A focus on families

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, MEXICO (CNS) - Pope Francis warned against moves to diminish the importance of the family, peppering his talk with anecdotes and off-the-cuff remarks that kept a packed soccer stadium cheering, laughing and applauding.

Speaking under a scorching-hot sun as dozens were treated for heat stroke, the pope said family life was not always easy and often was a struggle, but he pleaded for perseverance, saying family life was one of the solutions to increasing isolation and uncertainty and its unintended consequences.

"I prefer a wounded family that makes daily efforts to put love into play to a society that is sick from isolationism and is habitually afraid of love," Pope Francis said Feb. 15 in front of a boisterous audience of families, who came from across southern Mexican and nearby Guatemala for a celebration in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez.

"I prefer a family that makes repeated efforts to begin again to a society that is narcissistic and obsessed with luxury and comfort. I prefer a family with tired faces from generous giving to faces with makeup that know nothing of tenderness and compassion."

The pope's focus on families turned the focus of his six-day visit toward the pastoral issues after hitting hard on matters such as corruption, crime and the country's often impoverished and exploited indigenous populations.

Renovations, repairs at St. Stephen's

The ceiling of St. Stephen's Church in Croghan faces "inevitable collapse" without extensive renovations that have begun on the 114-year-old building.

The parish has hired Baker Liturgical Art LLC, Southington, Conn., for the project.

The specialized conservation process that Mr. Baker will use is a system that will stabilize and repair the ceiling. The work entails repairs in the sanctuary, to side aisles, walls, the choir loft and vestibules, with painting and re-stenciling with like colors, and cleaning statues and the Stations of the Cross.

Mark your calendars:

Lenten day of reflection for those in charitable apostolates, March 8;
Chirism Mass, March 17; End of life conference in Saranac Lake, March 19

NEAREST NAMES IN THE BOOK OF THE ELECT

PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE
Bishop LaValley is shown with catechumens who will receive the sacraments of initiation - Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation - at parishes across the diocese at Easter. They each signed the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election held Feb. 14 at St. Mary's Cathedral. See page 5 for more photos.

SUMMER IS COMING: It's time to sign up for CHWC and Guggenheim, p. 6

REST IN PEACE, JUSTICE SCALIA
Remembered as upstanding Catholic, jurist

CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHelan WIECHEC
U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is seen in this Aug. 30, 2013, file photo at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington. The 79-year-old justice was found dead of apparent natural causes at a resort in West Texas Feb. 13. Among the tributes which poured in, Villanova University law professor Michael Moreland, a former domestic policy adviser to President George W. Bush, said "Justice Scalia was arguably the most consequential Catholic in American public life since the death of John F. Kennedy."

FULL STORY, PAGE 11
**EDITOR'S NOTE**

March is marching in... hooray!

While February is a perfectly fine month, I'm perfectly fine with the fact that it's a short one! Yes, we know that March can certainly come in like a lion and go out like one too, but March means spring and, this year, March means Easter so I welcome its arrival with joy.

In our diocese, March 2016 is also bringing significant spiritual opportunities as we continue our journey through Lent.

The March 8 Day of Reflection at Wadhams Hall - for those involved in charitable apostolates - should be a true Year of Mercy celebration. There are thousands of Catholics in our diocese who feed the hungry and offer clothing, shelter and loving care to those in need. This special day should give them a little spiritual nourishment in return.

A couple weeks later, a program on the other side of the diocese will surely offer information and encouragement to those struggling to keep the insidious right-to-die legislation out of our state. (See page three for more information about this end of life conference set for March 19 at St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake.)

“Death with dignity” may be a popular notion these days, but as people of faith we must be ready to protect those who will surely be victimized by such a law – elderly people who worry about spending their children’s inheritance, disabled people who don’t want to be a burden, depressed people who see death as an answer to their prayers. The list goes on and on.

