Parishes: welcoming families

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A church that lives according to the Gospel must always have its doors open and be a welcoming community, not "an exclusive, closed sect," Pope Francis said.

"Churches, parishes, institutions with closed doors must not call themselves a church; they must call themselves museums," he said to applause during his general audience in St. Peter's Square Sept. 9.

As part of a series of talks about the family, the pope focused on the close bond that should exist between the family and the Christian community.

The son of God chose to be born and immersed in the everyday life and routine of a simple family in a poor village, the pope said.

In fact, the family is where the "irreplaceable, indelible" start of one's life story begins," Pope Francis said, which is "why the family is so important."

Bishop LaValley also reflects on the importance of families in his "Follow Me" column on page 3.

Bishop’s Fund Appeal starts this weekend

The theme for this year’s Bishop’s Fund is “United as One Family, Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled.”

FULL STORY, PAGES 7, 9-12

Potsdam couple honored

Henry and Huguette Domingos received Bishop Edgar P.Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

First day jitters vanish at Trinity Catholic in Massena as students Verona Fregoe, Madeline Fregoe and Tori Cusworth bond over a pretend birthday party, complete with cake and candles, in Mrs. Witkop’s Pre-K class.

BACK TO SCHOOL: St. Mary’s in Ticonderoga rededicated after fire... p. 6
Family: one for all and all for one!

We’re hearing a lot about “family” in our church these days. Bishop LaValley addresses the topic in his “Follow Me” column this week as he writes about the upcoming World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the Bishops’ Synod on families which follows in October.

Pope Francis has families on his mind, as well.

Over the past several weeks, during his general audience, the pope has talked about parents, grandparents, children, family celebrations and family challenges. Last Wednesday, he reminded us that Jesus “chose to be born and immersed in the everyday life and routine of a simple family in a poor village.”

“In fact, the family is where the “irreplaceable, indelible” start of one’s life story begins,” Pope Francis said, which is “why the family is so important.”

Justifiably, there is much concern about the spiritual, emotional and physical health of families in our time.

We worry about young people who don’t see the value of marriage and parents who struggle to pass on their faith to their children.

So, it’s a good thing to be reminded that we’re not alone as we work to strengthen family life within our homes. We’re also part of a family of faith, filled with people who can lift us up when we fall. And, we have the privilege of helping others when we’re the strong ones.

That’s the message behind this year’s Bishop’s Fund Appeal with its theme “United as One Family.”

In the words of Bishop LaValley, “Family means putting others’ needs before our own, nurturing, guiding, teaching, showing compassion with an unending, unconditional love.”

“Every member of our family of faith is important,” he said, “every member.”

Each of our gifts to the Bishop’s Fund makes a difference as we strive to strengthen this family of faith in the North Country.

We help all of our brothers and sisters when we:

- educate our priests, seminarians, deacons and commissioned lay ministers
- build strong family and youth programs
- beach out to those among us who need our support, prayers and compassion through the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

And, that’s what families are all about!

The call to be a light for the world

Recently, I received an interesting request in an email from a couple who formerly lived in my parish and now live in South Carolina.

They explained that their daughter who is now in high school is going on a retreat. I remember this girl from grade school several years ago. Now she is beginning her junior year in high school.

At her school, the juniors start the school year with this retreat. As part of the retreat experience, the parents and others are encouraged to write a letter to the retreatant as an opportunity to encourage them and to tell them how they cared about them.

So, this mother, who reads my blog, contacted me, asking me to write a letter to her daughter while she is on retreat. I was pleased to be asked but I did take a while before I could decide what to write. What would you have written to her?

I decided to emphasize to her the teaching of Jesus that each one of us has been blessed with many unique talents and these talents are truly gifts from God.

The task for all Christians is to discover our God-given talents with the help of the Holy Spirit. Then we pray that God gives us the courage to use our abilities well and make them part of our lives.

The Christian life is about recognizing how much God loves us, how much God blesses us with the ability to live a good Christian life. The great love God has for us means we can live well and, in this way, make our world a better place.

In my letter to this young woman, I decided to use Jesus’ image of being a light for the world, an image for those who follow the Lord’s message.

This seemed such a good image: living a good life can be like a light for others, leading the way through the darkness of confusion and unhappiness. I hoped that this idea would impress this high school girl to realize that she can touch other and even make the world a better place without saying a word.

It is the message for all of us — to be a light for the world.

The pope is coming!

Speaking of being a light for the world, I am thinking of Pope Francis’ visit next week. Are you ready for the Pope’s visit? I’d be quite a week.

Pope Francis has already won the hearts of so many American Catholics as well as many who are not Catholic.

When I think of Pope Francis, I think of someone who truly likes people. I can see that in his eyes when he interacts with people. I also know that he recognizes the pain in the hearts of so many who are suffering. I think that is why mercy is so important to him, especially for the divorced and remarried.

I know myself that when I personally have been able to rectify a marriage so that couple can receive the sacraments, immense happiness is expressed by these folks. I know that Pope Francis realizes the longing in their hearts for the Holy Eucharist. Their happiness is huge and very, very evident.

Pope Francis will bring many messages to our country. I believe that one of those messages will be mercy. He wants the world to know how compassionate the Catholic Church is. This is a powerful message especially for all of us priests. Indeed, this is an important message for all of us. Pope Francis will work hard to reach all of us people.

Everybody is intrigued about this visit. There will be plenty on television to see. I learned that Time Warner is dedicating a television channel to all the details of the Pope’s visit.

I encourage you to listen carefully to the Pope’s words. I worry a bit about the many analysts — who will be interpreting the Pope’s message. Sometimes they put a bit of themselves in their analysis.

Listen carefully to the message the Pope has for us.
The Family Fully Alive

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

At his recent Wednesday General Audiences, Pope Francis has been sharing with the faithful reflections on the family in preparation for the Eighth World Meeting of Families which will be held in Philadelphia September 22-27, followed by the Fourteenth Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops which is scheduled to take place in Rome October 4-25.

Bishop LaValley looks ahead to the World Meeting of Families, Bishops’ Synod

The theme of the World Meeting of Families is “Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive.” The General Assembly of Bishops will focus on “The Vocation and the Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World.”

Both events heighten our awareness of the family as the irreplaceable building block of human society. In his talk on the family on December 17, 2014, the Holy Father reiterated the role of the family in God’s plan for our world and the Church. He stated:

Each Christian family can first of all — as Mary and Joseph did — welcome Jesus, listen to Him, speak with Him, guard Him, protect Him, grow with Him and in this way improve the world... This is the great mission of the family: to make room for Jesus who is coming, to welcome Jesus in the family, in each member: children, husband, wife, grandparents... Jesus is there. Welcome him there, in order that He grow spiritually in the family.

At the heart of the Pope’s words and of the agendas of the forthcoming meetings is the call for the family to retrieve its purpose and its meaning as a community of love that manifests the Face of God through the faithful and conjugal love of man and woman and in the relationship of parent and child.

Such a calling emphasizes our ongoing need for conversion through purification of thoughts and hearts, along with challenging the falsehoods spoken these days in the name of “love” and “freedom”. These gatherings will remind us that such conversion and the truth it voices comes not from individual interpretation and rulings, but from the Church gathered in prayer and open to the ongoing instruction of Scripture and Tradition as handed on by the Church’s Magisterium, i.e., the Pope and the Bishops in communion with him.

What then is the World Meeting of Families?

It is a week-long international event of prayer, catechesis, and celebration that draws participants from around the globe. It seeks to strengthen the bonds between families and witness to the crucial importance of marriage and the family to all of society.

