Pope asks for 'open heart'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Appealing to the entire world, Pope Francis urged everyone to read his upcoming encyclical on the care of creation and to better protect a damaged earth.

"This common 'home' is being ruined and that harms everyone, especially the poorest," he said June 17, the day before the Vatican was releasing his encyclical letter, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home."

He said he was launching an appeal for people to recognize their "responsibility, based on the task that God gave human beings in creation: 'to cultivate and care for' the 'garden' in which he settled us. I invite everyone to receive this document with an open heart," he said at the end of his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Pope Francis said the encyclical is part of the church's social teaching; the social doctrine of the church applies Gospel principles and applies them to concrete situations in society and public life.

The encyclical's title, which translates into "Praised be," comes from the introductory phrase to eight verses of St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures," a prayer thanking God for the gifts of creation.

Area Catholics challenged by manhunt

Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno, pastor of St. James Church in Cadyville, said that the pews of the church were less full than usual after two convicted killers escaped from Clinton Correctional Facility.

Many parishioners work in the prison and had to work overtime and others, as the massive manhunt for David Sweat and Richard Matt moved through field, swamp and forest a short distance from of Cadyville, "couldn't get to Mass because they were not allowed to leave their homes."

WAKE UP THE WORLD

Sister Gregory Munger, SSJ, the vocation director for the Sisters of St. Joseph, visited the students at Seton Academy in Plattsburgh June 4. She talked about vocations and their need to say three Hail Marys every day so that they would know God's plan for them. The students responded enthusiastically and enjoyed her visit. This week's NCC features the annual vocation issue "Wake Up the World, the theme for the Year of Consecrated Life. The issue includes messages on vocations from Bishop LaValley, Father Bryan D. Stitt, diocesan vocation director; and Father J. Roger McGuinness, point person for the diocesan priority "creating a culture of vocations. "The paper also features interviews with the oldest priest of the diocese and two new Sisters of St. Joseph.

GUGGENHEIM STAFF: Meet Anna, Maeve, Diane and Kathryn.... p. 20
EDITOR’S NOTE

Moving, not so slowly, into summer!

It's been a case of feast or famine over the past couple of weeks as we have worked to fill the pages of the North Country Catholic.

June is usually a slow news month with diocesan, parish and school programs winding down for the summer. It's easy to justify our summer publication schedule — beginning next week — of printing only twice a month. But this past week, one of the biggest news stories in the world was a Catholic story.

And, one of the biggest news stories in the country continued to play out in the eastern end of our diocese.

Since this paper was already scheduled as the annual NCC Vocation Issue, these pages are filled to the brim with stories about Pope Francis' eagerly anticipated encyclical, Catholic reaction to the escape from Clinton Correctional and inspiring vocation journeys (within hearts and across the Atlantic). The July 8 issue promises to be a fat one, too, as we congratulate the lay ministers who will be commissioned this coming Sunday and catch up on high school graduations and other year-end events.

But let's not move ahead too quickly.

With the oh-so-welcome arrival of summer, it's a good time to make some mid-year resolutions to take advantage of our warmer weather and slower (we hope!) schedules.

At the top of my personal to-do list will be to spend some time following Bishop LaVally's advice:

“I encourage everyone to read the document (Pope Francis' Laudato Si encyclical) and consider how the Pope's teachings might be applied in our everyday lives,” the bishop said in his June 19 statement about the encyclical.

Catholic News Service gives us a bit of a head start with an extensive list, printed on page 14. Pope Francis offers suggestions for everyone from politicians to parents who could make a difference on the government level or around the kitchen table.

I have a feeling, though, that it would be well worth a couple hours of time to read the encyclical for ourselves.

From all reports it's an extraordinary document, folding in the teachings of other encyclicals, Rerum Novarum and Humanae Vitae, calling on the wisdom of St. Francis of Assisi and St. John Paul and challenging every one of us to change.

Beach reading? Maybe not, unless your goal this summer is to save a beach or two!

A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

Little things in life make a big difference

I am truly fascinated by the large acres of corn as the plants gradually grow larger and larger during this time of the year. It seem like the plants are growing before my very eyes.

As I drive around the North Country these days I often come upon corn fields stretching out as far as I can see. I, of course, understand how the seeds mature into plants — develop into stalks with the ears of corn. Yet, each year, as I watch again the seeds grow into fields of corn stalks, it seems almost like a miracle.

Recently, in the Sunday Gospel reading, Jesus compares the development of a seed into a plant as an image for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus spoke often of his goal as the formation of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God has no country, no boundaries: it is a Kingdom of the Heart. We, the followers of Jesus, in faith, are united together, united in love, always ready to live like Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.

This month, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image, the statue or painting, shows the heart of Jesus open and brilliant on his chest surrounded by a crown of thorns. It was a clear image of the great love that Jesus has for us all, a love that led Jesus to suffer and die for all, a love that wins for us all forgiveness of sins.

As members of the Kingdom of God we pray that we have a heart like that of Jesus. May others see in each one of us a heart that is brilliant with our love of God and of our neighbor as Jesus asks of us.

In that same Gospel reading Jesus used another parable for the Kingdom of God. This is where he speaks of the Kingdom of God to be like a mustard seed, that small seed that grows into a large bush.

The Kingdom of God — we, the People of God — will grow and become strong through little things. Life is full of many such little things that seem so unimportant, even a bit of a nuisance. Yet, often, these little things will bring us into the presence of our God. So, never miss all that you would consider little things.

This continues to be true. The strength of you and I as members of the Kingdom of God is our readiness to respond to the Holy Spirit’s invitation to each one us. We are challenged to do something. Often, it may be something small yet, it may be a powerful effort to bring the love of the Lord to our world ourselves. In this way, we make the world a better place, we make the Kingdom of God greater and stronger than ever before.

To accomplish this we must truly have an open heart, a heart filled with love so that we can truly be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The leadership of God will come to us in such gentle, often simple ways — such small ways — but each of us will recognize the opportunities. So we must pray that our heart will be open to the guidance of our Lord and God.

This will indeed require prayer. We must be people of prayer. In that way, our heart will be open and always ready to follow the lead of our Lord.

This means more than just reciting prayers; it means developing a prayerful spirit in our lives, a prayerful heart that stays open.

And we must know ourselves whether we are a disciples of the Lord who has a prayerful heart. Do I calmly take time — quiet time — and allow the Lord Jesus to touch my heart? Is the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit an ordinary part of my life? Remember always that an important part of prayer — maybe, the most important part of prayer — is listening. Our prayer should be that we hear the message from the Holy Spirit.

Do we truly hear God reaching out to us? Then we all will recognize ourselves as members of the Kingdom of God.
Creating a culture of vocations

As you know, one of our Diocesan Priorities is to Create a Culture of Vocations in the North Country.

St. Joseph Sister Gregory Munger and her team have been working diligently on a We Are Called Vocational Awareness plan for our parishes that will be promulgated later this fall. This plan will help guide us in building a culture where awareness of our baptismal call to holiness is nurtured and celebrated.

The vitality of a parish can be gauged by the culture of vocations it instills in its faith family.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis makes the point: “Many places are experiencing a dearth of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. This is often due to a lack of contagious apostolic fervor in communities which results in a cooling of enthusiasm and attractiveness. Wherever there is life, fervor and a desire to bring Christ to others, genuine vocations will arise. This is particularly true if such a living community prays insistently for vocations and courageously proposes to its young people the path of special consecration.” (EG, #107)

The Holy Father reminds us of the necessity of persistent prayer. Nothing of what we say or do will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts. Contagious apostolic fervor is fueled by our personal and communal encounters with Christ. Without prayer, all our activities risk fruitlessness and our message will convey hollow words.

When I visit our Catholic schools and Christian Formation classes, I am so pleased to learn that some have “adopted” one of our seminarians for special prayer and attention. I encourage more of our classes to take up the mantle of prayer and include our deacon candidates and consecrated religious in their prayers. Prayer is so necessary if our parishes are to be truly Living Stones. Prayer is everything! It is difficult in today’s world to propose to its young people the path of special consecration. In many instances, as Pope Francis notes, it takes courage.