And, of course, if Easter is on the horizon, it’s time for us to gather again for our diocesan Chrism Mass. Many ‘914, the Chrism Mass marked a turning point in our diocese as Bishop LaValley revealed the diocesan pastoral vision in his “Find Your Home in Christ” pastoral letter.

Two years later, we’ve made significant strides in making the priorities and goals a reality in our diocese. The work isn’t done yet, but at this year’s Chrism Mass, we can take stock of all that has been accomplished towards creating a Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled church.

The Chrism Mass is unique in the way that it highlights the sacramental nature of our faith: oils which are used for baptism, confirmation, ordinations are blessed; and the priests who preside at these sacraments renew their commitments.

So we’re stepping into a month with days devoted to charity, life and the sacraments. How Catholic is that?

**A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE**

Companions for my Lenten journey

Lent is flying right by. Some days when I consider my Lenten program this year, I am rather disappointed; I don’t seem to be becoming holier.

Am I becoming a better person this year? I really haven’t changed that much. I still give in to my usual temptations, even those that interfere with my relationship with God.

So, I have to get serious about my resolutions for Lent. I need a lot more time for prayer. If I can’t miss these opportunities give me during this sacred season of Lent.

The next step for me is to find some help from some companions for Lent. My first thought is Thomas Merton. You remember him and his wonderful writings. Merton became a Catholic during his college days and, later on, became a Trappist Monk and a priest. His writings beginning with his early biography and the many journals that contained his teaching on prayer.

Merton was also very ecumenical and reached out to others of various faiths, searching for further ideas about prayer. Near the end of his life he studied Buddhism and searched to find meaning in the prayer life of Buddhists. He died in an accident while attending a conference in India, a meeting of Christians and Buddhists.

I would like share a bit from the writing of Thomas Merton. This is powerful thought that is familiar to many from his book, “Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander.”

He writes this: “In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separation, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness.”

Will I ever have this holiness, this understanding of the following of Christ – a goal for Lent?

My next companion will be Catherine Doherty. Again, I am certain that you know about her. She is the Founder of the community of laymen, lay women, and priests called Madonna House, located in Combermere, Ontario.

Catherine’s writings continue to be a gold mine of spiritual wisdom and a guide for my prayer life. She has always been a wonderful guide for nurturing others for me. She urges me to set good goals for my Lent.

I would like to quote from her book on “Reflections in Lent.” She writes this, “How much do I love? How often in my life does the pronoun ‘I’ disappear – replaced by the words, them, us, him or her? In this we have a very simple yardstick of love. Let us say a though comes into your mind: ‘I want to do this.’ If it is something God would like you to do, go ahead and do it. But if not, erase it and keep on erasing it. The world ‘I’ will disappear.

I just now looked at my book case with some of my favorite books and I came upon another good companion for Lent – that is Brother David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B. I have read and enjoyed many of Brother David’s books; they have a good influence on me.

This book that I noticed today is entitled, ‘Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer, An Approach to Life in Fullness.’ Let me share with you a quote from this book: “Maybe I shouldn’t have mentioned uninterrupted prayer at all. The very thought may seem over-awing and scare someone off. Many of us might, in fact, say: ‘Praying at all times? Goodness! From when I find myself it would be a long way even to praying at those times when I am saying my prayers!’ All right, then, let us start once again where we are. What is it to the secret of that spontaneous prayerfulness?”

Mary Lou Killian

Fr. William G. Muench
St. Bernard’s to host end of life conference

SARANAC LAKE – Kathleen Gallagher, Director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, will lead a conference on end of life issues at St. Bernard’s Church March 19 from 10 a.m. to 3:30.

She will discuss New York State legislation on physician assisted suicide as well as the Catholic understanding of end of life issues.

The program will also feature testimony from J.J. Hanson, a former Marine, husband and father who was diagnosed with glioblastoma in 2014. This is the same type of brain cancer as Brittany Maynard, the terminally ill California woman who became the public face of the right to die movement in 2014 when she moved to Oregon to end her life under that state’s Death With Dignity Act.