The World Meeting of Families consists of a Theological Adult Congress, and a concurrent Youth Congress, followed by The Festival of Families and the Papal Mass.

Saint John Paul II, in response to the need of families everywhere, asked the Pontifical Council for the Family to organize the first World Meeting of Families held in Rome in 1994. Others have been held in Rio de Janeiro (1997); Rome (2000); Manila (2003); Valencia (2006); Mexico City (2009); Milan (2012); and now, Philadelphia (2015).

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will have a delegation of ten members in attendance. Father Douglas Lucia, Episcopal Vicar for Worship and Family Life, and Mr. Stephen Tartaglia, the Director of the Family Life Office, will lead our group. They will participate in the various liturgies, workshops, and activities of the week and be present for the closing Papal Mass on Sunday, September 27th.

This summer, Stephen Tartaglia and Marika Donders from the Office of Evangelization travelled to different regions of our Diocese to share with interested persons the purpose of the event and its accompanying catechesis.

The following week, selected bishops will gather for the Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops, also referred to as the Synod of Bishops. A Synod of Bishops is a permanent institution of the Catholic Church. It was established by Blessed Pope Paul VI in 1965, shortly after the close of the Second Vatican Council, to continue the spirit of collegiality and communion that was present at the Council.

The Synod is a representative assembly of bishops chosen from around the world who assist the Holy Father by providing counsel on important questions facing the Church in a manner that preserves the Church’s teaching and strengthens her internal discipline. The selected delegation of bishops from the United States will be led by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, USCCB President.

Both events are meant to heighten our awareness of the family as the irreplaceable building block of human society.

Pope Francis, in an April 1st letter to the Synod’s General Secretary, Archbishop Baldacchini, made it clear that he desires this synod to have real power to deliberate on major questions, just as it did in the early centuries of Christianity. After the conclusion of the synod, it is common for the Holy Father to issue a substantive document, called a post-synodal apostolic exhortation, which addresses the themes of the Synod and applies them to the everyday life of the Church.

As noted above, the theme of this encounter of world bishops is the Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and World. The Instrumentum Laboris serves as the “working document” for the Ordinary Synod.

The first section includes an overall summary of the questionnaires that were distributed worldwide for the Local Conference of Bishops to provide input for the General Assembly of Bishops. You will recall that these questions were widely distributed in our diocese for parishioner input.

A key theme of this Synod will be evangelization – the sharing of the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus Christ. That really is the whole purpose of these upcoming meetings and Pope Francis’ visit to the United States.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
Bishop LaValley presents the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service

Henry and Huguette Domingos honored

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Henry and Huguette Domingos of Potsdam at a luncheon at Bishop LaValley's residence Sept. 11.

The Bishop Wadhams Award was instituted by Bishop Paul Loverde, the eleventh Bishop of Ogdensburg, in 1996, to recognize exceptional service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg by people of the North Country.

Recipients of the Award include Father Richard Siepka (former rector of Wadhams Hall Seminary), Monsignor Lawrence M. Denu (former Superintendent of Catholic Schools), Mrs. Mary Lou Kilian (Editor of the North Country Catholic), Monsignor Robert Giroux (former Vicar General), Dr. Gerald Irwin (former professor at Wadhams Hall and Peritus for the Diocesan Tribunal), Sister Kathryn Healy (Chaplain, St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center), Dr. A. B. DeGrandpre (former Knight of the Holy Sepulcher, friend and benefactor of St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute and Seton Catholic Central School), Clyde A. Lewis, Sr. (Knight of Malta, formation of Bishop's Heritage Circle) and Thomas and Claudia Sanders (Pre-Cana directors and hosts in the international student program at Seton Catholic High School).

In bestowing the award on Henry and Huguette, Bishop LaValley noted both the quality and the length of their service to the Church. Bishop LaValley stated, "Hank and Huguette Domingos have been a wonderful model for married couples. This faith-filled couple has grown together in love and has reached out to serve their brothers and sisters in the Church. Hank shared his love of the Scriptures by teaching in the Formation for Ministry Program, by serving as a member of the Formation for Ministry Advisory Board, bringing communion to the sick and homebound, and lectoring at Mass; all with the constant support and encouragement of Huguette. Huguette and Hank were instrumental in founding the Serra Club for the promotion of vocations, and their outstanding example of piety and service of the poor and sick. In recognition of their outstanding service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the Church, this award is bestowed as a sign of our gratitude and respect. In witness whereof, I have signed this award and placed upon it the seal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg this 11th day of September, 2015.

Bishop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In his September 2nd General Audience, the Holy Father emphasized the urgency of evangelization in today's world:

Indeed, the family's covenant with God is called today to counteract the community desertification of the modern city. But the lack of love and smiling has turned our cities into deserts. So much entertainment, so many things for wasting time, for making laughter, but love is lacking.

The smile of a family can overcome this desertification of our cities. This is the victory of family love. No economic and political engineering can substitute this contribution of families. The Babel project builds lifeless skyscrapers. The Spirit of God instead makes the desert fruitful (cf. Is 32:15). We must come out of the towers and from the armored vaults of the elite, to again spend time in the homes and open spaces of the multitudes, open to the love of families.

I invite all the faithful from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg to pray that the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all the pilgrims as they set out to support and to celebrate our families during the week in Philadelphia, as well as those pilgrims taking buses for the Papal Mass on September 27.

Following both the World Meeting of Families and the Synod of Bishops, we will embrace opportunities to bring the fruits of these international gatherings to our individual parishes in the North Country.

Let us make our own this prayer for the upcoming synod and pray it in our families:

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division. May all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer. Amen.
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September 20th - 27th

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NEW LIFE AT ST. MARY’S

Catholic school in Ticonderoga is rededicated after extensive renovations and repairs.

PHOTOS COURTESY SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH FACEBOOK PAGE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley prepares to bless the remodeled St. Mary’s School in Ticonderoga during a Sept. 6 rededication ceremony. The school opened its doors to students one year after it was destroyed by fire on the second day of school in September, 2014. Last year, classes were held in the church basement and Ticonderoga Methodist Church. Bishop LaValley recognized the efforts of Father Kevin McEwan, pastor; shown above next to the bishop; St. Joseph Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, principal; faculty; parents; students and benefactors for ensuring that school re-opened.

Sister Sharon Anne and friends of St. Mary’s School join the bishop in prayer during the rededication.

The day began with Mass at St. Mary’s Church. Concelebrating with Bishop LaValley were Father Brian D. Stitt, above center, a graduate of St. Mary’s School; Father Kevin D. McEwan, pastor; and Father William G. Muench, former pastor (not shown.).

Inspirational messages line the walls of St. Mary’s School.
United as One Family

By Valerie Mathews
Bishop’s Fund director

The summer heat will soon fade and give way to the cool crisp days and nights of autumn. For many families, home heating fuel is ordered in anticipation of the cooler days ahead. Other families, however, face the cooler weather with anxiety, “how are we going to keep our home warm this winter? How will we pay for home heating costs on top of being out of work or while someone in our family is ill?”

Through the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund, a ministry of the Bishop’s Fund Appeal, pastors are able to make requests to Bishop LaValley for emergency grants on behalf of families and individuals in need during times of hardship.

It is through the generosity of Catholics throughout the Diocese who support the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal that these grants are able to bring hope in times of despair. As Pope Francis says so beautifully, “We Christians are called to go out of ourselves to bring the mercy and tenderness of God to all.”