It’s not easy for us to make commitments to whatever life’s vocation we may be attracted. However, if I wait for everything to be perfect, for all the questions and uncertainties to be answered before I make a commitment, I will live a very lonely, solitary life missing the joys to be encountered on the road not taken. That’s why the “art of accompaniment” is so important.

We must encourage and support one another in discerning and living out our Christian vocation. To be a Living Stone in a vibrant parish is to be a member of a family of faith that is always noticing, welcoming, inviting, smiling, befriending, and serving others. We do not and cannot walk alone in our desire to respond to our baptismal call to follow Jesus.

The three Diocesan Priorities and six Goals that have been established are means to stir the flame of faith and encourage new life in our parishes. All the baptized are called to a personal involvement in the life of the Church.

I have recently concluded this year’s Confirmation ‘circuit.’ What an uplifting experience for me!

The Lord never disappoints us when we take the risk to follow Him. God provides some wonderful surprises on the journey, once we open the door!

I was greeted with the joyful, welcoming faces of our young people, their parents, and their parish families. Often, the candidates shared with me the community service activities in which they have participated. In some parishes, the newly confirmed posted Commitment. In some parishes, the newly confirmed publicly commit to continue their parish/community service, both in the parish (i.e. at Mass, Christian Formation) and in their community.

What a wonderful way to discern, encourage and celebrate one’s Christian vocation!

Our four seminarians, Todd Thibault, Michael Jablonski, Matt Conger and Leagon Carlin exude the contagious apostolic fervor about which Pope Francis writes.

Please pray for them as they continue in the program for priestly formation at the Josephinum.

To those who are hesitant to respond to the Lord, once again the Holy Father offers reassuring words: “There is no greater freedom than that of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting Him enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever He wills.” (EG, #280)

The Lord never disappoints us when we take the risk to follow Him. God provides some wonderful surprises on the journey, once we open the door! We continue to build up a culture in our parishes where the God of surprises has lots of room to operate.

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
Vocations Society (D.O.V.S)

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

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

John 15:16

www.daughters-of-charity.com
New SSJ’s reflect on growth of their vocations

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

WATERTOWN - Suanne thinks her first desire, perhaps ambition, to be a religious sister came when she was in kindergarten. Patty is certain, “I was 4.” Remarkably the two women, from very different backgrounds, have now arrived in the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown; their childhood calls to a life of prayer and service answered. They have chosen consecrated life. Both are now in their mid-40’s.

Brasher Falls native

Suanne Johnson grew up in Brasher Falls, the eldest of four children. She received a teaching degree from Potsdam College and landed a teaching job at Salmon River Central School. She had a house, a car and a great job teaching English. She taught eight and tenth grades over 12 years and she was happy; but not completely.

She acknowledges falling away from “church” for a while, frustrated by some of the things going on in the 1980s. But then she started returning to Mass and reading more about the Catholic faith. She listened to the voices pushing her to consider again the kindergarten whisper of a religious life; a notion that returned to her consciousness regularly.

The final nudge came during Holy Week. “I had been fighting this call my whole life and so I said, ‘Ok God, I think I’m ready. If you really want me to be a sister then Ok, now’s your chance’. (laughter) It sounds ridiculous now but you know what? The next thing I know I’m in a convent. Everything just fell into place.”

From Westchester County

Patty Urbinelli was raised in Mamaroneck, Westchester County, the younger of two children. She received her degree from St. Bonaventure University in Allegheny, NY, with a major in accounting and a minor in theology.

In 2000 Patti moved to North Carolina and “actually had left the Catholic Church. I’d been away for several years at that point,” she said. She tried some other congregations, including a Methodist church which was “very entertaining, but it was lacking something and the something for me was the Eucharist.”

The death of Saint Pope John Paul II and some other signs brought her back to the Church and when she was able to receive Eucharist again she says she cried. “I had never felt so complete.”

Patty was working for Duke Energy, a regulated gas and electric utility in North Carolina that was facing merger. Everyone knew there would be some buy-outs. Asked by a colleague what she would really like to be doing if money was no object, she responded, “I would give my life fully to serve God,” and her friend asked why she was not doing it.

She had a house, a car and a great job but she could not think of anything else for the next several weeks. All the excuses she could offer did not answer the question, “Why are you not pursuing a life of service to God?”

She started searching the internet for information about religious communities and found the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown through a service provided by Vision Vocation Network called Vocation Match http://www.vocationnetwork.org/match. It was one of the hits among a total of 80 or so that matched her criteria. She chose Watertown and the community was receptive.

The journey

The journey these women have travelled to begin a life dedicated to serving Christ and the people of God is overly simplified in this article.

Sister Suanne Johnson has taken first vows. She completed her Novitiate year in Chicago and returned to be assigned to Augustinian Academy of St. James Minor Church in Carthage.

Sister Patricia Carmella Urbinelli was received into the Novitiate of the community on April 10 this year.

attraction to consecrated life. Today the attraction is to service but it is also to the opportunity to be contemplative and prayerful.

Come and see

Both sisters were introduced to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown during a Come and See Weekend. Sister Suanne recommends one to any woman even mildly interested in considering religious life. “You have to take a step. I said to God, ‘OK I’m ready’, but if you don’t take the step, God has nothing to work with.”

Sister Patty agrees. “When I left here, I did not want to leave. I knew before I left that I wanted to come back. But I waited about a month before contacting Sister Gregory (Sr. Mary Gregory Munger SSJ) again because I wanted to make sure that feeling never went away. And, it didn’t.”

First steps

A parish pastor or associate, a religious sister or brother acquaintance or member of the parish staff is a good one to chat with about your interest in a clerical or religious vocation. CARA reports those who have responded prepared for their Profession of Vows in a number of ways:

“Nearly all (91 percent) regularly participated in some type of private prayer activity before they entered their religious institute. Seven in 10 participated in Eucharistic Adoration or prayed the rosary before entering.

More than six in 10 participated in retreats or spiritual direction before entering. Many were active in parish life before entering their religious institute. Four in 10 (42 percent) participated in youth ministry or youth group. Almost a third participated in Catholic campus ministry or a Newman Center. One in five participated in World Youth Day and/or in a young adult ministry or group.”

Sisters Suanne and Patty would endorse all the above.
Eight North Country men take part in vocation pilgrimage to Italy

A journey of majesty and calm

By Fr. Bryan Stitt
Diocesan Vocation Director

"It's a big Church, Bryan." Bishop Cunningham said these words to me countless times to explain the complexity and intricacies of the Body of Christ. This month, eight men from the North Country saw the truth of the statement during a pilgrimage for vocations.

Our pilgrimage took us through Rome, Assisi, Orvieto and Bolsena. And the "bigness" of the Church was seen in the marvels and wonders of major basilicas, ancient ruins, Eucharistic processions, and an audience with the successor of St. Peter.

Anyone who has been on pilgrimage in Italy will tell you that there is no place like Rome to experience the timelessness and universality of the Church—isn't that why we call it the Eternal City? So it made sense that during their first couple days in Italy, the young men kept shaking their heads and saying, "I can't believe I'm here!" It was literally awesome.

But truth be told, it wasn't the wonders that spoke to them most of all.

You remember the passage of Elijah on the mountain top. The Lord wasn't in the wind, or the storm, or the earthquake: but He was in the still small voice.

The still small voice of the Lord was manifest on this pilgrimage in His sons and daughters. Isn't it amazing to see who the Lord will put in our path when he is trying to follow the Divine will? Here are three of the many examples from the pilgrimage.

First were the young ladies from New York. Father Joe Giroux and I knew that Clare Nichols, her mother Kathleen, and her good friend Lauren were going to be in Italy at the same time as we were, but when we stumbled into them in Assisi we learned that Divine Providence makes the best travel agent. These beautiful young ladies gave our pilgrims an invaluable gift: the witness to faithful joy. How pleased we were to have them ask questions during lunch of our favorite saints whose tombs and shrines we had just visited, only to be followed up by a request that we join them for Mass up the mountain at St. Francis' hermitage the next day. Our men noted that as physically attractive as they were, it was their faith that showed their true beauty. Men need the beauty of women in their lives. In our hypersexualized society, people presume that means only one thing. In fact there are much deeper realities—we can just look to the home of Joseph and Mary for the preeminent example.