Hanson is now president of the Patients Rights Action Fund, a group opposing assisted suicide efforts nationally.

A suggested offering of $20 will be accepted for the March 19 program to help with the cost of lunch and materials.

Chrism Mass set for March 17

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the annual diocesan Chrism Mass March 17 at 11 a.m. St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Mass is open to all the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The liturgy features the annual renewal of priestly commitment, the blessing of the holy oils and consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all churches of the diocese.

During the Mass, Bishop LaValley will continue to reflect on the diocesan “Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled” diocesan vision.

The bishop originally proclaimed the Pastoral Vision of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the 2014 Chrism Mass.

During the past two years, considerable efforts have been made towards realizing the three priorities announced at that time: to create a culture of vocations, to strengthen faith formation in family life and to build parishes with living stones.

Committees have been working on five goals related to the three priorities including planning for a vocation summit in September. The event, called INSPIRE, is expected to bring 7000 Catholics to the Olympic Arena in Lake Placid.

Save the Date!

Mark the Year for Mercy with the Annual D.O.V.S. Pilgrimage for Vocations to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Buses departing from across the Diocese.

Two nights and three days

October 11-13, 2016

Stay tuned in bulletins and the North Country Catholic for more information

Latin Mass in the Extraordinary Form

Every Sunday • 9:30am
St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church
Potsdam
CROGHAN – A million dollar effort to save St. Stephen's Church, a landmark dating back to when this village recovered from a disastrous fire more than a century ago, began in December.

The house of worship, erected in 1902, is in danger of suffering extensive damage if renovations are not undertaken.

The ceiling shows evidence of “inevitable collapse,” an expert in church renovations, Brian Baker, owner of Baker Liturgical Art LLC, Southington, Conn., has determined.

The effort to prevent that from happening has been blessed by an emergency line of credit granted by Bishop Terry R. LaValley for the total anticipated cost, $1.4 million, according to Carol Schneeberger, parish administrative assistant and member of the “Restoring our Tradition” drive to raise funds for the project.

“We believe the factors that aided in the deterioration of the ceiling will be corrected and the ceiling will be preserved for many future generations,” Father Daniel Chapin, pastor, told his parishioners in a letter last year.

The pastor’s plea to his people – last year’s census shows 512 families - and anybody else who might hear his call, is this: “St. Stephen’s needs your help and support with a very challenging and crucial repair and renovation project.”

$1.4 million project to preserve St. Stephen’s Church is underway

For several months, small pieces of plaster have been found on the carpet in a few locations in church, and cracks in the plaster have become more visible.

“The beautiful artwork and canvas murals painted (in 1933) by Professor Louis Carracciolo, who studied in Urbino, Italy, can be preserved,” Father Chapin wrote. “The repair of the ceiling will also assure the safety of our beautiful 1910 Moller pipe organ,” he said.

The specialized conservation process that Mr. Baker will use is a system that will stabilize and repair the ceiling. The work entails repairs in the sanctuary, to side aisles, walls, the choir loft and vestibules, with painting and re-stenciling with like colors, and cleaning statues and the Stations of the Cross.

“The willingness and dedication of our parish families, extended friends and family as we move forward in ‘Restoring our Tradition’ is,” Father Chapin wrote, “an assurance of securing the future of our parish for many generations that will follow as a community that God is the source of all that we have.”

His letter reminded parishioners that for many of them, parish members in years gone by “may have been your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or former neighbors. Their support and dedication has helped St. Stephen’s to remain an active and growing parish.”

The building, rising from the ashes left by a conflagration which leveled 21 structures on April 24, 1902, is the fifth in a succession of Catholic churches to be built in the village. A log cabin first served worshipers in 1831. Newer churches were built in 1834, 1852, and 1879.

The Romanesque style building that stands today was built in 1902 under the direction of Fr. Leo Henrichs, who is said to have raised funds for his new church by traveling up to sixty miles a day to beg woodsmen in lumber camps for donations.