This year’s Bishop’s Fund goal is $1,280,000. Any funds raised over the goal will be used to supplement the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund. Along with reaching out to those in need, we continue on our journey of Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones.

Your support of the Bishop’s Fund Appeal continues to be crucial to these priorities and the following ministries supported by your generosity: Education of Seminarians, Family Life Office, Natural Family Planning Office, Respect Life Ministry, Formation for Ministry Program, Office of the New Evangelization, Continuing Education and Formation of Priests, Priests’ Graduate Studies, Vocation Office, Permanent Deacons, Deacon Formation, Tuition Assistance Program, Campus Ministry Program, Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools, Department of Faith Formation, Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Gugenheim Center and Department of Worship.

The Bishop’s Fund Appeal will begin in all parishes across the Diocese the weekend of Sept. 19-20. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider a gift to the 2015 Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Every gift, no matter the size is important. Donations can be mailed to: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, New York 13669 or made online at www.rcdony.org/development.

To learn more about the Appeal and to view the 2015 Bishop’s Fund Video, visit our website at www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal.

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For only $25 your name will appear as a supporter of human life from conception through natural death.

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**Bishop’s Schedule**

- Sept. 17 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral followed by a picnic at the Bishop’s Residence with the home schooled children of the diocese.
- Sept. 18 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
- Sept. 19 – 9:15 a.m., 500th Anniversary Mass for the Carmelites at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 2 p.m., Religious Profession of Sr. Mary Catherine Pham at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown
- Sept. 20 – 2:30 p.m., Marriage Jubilee Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Sept. 21 – 9:30 a.m., Opening School Mass and Visit to Immaculate Heart Central Jr./Sr. High School, Watertown
- Sept. 24-25 – Papal Visit in Washington, D.C. and New York City

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**Rest in Peace**

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

- Sept. 16 – Rev. Alphonse Nolin, O.M.I., 1936
- Sept. 18 – Rev. Charles E. Campeau, 1952
- Sept. 21 – Rev. M. Stanton, 1908; Rev. Michael J. Brown, 1917; Rev. Wilbert LeBeau, 1953

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**Environmental Stewardship**

**Pope Francis, the Encyclical and You**

In paragraph 22 of his Laudato Si encyclical on the environment, Pope Francis writes, “the way natural ecosystems work is exemplary: plants synthesize nutrients which feed herbivores; these in turn become food for carnivores, which produce significant quantities of organic waste which give rise to new generations of plants. But our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and byproducts. We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations…”

But in paragraph 13, as quoted by Bishop LaValley in the North Country Catholic, Pope Francis writes, “Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home.”

So, with action, there is hope! What’s going on in your community, and what are you doing in your homes toward this end?

One local example is dairy farms that take waste from paper mills and convert it, ultimately, to topsoil. The process starts with using the waste first for clean, comfortable bedding for the animals, and then as it mixes with manure and is incorporated with the land, breaks down to topsoil. In Jefferson County alone, hundreds of truckloads of pulp waste are diverted from landfills each year.

Recycling paper is a major way to involve the family and open eyes to the “process of possibilities.” Are you looking for innovative ways to efficiently reuse at home and at work? Take the challenge!

Submitted by Member of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee

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**Protecting God’s Children**

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440

Upcoming sessions:
- Sept. 16 – 6 p.m., St. Mary’s School, Ticonderoga
- Sept. 24 – 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone
- Oct. 14 – 6 p.m., St. Augustine’s Church, North Bangor
- Oct. 14 – 6:30 p.m., St. James Church, Gouverneur

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**To Report Abuse**

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

**Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terri-anne Vanlulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY, 12923; e-mail: terrianneyvanlulavich@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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www.twitter.com/Pontifex

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**Visit our website**

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

Find us on Facebook!
United as one Family

Christ-led
Christ-fed
Hope-filled

The 2015 Bishop’s Fund Appeal
Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ,

“We who are Christians, members of God’s family, are called to go out to the needy and to serve them”, these words from Pope Francis reminds us of the importance of being “United as One Family” reaching out to those in need and serving one another. Family means putting others before ourselves; nurturing, guiding, teaching, showing compassion with an unending, unconditional love. Every member of our family of faith is important, every member.

Last year, we prayerfully set out on a journey to strengthen the family of faith here in the North Country. As we continue on our journey of Creating a Culture of Vocations, Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life and Building Parishes with Living Stones, your support of the Bishop’s Fund Appeal continues to be crucial.

As a family of faith, we strive to be “Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled” as we:

- Educate our priests, seminarians, deacons and commissioned lay ministers through programs such as the Continuing Education of Priests, Priests’ Graduate Studies, Education of Seminarians, Vocations, Deacon Formation and Formation for Ministry.
- Build strong family and youth programs through Family Life Ministry and Youth Ministry.
- Reach out to those among us who need our support, prayers and compassion through the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

It is only through your help that we are able to continue these vital programs which serve so many in our beautiful Diocese. In this year’s Appeal, it is our hope to reach a goal of $1,280,000. All gifts received after our goal is reached will be used to provide emergency grants to families and individuals in need through the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

Grateful for your past support, I invite you to continue to be “United as One Family” and support the 2015 Bishop’s Fund Appeal through your prayers, encouragement and financial assistance.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

For more information and to view the 2015 Bishop’s Fund Video, please visit www.rcdony.org/bfavideo
My name is Leagon Carlin, I am 18 years old, and currently a first year seminarian studying for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. As a seminarian, I rely greatly on the financial aid which I receive from the Bishop’s Fund to allow me the freedom to focus on prayer, study, and my formation as a servant to the people of God. Through the generosity of the wonderful people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, it is possible for the Bishop’s Fund to give me this essential financial aid which helps me immensely as I discern along the path towards the priesthood. I am incredibly thankful to those who contribute to the Bishop’s Fund, no matter what amount they give, for granting me the opportunity to study for this vocation of service which I feel God calling me to.

Leagon of Plattsburgh, New York

When you’re married to someone who is extremely ill and you both know what the outcome of that illness will be, you don’t want to waste any time. You talk often about anything and everything. Including how our family was going to survive without him. I think my husband was trying to prepare me for what was going to happen in the future.

My husband and I contributed to the Bishop’s Fund over the years, when we were able to. We always thought it was important to give to others, because we felt like we had so much. We wanted our children to know how important it was to put others first, before themselves. We never thought of ourselves as a family who needed help. We had each other.

The day my husband passed away, co-workers, friends, friends from church and others, started arriving at our house. Many came to give us their love and support, others with food and still others with offers to help with anything we needed done – from car repairs to working on our house. Many of these people we knew. Some we didn’t. They had heard of our loss and wanted us to know they were thinking of us and we were in their prayers.

The outpouring of love, kindness and compassion was astonishing to me. I never realized so many people cared about us. When a check from the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund arrived in the mail, I was overcome with emotion. I had not realized, until then, that we were a family who needed help too. It was humbling to be the recipient of such a gift.

It’s been six months since my husband passed away. Each day is new and another first day without him. I can’t say it’s been easy. It hasn’t. It’s been emotionally draining and sorrowful. However, with the love we have for the Lord, each other, our friends, good neighbors and our church family, we will make it through this most difficult and trying first year. We will have a new outlook on life, one with hope for the future because we know we are not in this alone.

Lorna of Tupper Lake, New York

Since my conversion to Catholicism a little over six years ago, I have found the “beauty and genius” in it and realized there is much more to this faith than coming to Mass once a week. Along with the encouragement and support of my loving wife and two faithful friends, and fervent prayer, I was led to enter the Formation for Ministry Program.

