements of a devotion that led to a whole body of teaching about Mary, her role in Catholics' faith life and the importance of praying the rosary.

Pope Francis would not have an argument with any of St. John Paul's Marian piety or discourse.

But there are differences.

"The sense of Pope Francis' devotion to Mary is a little more personal, more intimate" than St. John Paul's was, said Redemptorist Father Sabatino Majorano, a professor at Rome's Alphonsianum Institute. Pope Francis expresses "that feeling that exists between a son and his mother, where I think Pope John Paul's was more that of a subject and his queen."

The difference, he believes, comes from their roots: Pope Francis' Latin roots -- not just in Argentina, but also from his Italian family and St. John Paul's Slavic, Polish culture.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI spoke and wrote less about Mary than his predecessor and successor, but one now-solid Marian custom began in his pontificate: Whether or not it is a Marian feast day, a statue of Mary is placed prominently near the altar at papal liturgies.

Pope Francis' habit of touching images of Mary is a typical Latin American gesture, one Father Majorano said he saw repeated thousands of times at Brazil's Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida, which is staffed by his brother Redemptorists. "The tactile experience is part of praying. It's a spirituality that takes flesh, becomes concrete; it is not just an idea or a theory."

At Mass and other formal liturgical services, Pope Francis uses incense to bless the Marian images. He notices the images and often comments on them.

In Caserta, Italy, last July, Pope Francis celebrated the feast of St. Anne, Mary's mother. A locally loved statue of St. Anne holding the hand of her little girl, Mary, was placed to the side of the altar.

In his homily, the pope said, "When I was using the incense, I noticed something very beautiful: The statue of St. Anne does not have a crown, but her daughter Mary is crowned. St. Anne is the woman who prepared her daughter to become queen, to become queen of heaven and earth. This woman did a great job."

Visiting Naples in March, Pope Francis told priests, nuns and seminarians that one way to make sure Jesus is the center of their lives is to ask "his mother to take you to him. A priest, a brother, a nun who does not love Mary, who does not pray to her -- I would even say one who does not recite the rosary -- well, if you don't love the mother, the mother will not give you the Son."

In the same talk, the pope spoke again about how he recently read "The Glories of Mary," a hefty book written in 1750 by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

"In this book, I like reading the stories about Mary that are behind each chapter: in them you see how Mary always leads us to Jesus," Pope Francis said.

Father Majorano, an expert in the writings of St. Alphonsus, said he and his confreres were not surprised to hear Pope Francis praising the 265-year-old work of their founder.

The style St. Alphonsus uses to speak of Mary reflects the Latin culture he and the pope share -- "warm, written with the heart more than the head, although it is intelligent," Father Majorano said. "In general, St. Alphonsus in his books shows a great knowledge of patristic works and other church writers -- he cites them continually -- but this work on Mary is written more with the heart."

In his official proclamation of the 2015-2016 Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote, "Mary attests that the mercy of the son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone, without exception. Let us address her in the words of the 'Salve Regina,' ('Hail Holy Queen') a prayer ever ancient and new, so that she may never tire of turning her merciful eyes toward us, and make us worthy to contemplate the face of mercy, her son Jesus."
SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday in which we reflect on Jesus’ favorite description of Himself. In the Gospel, he says “I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Now Jesus’ listeners were largely made up of the poor and the powerless, who would immediately understand what he was saying.

APRIL 26

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 4:8-12
1 John: 1-3
John 10:11-18

On this past Holy Thurs­
day, he washed the feet of a
Muslim and a woman. Surely we can see what he is saying to our Church. Salvation is for all, forgiveness is for all.

Like Jesus, he brings sta-
tus and value to all, show­
ing them their hidden value, and what they can become in God’s eyes.

The second reading is from St. John’s beautiful first letter, in which he tells us that we are all children of 0. “And what we shall later be has not yet been re­vealed.” Because of the care and tender affection of the Good Shepherd, our possi­bilities are without limit.

In our Easter joy, let’s look more at ourselves as God sees us. After all, He freely gave up His life for us.