Second were the twin priests from Erie. I had known the Fathers Campbell from different events across the country and I studied with one of them in seminary, but I never expected to meet up with them in Italy. They had likewise brought a group to Orvieto and Bolsena to attend the Eucharistic processions in the birthplace of Corpus Christi processions. (Who would have guessed that the blooded corporal from A.D. 1263 would be drawing together such great reunions in 2015?)

The twins showed us the complementarity of the priesthood. When our group met them Father Joe jumped right into the conversation talking about our respective pilgrimages and his recollection that Ogdensburg was renowned for its number of twin priests. Father James stayed quiet.

But then when he did speak he dove deep into the profound need for young men to come to the aid of family life by being able to provide the sacraments to the people of God as His future priests. His impromptu talk was arguably the best "homily" of the pilgrimage.

Finally there were the boys from St. Gregory's school. About twenty of them had just graduated from high school and were backpacking across the Italian countryside—from Florence to Assisi and then from Assisi to Rome. They were doing so with a lot of energy and a lot of faith. As they hiked they carried their clothes, water, and food, and their instruments, juggling objects, and at least one unicycle. But what they did not have with them was any money. What an adventure! Every young man needs an adventure.

This truth resonated in the hearts of our pilgrims, and quietly inspired us. Some of our guys found adventure in hiking up the mountain in Assisi. Others found it in trying to converse in a foreign tongue. Still others found it in exploring the Eternal City on their own. But regardless of how we lived the adventures, without trying to, the young graduates from St. Greg's inspired us all.

Bishop Cunningham was right; it is a big Church filled with many complexities and wonders. But it was the calm and peace that spoke to us on pilgrimage. It was the saints from ages past and the saints of today that shared so much peace—like the still small voice heard by Elijah on the mountain top, like the "Rebuild My Church" heard by Francis from the cross of San Damiano.

I trust that that peace will lead others to have the courage to follow the call of the Lord. May it be so.

Photo by Claire Nichols

Men from the Diocese of Ogdensburg are shown at the Hermitage in Assisi during a June vocation pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Orvieto and Bolsena. From left are Leonora Carlin, Douglas Schirmer, John Morrison, Father Bryan Stitt, Franciscan Father Rick Martignetti, who welcomed the pilgrims, Father Joseph Giroux, Matthew Genger and Conner Cummings. Not pictured is Gregory Latulipe. Father Stitt, diocesan vocation director, writes about the experience here.

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Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy
The Carny Priest looks to his century mark

“He has always preached what wonderful people the carnival people are. He has done it from the pulpit, in newspapers, on radio and television, and will continue to do so until his dying breath.” ...

The Carnival Priest, by Tom Lowell, 1998

By Dave Shampine
Staff writer

WATERTOWN – Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy on the first of July will observe his 97th birthday, and three months later will mark his 69th year as a priest. He is the oldest living priest in the diocese of Ogdensburg, and possibly the only priest ever to reach that age in the diocese.

Would he like to see his 100th birthday?

“I’ve gone this far,” he said during a recent interview. “Why not go for it.”

He is singing a different tune from several decades ago, when he was saying he didn’t expect to see 50.

“My father died when he was 56, and my brother was 54 when he died,” he reasoned. His secret for long life: “take care of myself physically, avoid gaining too much weight,” he told his hefty interviewer.

Hosting the writer in his infirmary room at the Sisters of St. Joseph complex on outer Washington Street, Msgr. McCarthy responded without hesitation when asked to specify his most rewarding role in his vocation.

“Being the carny priest.”

And just as Lowell wrote, the monsignor got right into it, as if mounting a thrill ride.

“Carnival workers had been neglected because they were seen as migrants, because they would come for a few days, then pick up and leave. They didn’t pay local taxes, and they were not involved in the community,” he said.

“I did all I could to improve that image by going on television, speaking at service clubs and to businessmen of the community,” he said. “I wanted to convey that they are ordinary people who had chosen that kind of work while trying to raise families and make a living.

“They are migrants because they love to move,” Msgr. McCarthy said. “And if you think about it, we might not be here if our ancestors had not been migrants.”

The last-born of six children of Irish-born childhood immigrants Joseph and Bridget O’Brien McCarthy, he and his siblings were, while growing up in Potsdam, occasionally exposed to circus performers. But it was not until 1961 or the following year that the then 43-year-old priest became attached to his new mission. He was assigned to St. James Church in Gouverneur, hometown of the St. Lawrence County Fair.

“I went to the fairgrounds to ask for free amusement ride tickets for needy children, and I was given a hundred tickets,” he said. “And then, I was asked to baptize a few carnival workers’ babies.” And the rest is history, as the overused phrase appropriately says.

His cross-country trips to administer his faith, humor, and down-to-earth personality brought him before anybody who cared to hear him preach the praises of carnies. His efforts - “It was unusual for a priest to be working with people who are seen as derelicts,” he said - came to the attention of numerous publications, including the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and even the National Inquirer.

He became familiar with facing television cameras, appearing on “60 Minutes” with Harry Reasoner, “To Tell the Truth,” and even “Hee-Haw.”

“T’ll great on Hee-Haw.”

His work even attracted the interest of Pope John Paul II, who met with the American priest twice, in 1979 and again the following year at the Pope’s summer residence. The Pontiff was apparently aware of his work, because in 1971 the priest had been appointed official chaplain of carnivals in the United States by the Vatican’s Pontifical Commission for the Pastoral Care of Itinerant People.

While maintaining his diocesan responsibilities as a parish priest, he began collecting a string of honors for his continued personally-adopted mission. The tributes included:

• The 1990 Sullivan-Conсидine Award for his contributions in the field of entertainment.
• The Miami Showmen’s Association “Showman of the Year” award in 1991.
• In March 1994, the U.S. Catholic Conference’s Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees honored him for 35 years of ministering to more than 120,000 carnival workers and their families.
• He was Inducted into the Carnival Hall of Fame, Kinsley, Kan., in October 2006.
• The Showmen’s League of America, Chicago, named him in 2007 an honorary life member.

And then there are the tangible benefits of his work - friendships and acquaintances with celebrities in the entertainment and sports worlds, a list too long to include here.
As diocese moves forward with Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled pastoral vision

Encouraging vocations: the first priority

Rev. J. Roger McGuinness
Point person for Creating a Culture of Vocations priority

The Envisioning Program of the diocese, initiated by Bishop La Valley, has set as the first priority that of Creating a Culture of Vocations for all walks of life within the Church. This follows the sacred purpose of the mutually shared vision of a church and diocese that is Christ-led, Christ-fed, and hope-filled.

The Term ‘culture’ means the behaviors and attitudes we learn as we grow throughout life and how we live this culture in the world of which we are part. These behaviors and attitudes set the stage for discernment, which is the key aspect of knowing what it is that God asks of us in this life.

The Universal Call to Holiness established by the Second Vatican Council is the invitation for all Catholics to see their role in living out the various vocations of the Church. These vocations: priesthood, consecrated life, marriage and the family; the single life and the permanent diacurate are the means by which all Catholics grow in holiness of life and fulfill the invitations of Christ to follow him.

Aspects of discernment which are integral to the Culture of Vocations include identifying one’s gifts and talents that a loving God has given to us from birth and who calls us to share these with others. Discernment also involves the capability and willingness to commit to God through prayer and support of family and parish communities to do God’s will in all things.

Discernment is based on an individual having a good self-image and self-worth along with self-knowledge and a sense of making a contribution to the good of the world.

Through the discernment process and ongoing reflection, a person responds to God’s call to holiness difficult. We live in a world of where our culture does not generally promote the true meaning of life and the call to serve others unconditionally.

Many people today have a very secular sense of the world without any connection to God or values that promote life in accordance with the will of God. However there are many people seeking with openness and generosity of heart to discern God’s will for them and they have the courage and faith to search this out. They do so by the lives they lead and the role modeling they give to others especially our young people, who need to see in them the life of Christ coming alive. This gives the Church hope for the future.