As a Lay Minister in the church today, your talents and gifts can be effectively employed in assisting with liturgical matters, catechetical matters such as RCIA or Youth Ministry, with sub-specialties such as outreach, social justice, pastoral care, respect life and other missions. Or, your talents can be applied to parish business administration and general parish service.

I would encourage you to prayerfully consider taking up your role in your parish through participating in the Formation for Ministry Program. The only investment is your time, since the expense of the program is covered through the Bishops Fund Appeal. The role of the laity in the Church is not, and has never been, simply to fill the pews one day a week. The health, growth, and most importantly the “harvest” of the vineyard is a result of what each of us do when we elect to employ and share our talents in the life of the church.

Noel of Evans Mills, New York

The first time I went to Guggenheim I was nervous and excited at the same time. Once I got there I knew I didn’t have to worry about being judged, the feeling of God’s acceptance was there in the counselors and other campers, I loved it. When we got there, one of the counselors had a unique way of telling us to be ourselves. She was pretending to be from Wales. Later that day she told us it was fake. What she was trying to say is that we should be ourselves. When we were being ourselves we made real friends.

Not fake ones. I like this story because it inspired me to be myself. Camp changed me, I felt the Holy Spirit open my eyes to God’s love. One of my favorite things about camp was that it is a place where I was free to talk about God without judgement from others, we were all there for the same reasons. This will be my third year going to Guggenheim and I’m counting the weeks down to another summer of happiness with God.

Another thing that inspires me to be myself is the annual Youth Rally. There was a feeling of acceptance and God’s love the entire day, it was powerful and inspiring to be around so many people my age with the same faith and love for God. That is a great feeling. I was able to see many different types of religious life, meet new people and learn how God loves us always. We all left the Youth Rally with a feeling that God would always accept us and be with us always. I want to keep that feeling in my heart. I am very blessed to be able to participate in these two very special programs our Diocese offers.

Thank you. ~ Ciara of Malone, New York

Being Catholic began with my parents, as they were the ones who took the extra effort to make sure we were at Mass each week. After having children of our own, we now realize how this can be a major feat at times. One of the most encouraging things was when people would come up to us after Mass and say how glad they were to see the kids with us. They loved watching the children grow and encouraged us to keep doing whatever it was we were doing.

Church is like our “reset button for the week.” It’s what grounds us and makes us realize what life is all about, along with what should be important to us. As parents, we view Church as a very important part of our lives, and as Catholic parents, passing our faith on to our children is even more vital. It all essentially comes back to my parents, who taught me and I hope that someday our children will teach the same to their own children. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for our family in the future. We have hope that this gift of faith continues to grow in each of us, and those who come into our lives.

Mike and Sheila of Ogdensburg, New York
United as one Family

The Bishop's Fund Appeal

provides financial assistance to the vital ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The following are among the ministries supported:

- Education of Seminarians
- Family Life Office
- Natural Family Planning Office
- Respect Life Ministry
- Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund
- Formation for Ministry Program
- Office of the New Evangelization
- Continuing Education and Formation of Priests
- Priests' Graduate Studies
- Vocation Office
- Permanent Deacons
- Deacon Formation
- Tuition Assistance Program
- Campus Ministry Program
- Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools
- Department of Faith Formation
- Diocesan Center of Youth Ministry
- Young Adult Ministry
- Guggenheim Center
- Department of Worship

Ways to Give

Gifts of Cash: Checks should be made payable to the “Bishop’s Fund Appeal.”

Pledge: A gift to the Bishop’s Fund Appeal may be paid in four payments - at the time of the pledge, December, February and April.

Gifts of Securities: Federal tax laws allow a charitable deduction for the full market value of the securities on the date of your gift.

Matching Gifts: Many companies endeavor to match the charitable contributions of employees. Please contact your company’s Human Resource Department to determine if your company participates in the Matching Gift Program for Catholic Schools.

Bequests: When considering gifts to a charity in your Will, please remember the Bishop’s Fund Appeal. Gifts can be made in the following manner through your Will: Specific dollar amount; a percentage of your estate or a particular asset such as real estate or other valuables.

Online Giving: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal offers the opportunity to make your gift and pledge payments online using a credit card. To donate online, please visit www.rcdony.org/bishop-s-fund-appeal and click on Donate Now (found in the tool bar on the left).

Please help to support the 2015 Bishop’s Fund Appeal
Give Generously
Goal: $1,280,000
Local Catholics prepare to travel to see Pope Francis

Among more than one million people expected to travel to Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. or New York City to join Pope Francis for his first visit to the United States are Bishop Terry R. LaValley and scores of Catholics from the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Bishop LaValley plans to attend an 11:30 a.m. midday prayer Sept. 23 with Pope Francis and other U.S. bishops at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington.

Later in the day Bishop LaValley will be in attendance as Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra, a Spanish-born Franciscan Friar credited with starting nine Spanish missions in California in the 1700s.

While in the nation’s capital, Sept. 24, Pope Francis will also address Congress. Rep. Elise Stefanik, like each of the U.S. Senators and members of the House of Representatives, was allowed to invite one guest to attend the session. She selected Bob White, a Catholic lawyer from Saranac Lake.

According to a report in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, Stefanik said, “Bob is a friend and a man of deep faith and I am honored to extend my invitation to him.”

The Enterprise article continues:

White, a Conservative Party committee member, helped the Republican from Williston in her campaign last year, but he said they hadn’t had a one-on-one conversation since the election until a few weeks ago, when she happened to be in Saranac Lake. They had lunch at the Belvedere Restaurant.

“Just as we were getting ready to leave, she said, ‘Oh, the pope is going to be addressing Congress, and I’m allotted one ticket. Would you like to have it?’” White said.

“There’s only one person on earth that I would take the time, trouble and expense to go to Washington, D.C., to hear, and it’s the pope,” White told the Enterprise.

Pope Francis moves from Washington to New York City on Sept. 25. Bishop LaValley is scheduled to attend a multi-religious service with the pontiff at 11:30 a.m. at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, World Trade Center building.

That service will be followed by a 6 p.m. Mass at Madison Square Garden. The Diocese of Ogdensburg received 200 tickets which were claimed within a day of the announcement that they were available.

On to Philadelphia

The pope will spend the last two days of his trip to the United States in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Four 52-passenger busses will be traveling from points in the North Country to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in downtown Philadelphia for a Papal Mass Sept 27.

Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan director of family life, has organized the bus trips and, along with Father Douglas J. Lucia, will also lead a diocesan delegation at the World Meeting of Families earlier in the week.

Father Lucia, pastor of St. Mary’s in Canton, also serves the diocese as episcopal vicar for worship and family life. The other delegates are Pamela Ballantine, Plattsburgh regional director of faith formation; Jamie Burns, teacher and DRE at St. Mary’s Parish in Canton; Marika Donders, director of the diocesan Office of the New Evangelization; Father Thomas Higman, parochial vicar of St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake; Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader, diocesan Pre-Cana coordinators; and John and Colleen Miner, diocesan directors of respect life ministry.

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CAR RAFFLE

Our Annual Car Raffle is underway. Tickets will be sold after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. They are also available at the rectory Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drawing will be held after the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday October 11, 2015 and the winner may choose the car or $15,000 in cash.

The price for the ticket is $20 or six (6) tickets for $100 with all proceeds going to St. Agnes School.