Reversing a chemical abortion— it’s possible

In 1978, Charles E. Rice, a former Professor of Law at Notre Dame Law School made this prediction in his book Beyond Abortion: The Theory and Practice: “The abortion of the future will be by pill, supposi­tory, or some other do-it-yourself method. At that point the killing of a baby will be wholly elective and private. We have, fi­nally, caught up with the pagan Romans who en­­dowed the father, the pater familias, with the right to kill his child at his discre­tion. We give that right to the mother. But it is all the same to the victim.”

His prediction was prescient, given that “chemical abortions” are now widely available in the form of the French abortion pill, RU-486. The abortion pill has been available in the U.S. since 2000. By 2008, approximately 25 percent of abortions prior to 9 weeks relied on RU-486, also known as mifepristone.

A 2010 scientific review on RU-486 noted that chemical abortion “has been used successfully in the medical termination of pregnancy for over 25 years, and the method is registered in 35 countries.”

In recent years, there has been a small but important glimmer of light piercing through this dark backdrop of widespread RU-486 util­­ization, namely, that it is sometimes possible to re­verse a chemical abortion if a woman comes to regret her decision soon after taking the abortion pill.

Carrying out a chemical abortion actually requires two different pills to be taken sequentially. RU-486 is adminis­tered prior to reaching the 10th week of pregnancy, and about two days later, a hormone called mison­protol is given that causes contractions and expels the unborn child.

Reversal may be possible when the second pill has not yet been taken.

RU-486 itself is often described as a “proges­terone antagonist” or as an “antiprogesterone.” These names indicate the extent of its hostility towards the vital hormone, proges­terone. What this means is that RU-486 blocks progesterone, a hormone needed to build and maintain the uterine wall during pregnancy.

Thus, RU-486 can either prevent a developing human embryo from implanting in the uterus, or it can kill an implanted em­­bryo by essentially starving him or her to death.

The reversal technique relies on using progesterone itself to counteract the ef­fects of the abortion pill. In a study published in the Annals of Pharmacother­apy in December, 2012, successful reversal was re­ported for four of six women who took RU-486; these women were able to carry their pregnancies to term after receiving an intra­muscular injection of prog­esterone.

Since 2012, dozens of other women have successfully reversed their chemi­cal abortions. Thus far, no side effects or complications associated with reversal of the abortion pill have been reported.

On the other hand, the abortion pill itself has note­table side effects and risks associated with its use.

Common side effects include: uterine cramps, high blood pressure, bleeding not related to the menstrual period, overgrowth of the uterine lining, stomach cramps, dizziness, reduced blood potassium, and nau­sea. Some women also expe­rience fever, chills and infection.

Among the more serious possible side effects would be death of both mother and child arising from end­­omyometritis (infection of the uterine lining) and septic shock.

A December, 2005 article in the New England Journal of Medicine indicated that women are about ten times more likely to die from RU-486 abortions than surgical abortions in early preg­nancy, partly because of the risk of infection. Another complication of using RU-486 is incomplete abortion, with embryonic/fetal parts remaining.

In the first six years of RU-486 availability in Australia, for example, there were 792 reports of adverse effects, 156 of which pertained to parts of the embryo/fetus remaining, and 126 of these required follow-up surgical abortion.

Time is clearly of the essence: the longer a woman waits after taking RU-486 before attempting a reversal, the lower the likeli­hood of success.

Health care professionals should become informed about the possibility of using progesterone to re­verse the effects of RU-486.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
WOMAN IN GOLD

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

The so-called "last prisoners of World War II" await justice and release in "Woman in Gold" (Weinstein).

The elegant lady of the title and three other captives profiled in director Simon Curtis' film aren't, in fact, human beings but exquisite paintings by the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) that were stolen from their rightful owners by the Nazis. The fascinating story of the struggle for their restitution provides the basis for Curtis' intriguing dramatization.

In 1998, Vienna-bred Maria Altmann (Helen Mirren) is living quietly in Los Angeles. The death of her sister, however, prompts Maria to resurrect long-buried issues from her past.

Maria's well-to-do Jewish family had commissioned several paintings from Klimt, including his 1907 masterpiece, "Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I." This study of Maria's aunt -- the first of two Klimt would create -- was a product of the artist's "golden phase," during which he employed not only paint, but silver and gold leaf as well.