The vocation committee is working on all the above ideas. We have begun to work on guidelines for the establishment of vocation committees in each parish that will bring the idea of vocation before the people in all parishes.

The committee is also working on acquiring lesson plans to help in both our Catholic schools and religious education programs. We have formulated ideas and suggestions that will help people of all ages discern God’s call for them now and in the future. Ongoing discernment is an important aspect of what a person may discover in their life of prayer and reflection guided by family, school and parish.

The diocese has attached two goals to the priority of creating a culture of vocations. The first is to create the We are Called Vocational Awareness plan which St. Joseph Sister Mary Gregory Munger and her committee have been working over the past year and the results of their work will be made public later in the year.

The second goal is to convene a Vocation Summit: "Come Follow Me" which Father Garry Giroux and his committee have been working on and will continue to do so for the next year. The Summit will be held in Lake Placid and is planned for September 2016.

All of this is part of Creating a Culture of Vocations for our church today and tomorrow. All who respond to the Universal Call to Holiness are asked to pray that all Christians will respond to their vocation with openness, generosity and trust following the invitation of Jesus to “Come and follow me!”
Funeral held for former St. Anthony’s School principal

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Filippini Sister Mary Grace Riccardelli, 89, was held June 17 at St. Lucy Chapel in Villa Walsh. She died June 6 at Morristown Medical Center. Burial was in Ave Maria Cemetery.

Born in East Orange, NJ, the daughter of the late Anthony Riccardelli and Mary (Treglio) Riccardelli, Sister Mary Grace entered the Religious Teachers Filippini in 1944. She received her religious habit in 1945, and made her final profession in 1948. She celebrated her 70th year as a Filippini Sister this year.

Sister Mary Grace was awarded a BS degree in elementary education from Seton Hall University and an MS degree from Canisius College, Buffalo, with a concentration in Social Studies.

Principal of St. Anthony’s School in Watertown from 1979-1984, Sister Mary Grace taught the middle school grades at schools in New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island and in Schenectady, NY. Sister Mary Grace was entrusted the role of superior and principal at Sacred Heart School, Clifton, NJ; St. Anthony Watertown, and Our Lady of Mt. Virgin, New Brunswick, NJ. In Holy Family, Nutley, she was the superior and teacher.


Sister Mary Grace is survived by her sister Eileen Riccardelli; sister-in-law Phyllis Riccardelli; nephews: Joseph and wife Anita Riccardelli; Steven and wife Lori Riccardelli; and several grandnieces and grandnephews. She was predeceased by her brother Joseph Riccardelli.

Memorial donations may be sent to St. Joseph Hall, c/o Sr. Ascenza Tizzano, MPF, Provincial Superior, Villa Walsh, 455 Western Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960.

Rest in Peace

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


**June 25 – Rev. J. R. Lauzon, 1944**


**June 27 – Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928**


**July 3 – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954**


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**Environmental Stewardship**

“Praise Be: On Care for our Common Home”

In his recent encyclical, Pope Francis begins with the words from St. Francis’ Prayer: “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.”

He alerts us to the reality that “… this sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the good with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will. The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life.”

Pope Francis looks first to his patron, St. Francis “… as the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.”

With St. Francis, he “… invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and Goodness.” (Wis. 13:5) (Rom. 1:20).

In the weeks ahead, as we ponder the appeal of Pope Francis for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of the plan-et, may these summer days be an invitation to contemplate the beauties of our sister, Mother Earth and hear her cries for healing.
Catholics challenged by convict escape

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

CADYVILLE -- The pews at St. James Church here were less full after two convicted killers escaped from Clinton Correctional Facility.

"We have a lot of parishioners that work in the prison," Msgr. Lawrence Deno explained.

“They had to work overtime.”

And others, as the massive manhunt for David Sweat and Richard Matt moved through field, swamp and forest a short distance from the Town of Plattsburgh hamlet of Cadyville, “couldn’t get to Mass because they were not allowed to leave their homes.”

Msgr. Deno got the same robo-call from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that those in the main search area did five nights into the manhunt, instructing residents to lock their doors and put on outside lights.

But other than the passage of helicopters overhead and a larger State Police presence in the Cadyville hamlet, he saw little of the excitement.

However, some parishioners, Msgr. Deno said, live right in the heart of the area searched most intensively for several days.

"Some of them were a little anxious," he said. "A lot of people said they had never locked their doors before."

And some parishioners told him bloodhounds had picked up the scent of the fugitives right behind their homes.

Sweat, 35, was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 2002 killing of a Broome County sheriff’s deputy.

Matt, 48, who’d earlier murdered an American businessman in Mexico, was extradited from jail in that country to the United States to stand trial for killing and dismembering a former employer in Tonawanda.

His sentence is 25 years to life.

As of Friday, June 19, they had not been apprehended.

With the alleged help of Joyce Mitchell, a supervisor in the tailor shop of the Dannemora prison, and perhaps others, the inmates acquired the tools necessary to cut holes in the steel walls of their cells and then a steam pipe in the bowels of the maximum-security prison.

Clinton County District Attorney Andre Wylie said it appears they explored the tunnel system below the prison for several weeks before making their escape through a manhole on Bouck Street.

That's a block over from St. Joseph's Church on Smith Street in the Village of Dannemora, which sits just two blocks from the prison's high wall overlooking Route 374. The church was subjected to a search, and likely more, as was "every building in Dannemora, occupied and unoccupied," according to State Police Troop B Public Information Officer Trooper Jennifer Fleishman.

And correction officers who worship there were also pulling extra shifts to assist with the hunt.

On the grounds of the St. James Parish rectory, the manhunt put the brakes on preparations for the 50th-annual Cadyville Field Day, hosted by the Cadyville Volunteer Fire Department.

It had been set for Sunday, June 14, but was canceled the day before, with organizers citing the manhunt and how bringing a huge influx of revelers for the parade and other events would interfere with that operation.

"The carnival had been set up on the grounds, food had been purchased," Msgr. Deno said, sorry the fundraiser had to be canceled. "The Fire Department worked on it a long time (to prepare).

Another necessary inconvenience were the roadblocks set up at several points, he continued.

"Many said they were late for Mass because their (cars) were stopped and searched," he said.

St. James's pastor got his own taste of that.

Driving to visit a parishioner, he was slowed by four roadblocks there then four on the way back to the rectory.

That was over 3 miles, one way, he noted.

Bishop Terry LaValley presided over confirmation at Church of the Assumption in the Town of Saranac hamlet of Redford on the morning of the escape from the nearby Dannemora prison.

Father John Demo, St. Joseph’s pastor, asked if he’d had to contend with any roadblocks on the way.

The bishop told him no.

"But I found that out when I was leaving," he said.

The bishop said he did get a note from someone who expressed concern that attendance at Masses had been down.

"They couldn’t get to church," Bishop LaValley said.

Msgr. Deno was pleased that life seemed to be returning to normal — at least the roadblocks were gone and closed roads opened again.

And he had a brief moment of fame when a reporter from the London Evening News, one of many national and international journalists to flood the area, interviewed him.

He wasn't too sure how that went, though.

"I couldn't understand his brogue," the monsignor said, chuckling.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Through his efforts, a permanent office was established in Washington, D.C. to store baptismal records, marriage certificates and other church documents pertaining to carnival workers.

Becoming a priest

As an Irish Catholic, Msgr. McCarthy said, “The church was engrained in us. As Irish Catholics, our whole life involved the church. “An Irish family had to have a priest in the family,” he said.

His only brother went to Clarkson University and became a civil engineer, so it fell upon the younger boy, a 1936 graduate of Potsdam High School, to enter the religious life.

He has no regrets, he said.

After completing studies at St. Bernard’s Seminary, Rochester, Msgr. McCarthy was ordained by Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart on Oct. 19, 1946 at St. Mary’s Cathedral. His first celebration of Mass was the next day at his home parish, St. Mary’s Church. He was close to home for nearly four years with his assignment in Canton.