Father Leo, whose name was taken for the parish school that no longer exists, was murdered during Mass in 1908 in Denver, Colo. He was once considered for sainthood.

The last significant renovation at St. Stephen’s was in 1966, although smaller projects were carried out in 1975 and 2004. In the latter project, the original church and sanctuary metal roofs’ shingles were replaced.

Anybody wishing to assist St. Stephen’s can call the parish office at 315-346-6958.
**Rite of Election**

‘The RCIA made it easy to learn and understand the basics of Catholicism’

By Julia Lashomb
Member, Diocesan Catechumenate Committee

When you have been raised Catholic you wonder where the people come from who want to be received into the Catholic Church. Some have been baptized Christian but never received the other sacraments of initiation. Others have never been baptized. Some hear about the RCIA process by word of mouth, flyers, and ads in the paper and bulletin announcements. No matter where they come from their lives are changed during the process and after they are able to receive the sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

The following remarks are from a man who has taken part in the RCIA process at Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence Parish in Massena. Comments from other new Catholics will appear in upcoming issues of the NCC.

John states that as a new Catholic I now have a deeper relationship with God through the Trinity. I know that we are children of God, and He has a purpose for each of our lives which can be discovered through prayer and hearing His word. I know that the Church is the Body of Christ, and the sacraments are for our benefit to strengthen His body. I know that the Church is indeed bible-based and the scriptures areas relevant today as when they were written. Modern interpretation is available for us to inculcate His word more easily. I know that we are invited to His ministry through the church community and can serve with gifts and talents He has given us can be used and developed. For me, I feel more confident in my faith and that I have a solid foundation and resources to use when needed.

The RCIA made it easy to learn and understand the basics of Catholicism. The classes offered us opportunities to explore our own questions and see things from each other’s various perspectives. It gave us views on current topics as well as many historical and traditional stories. I see life in Christ as a journey, and understand how God is in all things along the way. I believe we can discover Him in places we wouldn’t expect if we’re open to seeking His presence.

I’ve become more aware of His closeness to us when we listen and obey His prompting through prayer and scripture. I’ve learned to pray regularly, whether it be a simple silent prayer while working or kneeling in a pew at church.

**In support of RCIA**

Members of the Diocesan Catechumenate Committee meet regularly to support parishes in their efforts toward implementing the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children. The committee members are Father Daniel Chapin, pastor in Croghan; Deacon Patrick Donahue, Western regional director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation; Pamela Ballantine, eastern regional director of the diocesan Office of Faith Formation; Julia Lashomb, Massena; Starr Burke, Plattsburgh; and Stephen Bateman, Ogdensburg.
Diocesan summer youth camps are announced

Two youth camping programs for the summer of 2016 in the diocese of Ogdensburg have been announced:

**Camp Guggenheim**

Registration for Camp Guggenheim 2016 is now open.

Camp Guggenheim is located on Lower Saranac Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. The camp operates six weekly sessions from late June through August. Each weekly camp begins on Sunday at 3 p.m. and concludes with Liturgy on Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Each week-long session provides campers with a mix of faith, fun, and adventure. Camp activities include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, arts & crafts, campfires, dances and more.

Faith formation and growth is at the heart of the Guggenheim experience and is an important part of every day! Campers are actively involved in living out and sharing their faith.

Dates for 12-15 year olds are:

- Week 1: June 26 - July 1
- Week 2: July 3-8
- Week 3: July 10-15
- Week 4: July 17-22
- Week 5: July 24-29
- The program for 16-18 year olds will be held July 31-Aug. 5.

Contact: For online information and registration of campers see www.rcdony.org/youth/guggy.html.

Further information or registration without a computer is available by calling the diocesan Youth Office 315-393-2920.

**Catholic Heart Workcamp**

Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) has announced that it will be returning to Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg this summer, from Sunday, June 26 to Friday, July 1.

This week-long camp is open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2016) and college students.