Together with other possessions, the portrait was confiscated by Hitler's minions as part of their persecution of Austria's Jews. In flashbacks, we watch as the young Maria (Tatiana Maslany) and her husband, Fritz (Max Irons), manage to escape to America, leaving family and friends behind to face humiliation, torture, and, ultimately, death in concentration camps.

Flash forward, and Maria decides it's time for a reunion with the image of her aunt -- and for equity to be served. Trouble is the paintings she seeks to reclaim are hanging in a Vienna museum, and the Austrian government insists they were legally obtained.

Undeterred, Maria enlists the aid of a local attorney, Randy Schoenberg (Ryan Reynolds). Randy is young and green, but shares Maria's Austrian roots. In fact, his grandfather was the famed composer Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951).

The odds are stacked against this very odd couple, who travel to Vienna to meet with the authorities. There they find an ally in Hubertus Czernin (Daniel Bruhl), a nosy investigative reporter.

Given that it offers a valuable history lesson about wartime atrocities, man's inhumanity to man and the nature of justice, "Woman in Gold" can be recommended for mature teens, despite the elements listed below. The film contains scenes of wartime violence and a few instances each of profane and crude language.

REVERSING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Reported by Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor of St. Paul's Church in Bloomingdale, March 7

BISHOP IN BLOOMINGDALE

Bishop LaValley celebrated Mass at St. Paul's Church in Bloomingdale March 7 with Father Patrick Ratigan, pastor. Above, altar server Bruce Page checks out the bishop's mitre and staff.

Reversing

process and then changed their minds.

The website for the Abortion Pill Reversal Program, a national effort to encourage and support abortion pill reversal, can be found at: http://abortionpillreversal.com/. As noted on the site, "The Abortion Pill Reversal Program has a network of over 200 physicians worldwide that assist the women that call our hotline.

"This hotline is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by one of our Registered Nurses... if you've taken the abortion pill, it may not be too late. Call 877-558-0333 right away."

This remarkable initiative has already saved the lives of many children, and has brought the blessing of motherhood to fruition for many women who recognized the mistake they had made in taking the abortion pill.

Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D.
earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org
RUMMAGE SALE
Lake Placid — Rummage sale to be held.
Date: April 25
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes School Gym
Features: Donations may be dropped off at school starting April 6
Contact: call at 523-3771 or email at info@stagneselementary.com

CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Treadwell Mills — St. Alexander & St. Joseph’s Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.
Date: April 26
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Place: St. Joseph’s Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, $7; Children 6-12, $3; under 5, free

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
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.
Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email sjphsadoration@aol.com

RUN FOR THE ROSES GALA
Altona — Seton Academy will have their second annual gala.
Date: May 2
Time: 5 p.m. to Midnight
Place: Rainbow Banquet Hall
Cost: $40 per adult, or $300/table of 8
Features: To benefit Seton Academy and Seton Catholic. Dinner choices include roast beef, stuffed chicken breast, or vegetable stir fry. A cash bar and cake for dessert. Program will feature a “hat” walk Sign up by April 16.
Contact: 518-825-7386 to sign up.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION
Ellenburg Center — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to begin First Saturday Devotion.
Date: May 9 – Nov. 2015
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Features: Fr. Jack Downs will preside at Mass. This devotion is for the repairation of sins committed against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary and was instituted when Mary revealed herself to the children at Fatima. By meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary, we will seek God’s intervention for the crises facing our world
Contact: RSVP for lunch to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION
Keeseeville — There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.
Time: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: Immaculate Conception Church

HEALING MINISTRY
Morrisonville — The Catholic Community of St. Alexander’s and St. Joseph’s holds Living Waters Healing Ministry.
Date: First Thursday each month
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Alexander’s Church

JEFFERSON

PARISH DATA SYSTEM WORKSHOP
Watertown — Jefferson Deanery is sponsoring a two day workshop on Parish Data System (PDS).
Date: June 3 and 4
Place: Bruce Wright Conference Center
Features: This is a follow-up to the diocesan wide census. Pastors and parish staff will benefit from learning more about the use of census fields, sacramental information and reports. A registration form can be downloaded at St. Patrick’s Watertown website, http://www.stpatrickwatertownny.org/news-and-events/pds-training.html.
Contact: For further information e-mail Kathleen Mastellon at kmastellon@twcnyr.com