A succession of moves placed him at Holy Family Church in Watertown; St. Bart’s, Old Forge; St. Mary’s, West Leyden; St. Patrick’s Colton; St. James, Gouverneur, and then back to Holy Family to be pastor for the last 21 years of his active ministry. He retired in June 1993. He was given the honorary title of monsignor, or papal chamberlain, in 1960.

Msgr. McCarthy is credited with bringing the Sisters of the Precious Blood to Watertown.

“Just about every diocese has a contemplative community, which leads a life of prayer, but we didn’t have any. I applied to Bishop Navagh to ask for a monastery, and he agreed. Sadly, he moved on before they came.”

In his upbringing and nearly seven decades as a priest, he said he has observed changes in the vocation, changes which he suggested should appeal to young men who are considering the religious life.

“In the old days, the priesthood was thought to be an exclusive group,” he said.

“Priests were more involved in just church work. They would never be seen in public without the Roman collar. It is a different life we have today. Priests are more involved in the public, participating in sports, teaching, and even newspapers.”

I have seen a great change in the priesthood – our current Pope is an example of that,” he said.

The monsignor, who on April 28 was honored by the Watertown Fire Department as “firefighter of the year,” has led an adventurous life, as readers of the Lowell book can attest.

He addressed his lifestyle, in the book:

“People get to know you is something I have heard often in my life. And it is a warning that I should never be at any place, or do anything that would shock them or cause them to lose their respect for me, or the priesthood.”

I have devoted my life to attempting to live that way, but my life has not been devoid of fun. I do like to be around fun people when the occasion presents itself, and I do know how to have a good time.”
Sister Louella Pelletier was honored for her 50th jubilee as a Sister of Charity of St. Louis during a June 13 Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided. At right, Bishop LaValley congratulates Sister Louella as General Superior Sister Josephine Goggin, left of Sister Louella, and Provincial Superior Sister Alberte Piche look on. Concelebrating with the bishop were Father William Reamer, pastor; Msgr. Joseph Aubin and Father Ray Moreau with Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz assisting. Also in attendance were three General Councillors, three Provincial Councillors, members of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis local community of Plattsburgh as well as other Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis from Levis and Pont-Rouge in Canada. Members of Sister Louella’s family and friends also attended the parish liturgy.

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Says pope speaks as a pastor in call to protect earth

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Pope Francis speaks with a pastor's voice and with deep respect for science in calling the world to address threats to all life on earth through environmental degradation and the mindset of a "throwaway culture" in his encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home," also urges people to remember that "we have a shared responsibility for one another" while calling for "urgent action" to work for the common good and the betterment of the planet.

He said the document is meant to be a valuable teaching tool and moral guide for "generations to come."

"We are painfully aware of what's happening to our world and that we need to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care," the archbishop said.

"He's speaking to all of us now. What does it mean? It's marching orders for advocacy."

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington also addressed reporters and said that as he read the encyclical he immediately thought of the magnificence of God's creation and how everyone must take steps to protect it.

"Our Holy Father is speaking out of our Catholic tradition," the cardinal explained. "But if you read the document carefully, he is not saying to individuals whether you are in the economic area or the political area, 'You must do this.' He is saying, 'Here is the moral frame of reference. I would like everyone to work together on this so that we individually would come to the conclusion this is the way things should be.'"

While the pope sounded an urgent call for action, Cardinal Wuerl told Catholic News Service he interpreted it as a call for conversations to begin on how to address the challenges facing the planet ecologically and economically.

"The urgency is to get started today," he said. "That means it's going to take a little bit of time."

The encyclical provides an opening for people to cross political divides to discuss solutions to the challenges posed by climate change, polluting industries, drought brought on by changing weather and the failure to respect all of human life, Archbishop Kurtz told reporters, saying that solutions are not likely to come quickly.

"We need to give ourselves time, all of us including the bishops, to be able to reflect and read and study (the encyclical)," Archbishop Kurtz said. "Those who take this studying seriously I think will find an invitation to dialogue."

Various parish and school study guides, homily aids and online resources have been developed by the USCCB and its partner, the Catholic Climate Covenant. Both prelates said the materials will help initiate those discussions.

Archbishop Kurtz said the formation of young people on the environment particularly will be important in the months and years ahead.

"What kind of world are we going to leave to those who come after us?" he asked.

Holiness atop a mountain

By Stephen A. Yusko
Discerner from the Diocese of Albany

I would like to thank God for giving me the opportunity to partake in the retreat and for never abandoning me, despite my hardheartedness. I would also like to thank Father Bryan Stitt, Father Anthony Ligato and Father Mickey McGrath for their time, guidance, and their yes; they are true men of Christ. I pray God may grant me the grace to write a true and sincere reflection not simply for myself, but also for those who may be discerning, but have yet to seek help from others; it truly makes a difference.

"Be not afraid" is perhaps one of the most well known quotes from scripture, yet this command is rarely followed. I, being no exception, was nervous and afraid when I arrived at the Paulist Retreat Center in Lake George that Friday evening. I have been discerning my vocation to the priesthood on and off for several years, but had not met with other disciners -- let alone go to a retreat full of them -- so I was unsure of what to expect. Though I experienced many things throughout the retreat, I will only reflect on a couple more prominent ones.

Firstly, I experienced similar hearts. Throughout the weekend, despite our lack of familiarity, we spoke to one another like we had stumbled upon an old friend. We shared our "story", experiences, fears, doubts, and concerns. We joked around, spoke about current events, the Church, and random hobbies. Quite simply, I found in them hearts similar to mine -- Hearts which made bonding easy, hearts which yearn to know Jesus Christ and His will.

Secondly, I experienced holiness atop a mountain. Saturday many of us hiked up a mountain that overlooks Lake George with Father Bryan and Father Mickey, called Buck Mountain. I love nature and am an avid hiker, but I have not experienced such holy fellowship on a hike, let alone witness Mass being offered atop a mountain. It is truly inspiring and beautiful to behold Christ crucified atop a mountain, which overlooks the lake that was previously named after that which was before our eyes: the Blessed Sacrament. I can now begin to understand why St. Peter wanted to stay atop the mountain when he witnessed the transfiguration.

Lastly, I experienced peace and joy. Now peace and joy were with me throughout the weekend, but it wasn't until later Saturday night that I realized it. We had gathered in the priest's common room to hear about life in the seminary. Before the seminarians began telling us about their experiences, everyone throughout the room was talking to one another. I realized, as I looked around the room -- seeing the men, some younger and some older, but all sharing similar, if not the same questions, concerns, hopes and dreams -- I noticed that there was no fear in my heart, rather peace and joy resounded therein, and I smiled. To genuinely smile and laugh is a great gift from God that is rarely realized and often taken for granted, but I smiled and I knew, for the first time in a long time the joy and peace Christ had promised.

Since the retreat, this peace and joy have not left me. Yes, I am still discerning, but my discernment has definitely changed. I don't know which of us will become priests, but I know that God has provided his bride, the Church, with great priests, and I am confident that He will continue to do so. To those who are discerning, speak to a priest or to someone who will foster your vocation. Know that I am praying for you and I hope you pray for me. Finally, "Be not afraid."
All creation sings God's praise

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The earth, which was created to support life and give praise to God, is crying out with pain because human activity is destroying it, Pope Francis says in his long-awaited encyclical, "Laudato Si'," on Care For Our Common Home.

All who believe in God and all people of good will have an obligation to take steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and act to treat all of creation - including poor people - with respect and concern, he says in the document released at the Vatican June 18.

A lack of respect for creation is a lack of respect for God who created all that exists, the pope says. In fact, he continues, a person cannot claim to respect nature while supporting abortion, nor can one claim to be pro-life without a commitment to reversing damage to the environment.

With unusually blunt language for a papal document, the pope decries centuries of exploiting the earth, exploiting other people and acting as if the point of human life is to buy and consume as much as possible.

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth," the pope writes in the document.

While acknowledging science is not the Catholic Church's area of expertise, Pope Francis says "a very solid scientific consensus" points to global warming and indicates "human activity" has seriously contributed to it, threatening the planet and all life on it.