The car this year is a 2016 Subaru Outback fully equipped from Jerry Strack of Central Garage here in Lake Placid.

If you wish to buy tickets by mail, please fill out the form & enclose your check made out to St. Agnes Church.

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You do not have to be present to win.
Parades in Philadelphia will give most onlookers a glimpse of the pope

By Matt Gambino
Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) - If you were on the proverbial fence about joining the hundreds of thousands of people in Philadelphia during Pope Francis' visit to the city, the invitation just got sweeter.

Two papal parades will allow virtually every onlooker a glimpse of the pope as he passes by along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, site of the Festival of Families Sept. 26 and the papal Mass Sept. 27.

In addition, 30,000 tickets were being made available to people throughout the Philadelphia region and beyond who wish to get good lines of sight on the parkway for the historic events.

Those two new developments emerged in a news conference with Donna Crilley Farrell, executive director of the World Meeting of Families, Sept. 3 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center in Philadelphia.

Farrell fielded questions from local media for an hour, reflecting a growing chorus of concerns by residents and visitors over difficulty accessing the papal events.

The new initiatives, long in the planning but just announced, may help alleviate the fears that potential participants may have over transportation, security and access to events.

A sticking point for many was the introduction of tickets for parkway events that had previously been touted as unticketed.

"We hear what their concerns are, but it's going to be OK," Farrell said. "We're sorry people were concerned. We totally get it -- everybody wants to see the pope."

The addition of 10,000 tickets for the Festival of Families, 10,000 for the papal Mass and 10,000 for the pope's address at Independence Hall on Saturday should help broaden access for people who want to witness the papal events in person, Farrell added.

Two papal parades will allow virtually every onlooker a glimpse of the pope as he passes by along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, site of the Festival of Families Sept. 26 and the papal Mass Sept. 27.

Tickets to the Independence Hall address became available online only at www.worldmeeting2015.org beginning at noon Sept. 8, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Within two minutes they were all gone, and according to the Philadelphia Archdiocese, 394,000 visitors had come to the website in just that period of time.

The 10,000 tickets to the Sept. 26 and 27 events on the parkway were made available starting at noon Sept. 9.

The motorcade by Pope Francis the afternoon of Sept. 26 will take him from Eakins Oval in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art down the parkway from 24th Street all the way to City Hall to see the pope before the start of the 5 p.m. Festival of Families, a cultural and musical celebration that will include an address by the pope.

The following day, he will embark on another parade on the parkway, but this one on a shorter route to ensure the 4 p.m. Mass at Eakins Oval begins on time.

While officials did not confirm Pope Francis would travel in the popemobile, he had done so to greet crowds as recently as his July visit to Ecuador. In that visit, he used a converted Jeep Wrangler, painted white of course. The Vatican confirmed several popemobiles had already been shipped to the United States.

Once the pope settles into the staging area at Eakins Oval, people in much of central city and particularly the Francis Festival zone will be able to watch all the events on large, elevated Jumbotron TV screens at 40 locations.

On both days before he arrives, people will have preceded him by many hours. Those with tickets will have passed through checkpoints at several locations to enter the secure zone.

A number of personal items will not be allowed into that zone, among them bicycles, hard-surface coolers, balloons and backpacks larger than 18-by-13-by-7 inches.

Some questions remained, such as bicycle access as a transportation alternative, whether parking may become available for those who attempt to drive and the locations for distribution of Communion during the papal Mass. But as the events drew nearer, their details were beginning to catch up with the excitement that has been building among people for most of the past year.

Whatever the number of attendees is tallied after the pope returns to Rome, residents will reflect for years on what Farrell predicted would be "a transformational experience for the city of Philadelphia."
Stephen Colbert discusses faith, joy, humor

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Stephen Colbert, who took over Sept. 8 as host of CBS' "Late Night" program, said in an interview for Canada's Salt + Light Television that his "Colbert Report" character was intended to be a "well-intentioned, poorly informed, high-status idiot."

"I would say he's a fool. And though Christ says, 'Call no man fool,' I am one," Colbert said. "Willing to be wrong in society or wrong according to our time, but right according to conscience which is guided by the Holy Spirit."

That character, which tickled American funny bones for nine years on Comedy Central, has been discarded for Colbert's new persona as late-night talk show host.

Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, Salt + Light's founding director, interviewed Colbert and said at one point during the interview that the comedian was "bigger than three popes." But Colbert corrected him.

"You can't be bigger than three popes. You can only be bigger that two popes -- that's the most we've ever had at one time," Colbert said. "Oh! Except during Avignon, I guess there were three popes at one point, right?"

Sporting a full beard so white and curly that it could have been worn by Santa Claus, Colbert, 51, a lifelong Catholic, said he told his "Colbert Report" show staff that their workplace was "the joy machine."

"You don't want to bank down your ambitions so you'll do a really hard show in a really hard schedule, and somehow when it was hardest, it would often feel the most joyful or often does feel the most joyful. And that's when I would sort of jokingly call it the joy machine," he said.

"But it's sort of true because the only way to approach something that is truly hard has got to be with joy, because if you don't approach it with joy, it's just a machine. And it will grind you up. And the lesson that I took from that is that: Doing something joyfully doesn't make it any easier, it only makes it better. And also, it makes it communal -- that we're all doing it together. When you work in fear, or when you work in distress, you often feel alone. But jokes, laughter, humor, joy whatever you want to call it, it connects people."

Asked what he might ask Pope Francis were he to be a guest on his new show, Colbert replied, "I would ask him about how love leads him to joy, or does love lead him to joy?"

Colbert added that he would ask the pope "about being a fool for Christ," because "to be a fool for Christ is to love, because we are made, we are here to dig our brief moment in time."

"And I would ask him how he puts that first. Because, how you get to where you are in the church and not to be consumed by the law as opposed to the love that led to the law?"

Colbert said the name of "The Colbert Report," with the "T" silent in each word, came about because "to an American ear anything that sounds French is a little, you know," using a finger to push up the tip of his nose, "a little snooty, a little frou-frou and so, and I'm 'coal-BEAR.' I was born COAL-bert. My father's a COAL-bert, my brothers and sisters are COAL-bert. I'm one of 11 kids and half of us are Coal-BEAR and half of us are COAL-bert because my father says you can choose what you want. So I chose coal-BEAR because I'm essentially a pretentious person."

He also engaged in a bit of wordplay with Father Rosica, needling him for being part of an order founded by St. Basil.


When Father Rosica suggested "St. Grappa" -- an Italian drink -- Colbert exclaimed, "St. Grappa! I have worshipped. I have worshipped at the porcelain throne of St. Grappa."
**Following the way that leads to truth, justice**

In the first reading, the corrupt power people are plotting to get rid of a Holy One who is exposing their evil. *Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us.* Like scheming back-room politicians, they are saying, *He’s a pain! Get rid of him!* They plot to torture him, and eventually kill him! Of course, the just one wins out in the end since, in his wisdom, he is following the way that leads to truth and justice. All wisdom must be rooted in humility, peacefulness, and gentleness. It’s the only way to avoid the jealousy and envy of those who seek to harm us.

In the second reading for this week, St. James warns the early Christians to avoid self-seeking and envy. This only leads to dissention, quarreling, and war. The true follower of Jesus will seek that wisdom that is “peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity.” According to St. James, wisdom leads to good order and peace.

In the Gospel, the disciples of Jesus are so busy arguing about which one is going to be greatest in the Kingdom, that they really miss what Jesus is trying to tell them.