BEREAVEMENT MEETING
Watertown — An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.
Date: April 27
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Hearthside Hospitality Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph
Speaker: Rev. Fred Garry, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Watertown.
Rev. Garry has done a considerable amount of grief counseling. His topic will be “The Time of Grief”.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown — The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.
Date: April 30
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: St. Anthony’s Parish 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

IHC OPEN HOUSES
Watertown — Immaculate Heart Central School to hold open houses for new and prospective families.
Primary/Intermediate schools: Primary school, May 9 at 6 p.m., Intermediate School, May 15 at 6 p.m.
Secondary schools: Intermediate School, May 21 at 6 p.m., Secondary School, May 28 at 6 p.m.

LIFERIGHT MEETING
Watertown — Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.
Time: 1 p.m.

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

LEWIS

BULLHEAD FEED
Harrisville — A Bullhead Feed to be sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
Date: April 24
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Cost: Adults, $12.50 for Fish dinner, $10.50 for Ham, ages 12-57, $7.50; under 5, Free
Features: Choice of Ham or Bullheads, salt potatoes, coleslaw, roll, dessert, beverages, take-outs available

LASAGNA DINNER
Lisbon — SS Philip & James Church to sponsor a lasagna dinner.
Date: April 23
Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: American Legion Hall
Cost: Adults, $10; Seniors (60+), $8.50; Children under 12, $5
Features: Take-out available. Dessert is included. Lasagna prepared by the Culinary Arts Class – NORTHWEST Tech. Boces
Contact: Large Orders call 393-2090 after 2 p.m.

ST. LAWRENCE

CRAFT FAIR
Ogdensburg — St. Joseph’s Home is holding its 1st Annual Mother’s Day Craft Fair.
Date: May 9
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: E. A. Newell Golden Dome
Cost: $3; Children under 12, Free
Contact: to be a vendor contact Sandy Porter at 394-0463; space is very limited

SPRING GETAWAY RAFFLE
Ogdensburg — The History of the Spring Getaway Raffle to benefit the Foundation.
Features: Tickets are on sale now at St. Joseph’s Home 950 Linden Street or by calling 393-0780. Spring Getaway Raffle includes: Overnight Stay for two at At-
Where does my MCA donation go?

Pope Francis says, “The one who loves, gives and gives things, gives life, gives oneself to God and to others.”

Let me show you

Children in our diocese who attend catechetical instruction or one of our Catholic schools participate in a program called Missionary Childhood Association or MCA, formerly the Holy Childhood Association, HCA.

Funds raised both locally and nationally from the MCA program go directly overseas to help children in the Mission lands, thus the motto “children helping children”.

Recently, MISSION Magazine, featured a story on an example of a distribution of MCA funds.

In Southern India, there is a place called St. Joseph’s Home for Children. This school, run by religious, entitles 90 children to lodging, food, medical care, clothing and of course, school. A donation of $2000 to this boarding school, only $2000, provided the school all they needed to take care of the children for a period of time. These children come from homes where there is no food or care, their parents are unskilled laborers who cannot read or write.

Places like the St. Joseph’s Home for Children offer these impoverished, disadvantaged parents the ability to get their children the skills, attention and boost they need to improve their lives and their futures.

St. Joseph’s Home for Children is just one of hundreds of places like this around the globe in the Mission Lands where children are supported by the Catholic Church. Programs like MCA help to make it possible.

If you would like to receive a copy of MISSION Magazine, please contact the Mission Office at 315-393-2920.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Eunice (Gero) Frenyea, 87; Funeral April 13, 2015 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brownville – Paul J. Mullen, 92; Funeral Services April 15, 2015 at the Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Carthage – Patricia Striffler O’Brien, 55; Funeral Services April 13, 2015 at St. James Church.