Catholic social teaching

Situating ecology firmly within Catholic social teaching, Pope Francis not only insists that wealthier nations - who contributed more to de-spoiling the earth -- must bear more of the costs of remedying the damage, but also calls for their solidarity with the poorest of the earth. He urges generosity in transferring clean technology, protecting small farms, opening access to markets and protecting people's jobs.

Quoting St. John Paul II and a constant theme of the church's social doctrine, Pope Francis says the church recognizes the "legitimate right" to private property, but that right is never "absolute or inviolable," since the goods of the earth were created to benefit all.

Human origins of crisis

Regarding pollution and environmental destruction in general, he says it is important to acknowledge "the human origins of the ecological crisis," and while ecology is not only a religious concern, those who believe in God should be especially passionate on the subject because they profess the divine origin of all creation.

People are fouling themselves, Pope Francis says in the document, if they think "everyday decisions do not look serious, and the planet could continue as it is for some time." Such people in all honesty are giving themselves permission to carry on with their current lifestyles and habits, their attitude is "self-destructive," he says.

Echoing St. Francis of Assisi

In large sections of the encyclical, Pope Francis' language is poetic, echoing the tone of St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures," which is the source of the "laudato si'" (praised be you) in the encyclical's title. He quotes a large section of the hymn of praise in a section on the place of each creature in the harmony of creation. The canticle is most famous for its references to "Brother Sun," "Sister Moon" and "our sister, Mother Earth."

But, the pope says, "sister earth" is crying out, "pleading that we take another course" marked by healing and protecting the earth and all its inhabitants.

While Christians cannot "put all living beings on the same level nor ... deprive human beings of their unique worth and the tremendous responsibility it entails," St. Francis' hymn expresses the truth that God is creator of all things, that every part of creation speaks of God's love and power and that every created being is part of interdependent whole, the pope writes.

Everything is related

"Everything is related," the pope says, "and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth."

In the document, Pope Francis calls on national governments and the leaders of international institutions to be serious and courageous in adopting strict measures to slow and reverse global warming, protect the rain forests and secure the availability of clean water for all.

Courage will be needed, he says, to adopt policies that initially may slow the pace of economic growth, but which will be farsighted in ensuring a future for their voters, their voters' grandchildren and all humanity.

"We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels -- especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas -- needs to be progressively replaced without delay," he says.

But he also calls on every Catholic and all people of good will to do their part by, for example, using only non-polluting detergents, recycling paper, using public transportation and putting on a sweater instead of raising the heat in the winter.

Importance of saying grace

And he urges Catholics to return to the practice of saying grace before meals, a habit that reminds them regularly that the food they are about to eat is a gift that comes from the earth and from God.

In the encyclical, Pope Francis urges Catholics to cultivate simplicity; it is good for the soul and for the planet, he says. "A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment," the pope writes.

The encyclical presents the vision of an "integral ecology" that highlights not only the interconnectedness of all created life, but recognizes how political, economic, social and religious values and decisions are interrelated and impact the way people live with one another on the planet and use its resources.

A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings," Pope Francis insists.

"Everything is connected," the pope writes. "Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society."
What to do? The pope's practical tips for helping the environment

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home" is a call for global action as well as an appeal for deep inner conversion.

He points to numerous ways world organizations, nations and communities must move forward and the way individuals -- believers and people of good will -- should see, think, feel and act.

Here are some of the pope's suggestions:

• Do not give in to denial, indifference, resignation, blind confidence in technical solutions.
• Have forthright and honest debates and policies; issues cannot be dealt with once and for all, but will need to be "reframed and enriched again and again" by everyone with plenty of different proposals because there is no one way to solve problems.
• Reduce, reuse, recycle. Preserve resources, use them more efficiently, moderate consumption and limit use of non-renewable resources.
• Promote green construction with energy efficient homes and buildings.
• Protect oceans and waterways clean and safe from pollutants; use biodegradable detergents at home and business.
• Be aware that synthetic pesticides and herbicides will hurt birds and insects that are helpful for agriculture.
• Leave room for wandering and migrating species by creating "biological corridors;" don't let dams, highways and construction lead to their extinction.
• Put an end to "mental pollution." Think deeply, live wisely, love generously.
• End the tyranny of the screen, information overload and distractions. Watch out for media-induced melancholy and isolation. Cultivate real relationships with others.
• Get down from the ivory tower and stop the rhetoric. Get to know the poor and suffering; it will wake up a numbed conscience and inspire real action.
• Stop blaming problems on population growth. The real threat is excessive consumerism and waste.
• For genuine change, put the common good first. Special interests manipulate information, offer "superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern."
• Sweat it out. Increasing use and power of air-conditioning seems "self-destructive."
• Even if it doesn't fix the world, beautification and goodwill gestures inspire and remind people that "we were made for love."
• Get back to nature - "the caress of God" - to recharge. Be more attentive to its beauty and wonder and revisit places that left you with happy memories.
• Be consistent. Pro-life, environmental and social justice movements are all connected. Protecting vulnerable species must include the unborn, endangered animals and the exploited.
• Use technology to solve real problems and serve people, helping them have more dignity, less suffering and healthier lives.
• Believe in a happy future, a better tomorrow. Slow down, recover values and the meaning of life. Putting the brakes on "unrestrained delusions of grandeur" is not a call to go back to the Stone Age.
• "Business is a noble vocation." Create jobs that allow for personal growth, stability, living out one's values.
• Listen to, protect lands of and involve indigenous peoples. The disappearance of cultures is worse than losing a species.
• Create neighborhood networks and improvement programs. Create welcoming spaces that help people connect and trust each other.
• Make public transportation a priority and a more pleasant experience.
• Provide essential services to rural areas.
• Accept and care for the body God gave you. Value sexual differences and your own gender.
• Politicians: don't be afraid of long-term goals and upsetting people with measures that affect levels of consumption, financial risks. Citizens: put pressure on your representatives. -- Less is more. Stop needless consumption.
• Harness purchasing power. Examine what you buy and know that boycotts make a difference.
• Plant a tree. Take mass transit. Car pool. Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Chilly? Wear a sweater. Little things add up.
• Moms and dads: teach kids to use things properly; to respect, take care of others; to ask permission politely; to say, "Thank you," to control temper; to ask forgiveness; share.
• Find happiness in simple things: get-togethers, helping others, honing a talent, enjoying art and music, praying.
• Love your enemies.
• Go to Sunday Mass; receive the sacraments; encounter God in everything; rest on Sundays.
• Pray.

Catholic World
AT A GLANCE

People express heartache, outrage as they mourn shooting victims
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The tragic taking of nine lives at a historically black church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina, brought an outpouring of solidarity, compassion and sorrow from around the country. After an all-night search, police June 18 found the white man suspected of fatally shooting nine people, including the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a senior pastor. They arrested 21-year-old Dylann Storm Roof in neighboring North Carolina and charged him with the murders. He did not fight extradition so he was returned to South Carolina. Witnesses said Roof had joined a prayer meeting the evening of June 17 at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston. They said he sat with church members for about an hour then stood up, yelling racist remarks, and opened fire. Religious leaders as well as government leaders issued their condolences and condemned the shooting, which is being investigated as a hate crime. Catholic Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Charleston expressed a deep sadness over the tragedy. "The inside of any church is a sanctuary," he said in a statement. "When a person enters, he or she has the right to worship, pray and learn in a safe and secure environment. For anyone to murder nine individuals is upsetting, but to kill them inside of a church during a Bible study class is devastating to any faith community." Bishop Guglielmone also shared his sympathies with those who lost loved ones in the shooting and prayed they will "feel the comforting presence of our Lord surrounding them during this difficult time."