For the second time, he is attempting to explain that soon he must suffer and die, and on the third day, to rise from the dead. When they arrive at a house in Capernaum, Jesus asks them what they were arguing about on the way. He knows very well that they had not been listening, so he tells them that any follower of his must be a servant to others.

Placing a small child in the middle of the group, he declares that the trust and love they see in the eyes of this little one is a model for their future discipleship. Just five days from now, we should all be “glued” to our TV sets that we may listen and be nourished by the true wisdom that Pope Francis brings to the United States in these precious days. What a blessing has come to our land!

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**Marriage is forever; reform doesn’t change that**

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) -** Pope Francis’ reformed rules for marriage annulment cases, making the process simpler, quicker and less expensive, respond to calls that bishops have been making since before the 1980 Synod of Bishops on the family convened by St. John Paul II.

Catholic marriage tribunals do not dissolve marriages, but assess whether or not a valid sacramental marriage was present from the beginning. Catholics whose first unions are declared “null” - meaning there never was a marriage - are free to marry in the church and receive the sacraments, including reconciliation and Communion.

With the new rules released Sept. 8, Pope Francis made the process quicker, but did not make it easier for couples to prove a union was not a marriage. He removed the requirement that all decrees of nullity must be confirmed by a second panel of judges; he urged dioceses around the world to make the process free or as close to free as possible; and he established a “brief process” by which diocesan bishops can recognize the nullity of a union when both parties agree and have overwhelming proof their union did not meet at least one of the Catholic Church’s requirements for a sacramental marriage.

According to the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: “A valid Catholic marriage results from five elements: (1) the spouses are free to marry; (2) they freely exchange their consent; (3) in consenting to marry, they have the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and be open to children; (4) they intend the good of each other; and (5) their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized church minister.”

The need to reform the annulment process and cut the costs was supported by an overwhelming majority of bishops - about 90 percent - at last year’s extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family.

Pope Francis’ new rules respond to that request. He said that except for what is needed for an appropriate salary for tribunal workers, the annulment process should be free “so that, in a matter so closely tied to the salvation of souls, the church - by demonstrating to the faithful that she is a generous mother - may demonstrate the gratuitous love of Christ, which saves us all.”

The U.S. bishops’ website notes that the fees vary from diocese to diocese within the United States with several dioceses (including the Diocese of Ogdensburg) already waiving all fees. "Most tribunals charge between $200 and $1,000 for a formal case depending on how much the diocese subsidizes the work of the tribunal," the bishops’ website says.

According to the Statistical Yearbook of the Church 2013, a Vatican-published catalogue of statistics, just over 26 percent of the cases in the United States are heard for free; close to 30 percent require partial payment by the petitioner; and in 44 percent of the cases, the petitioners pay all costs.

According to the U.S. bishops’ website, the time it takes to complete the process “can vary from diocese to diocese, often taking 12 to 18 months or longer in some cases.”

Msgr. Pinto, who was president of the commission that drafted the new rules, told reporters that most processes worldwide take “not less than two years and up to five years, but sometimes 10 years.”

Although the new rules respond to most bishops’ sense that the annulment process was too cumbersome, they do not resolve all the cases of Catholics who want to return to the sacraments after they are divorced and civilly remarried without having an annulment.

When German Cardinal Walter Kasper, a well-known theologian, former diocesan bishop and Vatican official, suggested to the College of Cardinals in February 2014 the possibility of a penitential process that could lead some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics back to the sacraments without an annulment, he insisted it would respond to the needs only of a small portion of divorced and remarried Catholics.

Most should seek an annulment, he said. For those who have little or no chance of proving their initial union was not a marriage and cannot leave their current partner, the penitential path would - in a reflection of God’s mercy - tolerate their second union and allow them to receive Communion.

It would not entail denying their sacramental marriage was indissoluble and it would not permit them to marry again in the church, Cardinal Kasper said. The “penitential path” option still is expected to be debated at the world Synod of Bishops in October.

Cardinal Kasper and others insist mercy is the highest expression of God’s justice and love, and that the church has the power to forgive those couples, who want to start again, living the Catholic faith in their new relationship.

Other church leaders insist just as strongly that Jesus himself made it impossible to dissolve a valid marriage and that without a decree stating the valid marriage never existed couples in a new union are, in effect, living in adultery.
The Visit

By John P. McCarthy
Catholic News Service

Humor is not the first thing one associates with an M. Night Shyamalan movie. Since he captivated audiences in 1999 with the supernatural puzzler "The Sixth Sense," the writer-director has specialized in deadly serious tales involving paranormal phenomena.

Which is why it's so surprising that "The Visit" (Universal) elicits abundant laughter, most of it by design. As expected, the film is quite spooky, offering ample opportunity for viewers to be startled and shriek. But the comedy is integral and more than a relief valve.

Two talented young actors play the lead roles. Olivia DeJonge is 15-year-old Becca, a budding moviemaker who tries to gain insight into her broken family by filming a documentary. Her mother (Kathryn Hahn) left home at 19 after falling for an older man, whom she married and with whom she had two children. After Becca came Tyler (Ed Oxenbould), now an aspiring rapper with a germ phobia. Five years ago, their father took off and their parents subsequently divorced.

Their mother has never reconciled with her parents, but has agreed to send the children for a weeklong visit in the Pennsylvania farmhouse where she was raised. A keen student of film, Becca wants answers and is committed to documenting the trip, with Tyler's sometimes-reluctant help. Armed with cameras, a laptop computer and other equipment, they meet their grandparents for the first time.

While warm and welcoming, Nana (Deanna Dunagan) and Pop Pop (Peter McRobbie) exhibit peculiar behavior from the outset. Nana, who plies them with delicious food and baked goods, is prone to night terrors and sudden mood swings. In addition to hiding something mysterious in his shed, Pop Pop insists the kids avoid the basement and never leave their room after 9:30 p.m.

Attributing their strange conduct to the mental and physical infirmities brought by old age won't suffice. The atmosphere of dread and menace is heightened by the wintertime locale, the neatness of the colonial-era home, and the existence of a health care facility nearby where Nana and Pop Pop volunteer as counselors.

Becca's movie-within-the-movie is not an original de-

vice (see "The Blair Witch Project" and "Paranormal Activity" series). Yet the jumpy hand-held photography it occasions is well executed and the technical work overall is unimpeachable.

In his attempt to avoid presenting a run-of-the-mill horror-comedy, Shyamalan weaves in several weighty themes. "The Visit" can be read as a mild critique of the dangerous allure of storytelling -- of getting so caught up in communicating a narrative that one ignores real life's actual perils and predicaments. More specifically, he draws attention to our obsession with experiencing life through a lens, screen or other electronic device. Becca is so absorbed in the process of creating her documentary that she's blind to the fact that something is horribly amiss with her elderly relatives.

Shyamalan also tackles on a laudatory message about the power of forgiveness and the necessity of overcoming anger. Nevertheless, any lesson or earnest sentiment is eclipsed by the humor and scare quotients of "The Visit." Presumably, that bodes well for its commercial prospects.

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.
LAUDATO SI’
Lake Placid – Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si’” will be the center of three evening discussions.
Date: Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and Oct. 13
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes
Theme: “On Care for Our Common Home”
Features: Curt Stager, Ph.D. of the faculty of Paul Smiths will facilitate. A light dinner will begin the sessions. Pre-registration is required

QUEEN’S CLOSET SALE
Saranac Lake – The Queen’s Closet sale to be held.
Date: Oct. 3
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Bernard’s School Cafeteria
Features: Will be featuring gently used sweaters, scarves, jewelry and accessories. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Tea and crackers will be served. Proceeds benefit the St. Bernard’s Church Hand Bell Choir.