Champlain – John “Jack” Arnold Favreau, 76; Funeral Services April 17, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Champlain – Jean B. (Superannuate) Lintner, 79; Funeral Services April 18, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Champlain – Denis Gerard Poissant, 67; Funeral Services April 17, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church.

Colton – Paul Edward Watson, 77; Funeral Services April 18, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Copenhagen – Thomas B. LaBarge, 68; Funeral Services April 13, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Edwards – Teresa (Cahill) Morrow, 82; Funeral Services April 14, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Edwards – Matthew R. Tompkins, 58; Funeral Services April 12, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Daniel J. “Boone” Beron, 58; Funeral Services April 15, 2015 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Ruth (Chubb) Cook, 87; Funeral Services April 13, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Margaret K. (Brooks) Carr, 91; Funeral Services at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery, Peru.

Plattsburgh – Audrey (Brault) Glorioso, 80; Funeral Mary 13, 2015 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Allan D. Wood, 78; Funeral Services April 11, 2015 at the Brown Funeral Home.

Port Henry – Frances M. (Tromblee) Donahue, 82; Funeral Services April 18, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Union Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Ruth (Frictid) Fitzgerald, 83; Funeral Services April 20, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Woodside, NY.

Waddington – Carol Lee Cole Mayette, 74; Funeral Services April 14, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Watertown – Rachel D. “Honey” (Rocco) Gerloff, 93; Funeral Services April 14, 2015 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – James Patrick Hayden, 86; Funeral Services April 17, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary (Madden) Parry, 91; Memorial Services April 27, 2015 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your WILL.

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice
DIOCESAN EVENTS

DIOCESAN YOUTH RALLY
Plattsburgh — The annual diocesan Youth Rally has been set
Schedule: Opens April 24 at 7 p.m. St. Alexander's Church in Morrisville for concert. Opens April 25 at 8:30 p.m. at Seton Academy for registration.
Features: Jackie Francois Angel will perform at concert and serve as keynote speaker and workshop leader for Saturday's program. The afternoon schedule also includes a panel discussion, "Stories of journey following Jesus' footsteps," at Seton Academy with young women religious. A question-answer session with Bishop LaValley will follow before the group moves to St. Peter's for the Mass.
Registration: The cost for the Youth Rally is $30 which includes lunch, snack and a T-shirt. The cost for the concert is $10. Registration forms are available at www.rcdony.org/youth.*

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP
Ogdensburg — Catholic Heart Work Camp has announced that they are putting on a week of camp in Ogdensburg
Date: June 28 to July 4
Features: Groups of high school and college students and their chaperones from across the Northeast will be converging at Wadhams Hall to take part in 5 days of service, prayer, fellowship, and fun.
Contact: www.heartworkcamp.com

SUMMER DIRECTED RETREAT
Ogdensburg — Save the date to spend some time with the Lord at the 2015 Summer Directed Retreat.
Date: June 21-26
Place: Wadhams Hall

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES
Potsdam — Keith Strohm of the Catherine of Siena Institute will offer a one-day conference based on Sherry Weddell's book Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus.
Date: May 30
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4
Place: Potsdam Student Union Multipurpose Room.
Features: The workshop focuses on the need to awaken the personal faith of laity so that they will become more capable of putting their gifts and talents to use in the parish. The workshop will be appropriate for commissioned lay ministers and Formation for Ministry candidates, parish and diocesan staff, deacons and deacon candidates, parishioners interested in deepening their own faith and becoming more active in Church ministry and parish life.
Cost: $450 which includes retreat, lodging, food and linens
Contact: For more information please email inquiry@wadhams.edu

FAMILY PILGRIMAGE
A diocesan family pilgrimage has been planned by the Diocesan Family Life Department, together with its offices of Pre Cana, Natural Family Planning, and Respect Life.
Date: July 18
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte, Vermont.
Features: A brief introduction will familiarize pilgrims with the site, which saw its first Catholic chapel built in 1666. Following lunch and the outdoor Stations of the Cross, there will be time for families to walk the shrine grounds, swim, and connect with one another. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available before Mass, which will be celebrated at 4 p.m. by Father Doug Lucia, Diocesan Vicar for Family Life.
Contact: contact Steve Tartaglia at the dioce"