Pope accepts resignations of St. Paul archbishop, auxiliary
ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) -- Pope Francis accepted the resignations June 15 of Archbishop John C. Nienstedt and Auxiliary Bishop Lee A. Piche of St. Paul and Minneapolis and named coadjutor Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of Newark, New Jersey, a canon lawyer, to be apostolic administrator of the Minnesota archdiocese. In a statement, Archbishop Nienstedt said he submitted his resignation to Pope Francis "to give the archdiocese a new beginning amidst the many challenges we face. The Catholic Church is not our church, but Christ's church, and we are merely stewards for a time," he said. "My leadership has unfortunately drawn away from the good works of his church and those who perform them. Thus, my decision to step down." On June 5, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office filed criminal and civil charges against the archdiocese alleging it failed to protect three boys who were sexually abused in 2008-2010 by Curtis Wehmeyer, a former priest of the archdiocese. Wehmeyer was convicted of the abuse and is serving a five-year prison sentence. He was dismissed from the priesthood in March. Archbishop Nienstedt, 68, was appointed coadjutor archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis in 2007, and installed as its archbishop in June 2008, succeeding Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, who retired. Prior to taking the helm of the archdiocese, Archbishop Nienstedt was bishop of New Ulm, Minnesota, from 2001 to 2007, and auxiliary bishop of Detroit from 1996 to 2001.
It’s been over 800 years since young Francis heard these words spoken by Jesus through the San Damiano cross. Nevertheless the call is just as relevant today in Ogdensburg as it was then in Assisi. The Church of Christ, not just the physical structures but the souls of the faithful must be built up.

May young people from around our diocese respond to the call of ultimate love: May they be willing to lay down their lives for their friends. And may that self-sacrifice inspire many to respond to the call to be the priests and religious of the future.

For more information about the priesthood or religious life please contact the Vocations Office.

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Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us and for all those discerning their vocations!
It’s all about life!

Do you remember the movement that swept our country over twenty years ago? Enthusiastic, clean-cut youth singing their theme song, Up, Up with People? Although they traveled world-wide, it seemed to fit with the American dream. Every July 4th holiday, we try hard to polish the tarnish off that dream!

The readings for this 13th Sunday in Ordinary time fit so well with our dream, since they’re all about life. They remind us that God and people are especially bonded! He created us for happiness, freedom, and life to the full, “God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living”, the Book of Wisdom declares.

So, then, who did invent death? Satan the Destroyer! All who submit to his rule will experience death!

How then, do we escape death? Through clinging with all our strength and will to the commandments of God, and the teaching of His Son, Jesus.

In particular, we saw the key to life (the second reading) in letting go of self, and sharing generously of all that we have and are with the “have nots” in our midst. By giving up His life, Jesus restored eternal life to all. The Gospel has that interesting “sandwich” type of story-telling - two stories in one.

It’s the story of the healing of a prominent Jew’s daughter. Jairus falls before Jesus, acknowledging his power to heal, and begs Jesus to come to his house, where his twelve-year old daughter is on the point of death. Jesus goes immediately with Jairus, a large crowd following.

Now comes the “story within a story.” A poor woman who has exhausted all her money on doctors, one of whom can cure her from her serious illness, sees Jesus coming, and quickly comes up behind Jesus.

Now, it’s important to know that she is legally “unclean”, and therefore cannot touch anyone. Nevertheless, less, she reaches out and touches Jesus’ cloak. Both she and Jesus know that healing power has gone forth.

Jesus turns around, inquiring who is the one who has touched him. Frightened, the woman admits that she is the one. Jesus immediately calms her fear, telling her to go home in peace, for she is healed. Then, he proceeds to the house of Jairus, where he learns that the little girl has died.

The tour was exhausting both physically and mentally, and I was relieved when our guides moved us away from the main building.

But I did not expect what happened next. We entered a church, an honest-to-God stand-alone Catholic Church, right there on the prison grounds. It is the Church of St. Dismas, the “good thief,” one of the two men crucified with Christ on Calvary.

When the doors of that historic building opened, I felt instantly liberated. It was like I was transported, lifted away to another place and time, inside a serene and welcoming sanctuary.

The stained glass windows were magnificent, as were the statues of the saints, whose eyes followed me as I knelt to pray. I later learned that much of the artwork was created by the inmates themselves, who used other prisoners as models.

The history of the church, the first free-standing church on the grounds of a prison anywhere in the country, is fascinating. It was the brainchild of Father Ambrose Hylan, Catholic chaplain at Clinton in the 1930's. I'm sure it must have been a monumental task to gain approval for such a project from the state, as well as to find the materials and the labor to ensure the building was actually constructed.

The prison chaplains of today stand on the shoulders of Father Hylan and this significant achievement. Through prayer and worship, Bible study, sacraments and their personal presence, chaplains bring Christ’s compassion and restorative powers to those behind the walls.

In St. Luke’s Gospel, Dismas repents from his sins and asks Jesus to “remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus, all-merciful and all-loving, forgives Dismas, saying, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

For those who are incarcerated in Dannemora, the Church of St. Dismas is a place of refuge, an escape from the prison within the prison.

It is here where they can find hope and healing, in a concrete manifestation of the “field hospital” that is our Church. It is here where Jesus “brings liberty to captives” and assures them of eternal salvation.

I wish the two fugitives still on the run had chosen instead to flee to the loving arms of our Lord. I pray things end safely for all. St. Dismas, pray for us.
INSIDE OUT

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

While the tiniest film fans might be put off by the peril in which its characters occasionally find themselves, the splendid comedy "Inside Out" (Disney) offers all others outstanding entertainment founded on strong values.

With this clever story of a hockey-loving 11-year-old girl named Riley (voice of Kaitlyn Dias), the folks at Pixar manage, once again, to make a hat trick -- scoring for parents, youngsters and, quite likely, theater operators.

The setup for their unerring slap shot is a familiar story enlivened by an ingenious approach. When happy-go-lucky Riley's life is disrupted by a career change for her dad (voice of Kyle MacLachlan) that requires her family to relocate from Minnesota to San Francisco, Riley's personified emotions -- principally Joy (voice of Amy Poehler) and Sadness (voiced by Phyllis Smith) -- struggle to help her cope with the resulting crisis.

Despite some predictable tensions -- standup comedian Lewis Black has a field day venting as Riley's Anger -- this is anything but the portrait of yet another dysfunctional family. In contrast to so many adults encountered at the cineplex, Riley's parents (Diane Lane voices her mom) prove to be both caring and wise.

Additionally, glimpses inside Ma and Pa's heads -- paralleling our sustained view of Riley's psyche -- show us the makings of a resilient marriage, even if these are illustrated ironically.

A lesson about sacrificial love is also included in the proceedings via the actions of Riley's bighearted imaginary friend Bing Bong (voice of Richard Kind). Kind's evocatively vulnerable performance drives home the poignancy of Bing Bong's lessening role.

Aided by such top-notch turns, co-directors Pete Docter (who also had a hand in penning the script) and Ronaldo Del Carmen prove equally deft at tickling viewers and touching them. Along with the hazards mentioned above, only a joke about Riley's impending encounter with puberty makes their picture suitable for a wide-ranging, rather than universal, audience.

"Inside Out" is preceded by "Lava" an amusing musical short about a romance between volcanoes. Ostensibly based on Hawaiian folklore, its lyrics include a line reflecting non-scriptural faith that will quickly be forgotten as punning humor takes brief center stage.