WONDERS OF CREATION RETREAT
Saranac Lake – Come to the Adirondack Mountains to enjoy the beauty of fall and ponder the mysteries revealed to us by God this season of autumn.
Dates: Sept. 18-20
Speakers: Paul Hetzler, Arborist; Writer; and Educator at Cornell Co-operative Extension (Sept. Weekend) Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, S.S.J, Adult Faith Educator; Fr. Paul Kelly, Celebrant for Liturgy
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Cost: $145 (limited space)
Features: Weekend will include presentations, time for quiet prayer and reflection, communal prayer, nature hike and opportunities for sharing.
Contact: email srbeths@msn.com; call: 315-212-6592; see www .fourseasons@theheart .weebly.com

CDA MEMORIAL MASS
Lake Placid – Annual fall CDA Past Regents chapter Memorial Mass/Luncheon to be held.
Date: Oct. 3
Features: All CDA members are invited

TENT SALE
Peru – St. Vincent’s Thrift store will be having its Annual Tent Sale of gently used fall/winter clothing and footwear.
Date: Sept. 17-20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Features: Fill a large bag for $6.

HARVEST DINNER BUFFET
Moosers Forks – St. Ann’s and St. Joseph’s will be having a harvest dinner buffet.
Date: Sept. 20
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: St. Ann’s Church Hall
Cost: Adults and take-outs, $9; Children under 12, $4
Features: Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, apple crisp with ice cream.

‘CATHOLICISM’
Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer will host the program “Catholicism.”
Date: Sept. 16 – Nov. 4 (Wed.)
Time: 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Features: Program will be by Bishop Elect Robert Barron. Pre-registration is needed to order workbooks. Facilitator will be Fr. Jack Downes.
Contact: 518-594-3253 to register

ANNUAL APPLEFEST
Peru – The 38th Annual St. Augustine Applefest to be held.
Schedule: Sept. 19 – 11 a.m. parade followed by live music (Plattsburgh Pipe and Drum Corps, the SUNY Plattsburgh Gospel Choir and the Bootleg Band, ), a giant craft fair, food, games and rides. Sept. 20 – 11:30 a.m. the Compass Rose Band will perform followed by the Durham County Poets Band. Chicken BBQ in the afternoon.

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Morrisonville – St. Alexander Church and the Knights of Columbus 7248 will host a all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner to support vocations to the priesthood.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Alexander’s Jubilee Hall
Features: Call ahead for take-outs, 518-561-5039

HARVEST DINNER
Chazy – Sacred Heart Church to have their annual harvest dinner.
Date: Sept. 27
Time: Buffet style 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Church
Cost: Adults, $9; Children 6-12, $3; under 5, Free; Take-outs, $9
Features: Raffle with dozens of prizes. Sinners’ Den Pantry.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE
Plattsburgh – Join the worldwide movement to protect mothers and babies.
Date: Sept. 23 – Nov. 1
Time: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Features: Outside of the Planned Parenthood
Features: Days for Life is a peaceful pro-life effort that will join hundreds of other cities in this life-saving campaign.
Contact: Nancy Belisle 518-593-6024
nancys_56@hotmail.com or 40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

HARVEST DINNER
Dannemora – St. Joseph’s Church to have a harvest dinner.
Date: Oct. 11
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: Adults, $9; Children 5-11, $5; under 5, Free
Features: Roast turkey with all the trimmings.

HAM DINNER
Constable – The CC of Constable, Westville and Trout River, Altria Rosary Society and the Knights of Columbus are having their annual Ham Dinner.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Francis Church
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 12 and under, $5
Features: Lots of great raffle prizes.
Contact: 483-3773 or 2775

HOLY HARVEST FESTIVAL
Malone – St. Andre Bessette Parish to have 7th Annual Holy Harvest Festival.
Date: Sept. 20
Time: Mass under tent at 11 a.m., Noon to 3 p.m. Harvest dinner.
Place: Holy Family School
Cost: Adults, $10; Seniors, $8; Children 6-12, $6; 5 and under, Free
Features: Take-outs available. Dinner will feature smoked pulled pork. Raffle with a $1,000 first prize, harvest table of homemade harvest goodies, free children’s activities and music provided by the Old Timer’s Band.

FALL FESTIVAL
Bombay – St. Joseph’s to have their 24th Annual Fall Festival Dinner.
Date: Sept. 27
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph’s parish hall
Cost: Adults, $9; under 12, $4; under 5 and Free
Features: Take-outs available. There will be a country store this year. Enjoy shopping for baked goods, canned goods, fresh produce & flea market items. 50/50 Raffle, Multi-Prize Raffle & More! Sponsored by St. Joseph Society.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Burke – St. George’s Church will hold its annual spaghetti supper.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Cost: Adults, $7.50; Children under 12, $4; under 5, Free
Features: 50/50 Raffle

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION
St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held the first Saturday of each month.
Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass
Place: St. Ann’s Church
Contact: 518-856-9656

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Evans Mills – Spaghetti and meatball dinner to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.
Date: Sept. 19
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary’s Parish center
Features: Meatballs and sauce available for purchase.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
Autumn in the North Country

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

Even though recent air temperatures have been unseasonably warm, before you know it, summer will be behind us and we will have to impatiently await its arrival next year. Typically this is time of the year is when we start to feel the chill in the air. We think ahead to the winter holidays. Perhaps you may take in a high school football game or head north to see the leaves change on the trees. We will be reminded to maybe bring out our boots and warmer coats. While the weather will and does change, the work to fight hunger and poverty in the Mission lands battles on. Trying to make a difference in the Mission lands is not a cyclical thing: fighting poverty and hunger is unfortunately ongoing and seems to never end.

As Catholics, we take time to reflect on Jesus carrying His cross. Reflections can lead us to remember why Jesus willingly carried His cross. Reflections no doubt fill us with emotions as we contemplate His great love for each of us. As Jesus met His mother while carrying His cross, Mary suffered as she watched her Son endure pain and could do nothing to help Him. The suffering of knowing that sometimes you feel helpless. Let us pray for the many mothers around the world who see their children suffering from malnutrition and can do nothing to help them. During difficult times, we are offered the opportunity to think about people living in poverty and carrying the cross of hunger. We are reminded of those who possibly have no boots, coats or food. No schools for children to attend or clinics to receive much needed medical care.

Thank you to all of you who contribute to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and other poverty and hunger alleviation efforts. Your contributions help people to receive relief from the daily crosses of hunger and poverty. Did you know that over 14% of all Americans are living below the poverty line in the year 2015? And it is even worse in the Mission Lands. If you can, please give of your time to volunteer at a local agency that reaches out to the poor in your community. Pick a meal to fast in solidarity with those who are hungry.

Let us pray for the wisdom to always remember that the poor at home and around the world are not statistics; they are our brothers and sisters. May hope in Jesus’ love for all affirm our work for justice for all people. May we remember that by our baptism, we are all missionaries and Pope Francis urges us to carry on! God Bless.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html

OBITUARIES

Altona — Loyal Gabriel Bouchard, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2015 at Holy Angel Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton — Daniel J. Woodley, 73; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Dannemora — Harold E. Recore, 88; Funeral Sept. 11, 2015 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Fort Covington — James G. Manson, 81; Funeral Sept. 8, 2015 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain — Leonard P. Welch, 78; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2015 at St. Bernard’s Church.