The film contains a few potentially upsetting incidents and a single mature reference. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

ALSO PLAYING

"FAMILY OWNED DEALERSHIP SERVING THE NORTH COUNTRY FOR OVER 56 YEARS!["}

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**Also Playing**

Stefanie Scott stars in a scene from the movie "Insidious: Chapter 3." Catholic News Service reviews it as a run-of-the-mill horror prequel in which the unassuming but spunky psychic (Lin Shaye) featured in the previous outings reluctantly emerges from self-imposed retirement to aid a high school senior (Stefanie Scott) whose do-it-yourself attempt to contact her recently deceased mom has instead summoned up a malignant spirit. Writer-director Leigh Whannell's script takes an incidental stance against suicide. But the film's spiritual battle between good and evil is viewed exclusively from a paranormal perspective, with no reference to faith, while elements of language and subject matter put it beyond the appropriate reach of a youthful audience. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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ADIRONDACK

WONDERS OF CREATION RETREAT
Saranac Lake - Enjoy the wonders of Creation and journey into the heart of Jesus who desires to speak to your heart.
Dates: July 24-26 or Sept. 18-20
Speakers: Paul Gabaldi, licensed Adirondack Wilderness Guide and publisher of two nature photography books (June Weekend); Paul Hetzler, Arborist; Writer; and Educator at Cornell Co-operative Extension (Sept. Weekend) St. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSI, Adult Faith Educator; Fr. Paul Kelly, Celebrant for Liturgy
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Cost: $145 (limited space)
Features: Weekends will include presentations, time for quiet prayer and reflection, communal prayer, nature hikes and opportunities for sharing.
Contact: email srbethssj@gmail.com; call: 315-212-6592; See www.fourseasonssoftheheart.weebly.com

CLINTON

WINE TASTING FUN RAISER
Dannemora – St. Joseph’s Church will be having a Wine Tasting Fun Raiser.
Date: July 19
Time: 1 p.m. to 4
Cost: $10
Features: Appetizers will be served and will be a Basket Raffles and a 50/50 Raffle. Need to be 21 years of age or older to attend. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the Church office 492-7118 or at the doors of the Church Hall the day of the event. Proceeds to be applied for recent renovations in the Church Hall.

ALTONA OLD HOME DAYS
Altona – Old Home Days to be held.
Date: June 28
Schedule: Mass at 10 a.m.; Parade at 11 a.m.; Chicken BBQ Noon until all are served; All day live entertainment; Altona’s Got Talent, 6 p.m. to 9; Fireworks at 9 p.m.
Place: Holy Angels Church
Features: Game booths, dunkin booth, free raffle (BBQ Grill, Boys Bike, Girls Bike (must be present to win) (drawn during Talent Show)); Money Raffle, $2000 in prize money. Concessions include: Michigan, Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Clam Chowder, Sausage with Peppers & Onions, French Fries, Fried Bread Dough, Sono Cones, Cotton Candy, Desserts.

EUCARISTIC ADORATION
Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown – The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.
Date: June 25
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Anthony’s Mt. Carmel Church basement; Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers
Cost: Adults, $8; Children, $4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $7.50 each;

BEREAVEMENT MEETING
Watertown – Ecumenical Bereavement meeting to be held.
Date: June 29
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Hearthside Hospitality Center

ST. LAWRENCE

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
Gouverneur – A Strawberry Festival has been planned.
Date: June 28
Time: 10 a.m. to 1
Place: St. James School
Features: Strawberry shortcake, strawberry sundaes, hotdogs and beverages

INDEPENDENCE DAY BREAKFAST
Norwood – St. Andrew’s Parish will be hosting the Annual St. Andrew’s Day Independence Day Breakfast.
Date: July 4
Time: 8 a.m. to 11:30
Cost: Adults, $6 advance, $7 at door; Children 6-12, $4 advance, $5 door; under 5, Free
Features: Join us for a pre-parade breakfast and 50/50 raffle drawing. Raffle tickets are 1 for $5 or 3 for $10

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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.
Local leaders: Father Bryan Stitt, Samantha Poulin, Jocelyn Kelly
Contact: www.heartworkcamp.com

FAMILY PILGRIMAGE
A diocesan family pilgrimage has been planned.
Date: July 18
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle LaMotte, Vermont.
Features: A brief introduction will familiarize pilgrims with the site. 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: Steve Tartaglia at the diocesan Family Life Office: startaglia@edony.org or at (315) 393-2920 Ext. 1420.
**Messengers of healing and hope**

How often in our own lives, in times of uncertainty, do we search for those who will offer a comforting presence, a word of hope or peace? For our mission family, these “messengers” are the priests and religious Sisters and Brothers who live and serve among them.

**The Society of St. Peter Apostle**

Future priests and religious are counting on your joining them as messengers of healing hope and peace. Know that seminarians throughout the Missions, offer their prayers of gratitude for your financial help.

As we are now firmly into the month of June in the Mission Office, the calendar reminds us of our annual appeal for prayer and sacrifice for the St. Peter the Apostle campaign. This awareness campaign where the pleas of Pontifical Mission Societies can be heard for assistance with our Missionary Priests, Brothers and Sisters in the Mission Lands takes place annually.

The help you send to the Society of St. Peter Apostle is given assistance to thousands of seminarians and hundreds of houses of formation for religious Sisters and Brothers in countries throughout Asia, Africa and the Pacific Islands, and parts of Europe and Latin America. But it is not enough as more help is needed each year to support the growing number of seminarians and those called to religious life. Additionally, there is a need for building new seminaries and convents, and repairing existing and old structures.

“As a priest, I want to reach those who are suffering,” says Napo, a seminarian at St. John Vianney Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa. During breaks from his studies, he returns to his village, visiting the sick and elderly at local hospitals while helping terminally ill find peace in their final days. In Rwanda, Eulade a seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary near Butare sees the continued need for healing more than 20 years after the genocide in his country. As a priest, he wants to be part of that. “I want to be there for people to come to me with their problems and fears,” Eulade says. “I see my priesthood as a gift to share with them, the gifts the Lord can offer through my service.”

Napo and Eulade are among the 30,000 seminarians throughout Asia and Africa who receive help for their studies through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Society of St. Peter Apostle

Mission seminarians receive about $700 in support each year or about $2 per day. This may seem high. But consider how it stacks up against what a college student in the United States pays for just textbooks each semester. Compare that to our need for vocations everywhere in the world and here in the USA. As these young men and women are called to follow Christ, you are called as well!

Can you help provide for their education and essential work in our Church? Please know that any gift matters and is gratefully received. God Bless!
GUGGENHEIM 2015

MEET THE STAFF

Anna Fisher

My name is Anna Fisher. I grew up in West Chazy where I attended St. Joseph's Church. I now study Environmental Planning and Management at SUNY Plattsburgh where I attend St. Peter's Church and Saint John XXIII Newman Center.

2014 was my first summer on staff and I am more than excited to be returning this year to the most challenging and rewarding job I have ever had.

Camp Guggenheim has truly changed my life and I hope the campers this summer have the same wonderful experience.

Maeve McCullough

Hi, my name is Maeve McCullough and I'm from Black River and attend Holy Family Church in Watertown. I am an Economics major with a minor in French at Siena College.

This is my second year working at Teen Camp and I am so excited to be back for another crazy, Christ-filled summer!

I cannot wait to meet all of the campers that will come through the gate this year and to make lasting memories with everyone.

Get ready to Hike, Swim, Praise!

Diane Medema

My name is Diane Medema. I was born in New Jersey and raised there until 8 years old when my policeman father decided to bring his family to be raised safer in the Adirondacks. So they bought a motel on the lake in Tupper Lake, and my love for the outdoors and the mountains was born.

I have a sister with cerebral palsy and spent my youth helping care for her, so I decided nursing would make a good career. I graduated from North Country Community College and worked at various hospitals and nursing homes until I married and had two boys. I felt it more important to raise them and stayed at home until they went to school. I then got a job at Head Start as a cook and am able to have time off with the boys. My older boy has an army scholarship at Michigan State and is finishing his first year, and my younger son is in 9th grade.

This is my first year working in the summer, and I am thrilled to work with you all at Camp Guggenheim. Looking forward to a fun summer!

Kathryn Petrelli

Hello readers. My name is Kathryn and I have previously camped at Guggenheim and I must say, it is one of my favorite places on earth. It is beautiful on its own with the amazing rock face and Saranac Mountain View. Once you add in the supportive staff, great campers and fantastic priests, it becomes unbeatable.

I fell in love with Guggenheim back in middle school. I attended Holy Family School in Malone and through them, a scholarship was offered. The diocese is very helpful if you cannot afford to go to camp. I received a full ride the first summer and my parish aided the next 6 summers. I can personally attest that Saint Andre Bessette parish helps. Thank you Father Joe, Father Tom, Father Bryan Stitt and Samantha Poulin!

This upcoming summer will be my first working at Guggenheim, but I hope there will be many more to come! I currently attend Saint Michael’s College and am a Dual Mathematics and Religious Studies major. Go Purple Knights!

Visit www.rcdony.org/youth for information & registration forms. Weekly sessions begin June 28