Massena — Joseph A. Perry, 88; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2015 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Ogdensburg — John G. “Jack” Kiah, 81; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg — Kathleen (Hallenbeck) Wylie, 55; Funeral Services Sept. 7, 2015 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — Sharon A. Edwards, 67, Funeral Services Sept. 10, 2015, at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Port Henry.

Peru — George L. LaFave, 89; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2015 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, West Chazy.

Peru — Rubin John Remillard, 94; Funeral Services Sept. 7, 2015 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru — Patricia Etta Weaver, 56; Funeral Services Sept. 9, 2015 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh — Albert A. Faiella Jr., 58; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2015 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Watertown — June R. (Pistolese) Hartz, 86; Funeral Services Sept. 12, 2015 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Thomas R. Talbot, 66; Funeral Services Sept. 11, 2015 at the Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.
**Around**

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**JEFFERSON**

**BEREAVEMENT MEETING**

Watertown – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.

**Date:** Sept. 28

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Heartside Hospitality Center

**Speaker:** Rev. Douglas Ort, Baptist minister, who has had a private counseling practice for 24 years. Topic: “Treasuring Memories in the Midst of Loss”

**LEWIS**

**ST. HEDWIG’S POLISH FEST**

Houserville — Save the date for St. Hedwig’s Annual Polish Fest.

**Date:** Oct. 11

**Time:** Noon after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass.

**Features:** Events include: the Serving of a tasty Polish Platter (takeouts will be available); Theme Basket Raffles, Bake Sale, Ice Cream Sundays; Polish Hot Dogs; and a 50/50 Raffle. Donations of Theme Baskets, Pies and Monetary Donations to defray the cost of the food appreciated. The event is a fundraiser for church repairs and restoration.

**Contact:** Joann 348-8735, Mary 348-8836 or Mary Ann 348-6260.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Harrisville – All you can eat spaghetti dinner to be had.

**Date:** Sept. 17

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6

**Place:** St. Francis Solanus Church

**Cost:** Adults, $8; Children 5-12, $6; under 5, Free; Take-outs available

**TURKEY DINNER**

Copenhagen – St. Mary’s to have Annual Turkey Dinner

**Date:** Oct. 1

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** Copenhagen Fire Hall

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**ST. LAWRENCE**

**LIFECHAIN IN POTSDAM**

Potsdam – All Pro-lifers are invited to join us for one hour as we join others around the nation in the 27th Annual Life Chain.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Time:** Gather at 1:45 p.m. in parking lot across from the Roxy Theater to pick up signs. 2 p.m. to 3

**Place:** Market and Main Streets

**Features:** Bring your whole family rain or shine.

**SENIOR CITIZEN DINNER**

Brasher Falls – Annual Senior Citizen dinner to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** Cocktails 5 p.m.; Dinner 6 p.m.

**Place:** Knights of Columbus Hall

**Features:** Open to ALL seniors living in the Quad-Town area. Choice of Roast Beef or Chicken.

**Contact:** If you would like to join, please call 315-328-4077 or 315-389-557 at Oct. 5.

**MIRIAM HOLY HOUR**

Canton – A Holy Hour has been planned at St. Mary’s Church as part of respect life month.

**Date:** Oct. 4

**Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Features:** Knights of Columbus to host a Miriam holy hour of prayer. The program will include liturgy, rosary. Bishop LaValley will attend. Refreshments will be served at St. Mary’s School. Families are strongly encouraged to attend.

**CABBAGE ROLL SALE**

Norwood – The Norwood Knights of Columbus are having a cabbage roll sale.

**Date:** Sept. 19

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Andrew’s Church Social Hall

**Cost:** $3

**Features:** Take-outs only. There will be a 50-50 drawing with proceeds going to a local need. The proceeds from the 50-50 drawing will be matched by the Norwood Knights of Columbus.

**Contact:** For pre order sale contact Mark Tebo 333 8821 or Jim Murray 353 2796 or Phil Regan 353 9917. Pre orders must be picked up by noon.

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**FROM INDIA TO OGDENSBURG**

Bishop LaValley welcomed Father Jose Madappattu, the provincial superior of the Herald of Good News Mother Theresa Province in India, and two priests from the order who are currently serving in the diocese, to his residence Sept. 8. From left are Father Tojo Chacko, parochial vicar of the Church of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Massena; Bishop LaValley, Father Madappattu, Father Justin Thomas, parochial vicar of St. Mary’s Cathedral and Notre Dame in Ogdensburg; and Father James Seymour, vicar for clergy for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

**GRIEFWORK TRAINING**

Massena - Training session is designed for those who are currently offering grief support in their parish or who are interested in starting a Grief Support Group.

**Date:** Sept. 16

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Features:** Speaker Maria Farrell, is Director of GriefWork, a National Servite Ministry of Compassion

**Contact:** 315-764-1611, 315-764-0818 or 315-769-3137

**ST. TERESA OF AVILA ANNIVERSARY**

Ogdensburg — Bishop LaValley to celebrate the 500th anniversary of St. Teresa of Avila.

**Date:** Sept. 19

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Features:** Morning Prayer followed by Mass with Bishop LaValley and Fr. Mark Reilly. A holy hour including adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, presentations by the Discalced Carmelites, secular order & benediction will follow.

**Contact:** 713-4333 Rita Lewis ODCS

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**CARITAS DINNER**

Ogdensburg — The 2015 Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner will be held.

**Date:** Oct. 28

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** GranView Restaurant

**Cost:** $40 per person

**Contact:** Reservations are needed. Call 315-393-2255

**LEADERSHIP WEEKEND**

Saranac Lake — Annual leadership weekend for high school students and adults working with youth is set

**Date:** Sept. 25-27

**Place:** Guggenheim

**Cost:** $60

**Speaker:** Singer, songwriter and Catholic speaker Carrie Ford

**Features:** The weekend will consist of leadership building and helping teens to take active roles in the life of their parishes. Info can be found at www.rcdony.org/leadership. Registration deadline is Sept. 22.

**Contact:** Deacon Brian Dwyer at bdwyer@rcdony.org

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**MARRIAGE JUBILEE**

Ogdensburg - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the annual diocesan Marriage Jubilee for all married couples, particularly those celebrating special anniversaries in 2015.

**Date:** Sept. 20

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral

**Features:** A reception will follow in the Bishop Brzana Hall

**FOR HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES**

Ogdensburg — There will be a Mass and lunch for all home school students with Bishop LaValley.

**Date:** Sept. 17

**Time:** Mass at noon with picnic to follow.

**Place:** Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral picnic at Bishop’s house or, if raining, in Brzana Hall at the Cathedral.

**Contact:** rtyler1@twcny.rr.com or 315-654-3932

**CELEBRATE CHRIST**

Lake Placid - Celebrate Christ 2015 has been planned. The theme for this two day event, Nurturing Families and Parishes with Living Stones, highlights two of our diocesan priorities, the faith formation of families and building parishes with living stones.

**Dates:** Oct. 16 for Catholic School administrators and families. Oct. 17 for all people engaged in parish life

**Place:** Crowne Plaza

**Features:** Dr. JoAnn Paradis, national catechetical consultant for Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum division, will speak on the first day on the topic “Crossing the Threshold to Intentional Discipleship.” Dr. John Roberto, president of Lifelong Faith Associates, will speak on the second day. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the opening Mass Saturday at 9 a.m.

**Registration:** www.rcdony.org and click on the Celebrate Christ 2015 logo