CHWC is a national organization whose mission is to inspire young people to live as disciples of Christ through serving others and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant.

During the week, campers will volunteer at various sites throughout the Ogdensburg area during the day and participate in fun, faith-building programs in the evening. Daily Mass, adoration, penance and prayer nourish campers for their work in the community.

The cost is $375 per person, which includes meals, lodging, transportation to the work sites, t-shirts and snacks.

For information about the Ogdensburg camp or to register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com.

Also, additional information about CHWC can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com.

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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:

- Feb. 25 - 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- Feb. 26 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
- Feb. 27 - 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Feb. 28 - 9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls
- March 1 - 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- March 2 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- March 14 - 1:30 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- March 15 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- March 21 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- April 11 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- April 12 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- April 18 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- May 16 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- May 17 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- June 4 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- June 5 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- June 26 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- June 27 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- July 18 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- July 19 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- July 25 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- July 26 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Aug. 21 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- Aug. 22 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Sept. 18 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- Sept. 19 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Oct. 16 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- Oct. 17 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Nov. 20 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- Nov. 21 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- Dec. 11 - 12 p.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence
- Dec. 12 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

For more information, visit our website at: www.virtus.org by selecting the diocese of Ogdensburg.

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**Environmental Stewardship**

**Lent...A Springtime for the Soul**

The etymology of the word Lent means “springtime.” How can this Lenten season be a time that brings ‘springtime’ of new life to my relationship with God, with my sisters and brothers, and with the earth itself?

The first Sunday of Lent focuses our attention on Jesus who is “led by the spirit into the desert for forty days” (Lk. 4:1) to fast and pray before he embarks on his public ministry. The Church’s tradition of fasting provides us with an opportunity to be more mindful of the act of eating. When we pray Grace at meals during Lent, it can be a time to remember how connected we are to all of Creation. “The act of eating unites us to the soil, water, and animals of this planet like nothing else.” (Lent 4.2 Program, published by Liturgical Press) Pope Francis tells us “Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature.”

In the words of Thomas Merton, “From the moment you put a piece of bread in your mouth you are part of the world. Who grew the wheat? Who made the bread? Where did it come from? You are in relationship with all who brought it to the table. We are least separate and most in common when we eat and drink.”

Our patterns of buying and eating have an impact on the whole of creation. Did you know that pound for pound, livestock requires more water, land, and energy than growing grains and vegetables. Nearly 800 million people suffer from hunger or malnutrition while much of the corn and soy grown in the world feeds cattle, pigs, and chickens. (Lent 4.2 Program) Consider the impact from simply choosing to eat less meat this week, as the Church encourages us to do during Lent.
WILSBORO — The Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Joan of Arc #867 has shown support for the military with donations through the past year.

Members Jan Orlowski and Robin Pearce undertook research to discover which groups would benefit most from funds raised from the court’s annual bake sale. After several discussions, the court decided that the Cup of Joe for Joe, the North Country Honor Flight and the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #179 would be the recipients.

• Cup of Joe for Joe is a way to express support to the military men and women serving overseas through the simple act of buying a cup of premium coffee and having it delivered along with a personalized message of thanks. The court’s donation will send free coffee to 25 different service members overseas.

• The North Country Honor Flight exists to honor the veterans of the North Country with a trip to Washington, D.C. so they can experience the thanks of a grateful nation. St. Joan of Arc’s donation will help fund their next trip. In addition to monetary donations, they are in need of guardians to accompany the veterans on this trip and volunteers to see them off and greet them on their return.

• The Disabled American Veterans Chapter #179 has a mission of helping eligible veterans receive their rightful benefits and services that they earned through their sacrifices for their country. The court’s donation will help fund a new van transporting veterans to medical appointments at the VA Hospital in Albany.

Members of the Catholic Daughters of America Court St. Joan of Arc #867 are shown as they present a $100 donation to the Disabled American Veterans Chapter #179. From left are Greg Lee, Laurie Mero, Pat Trzaskos, Shirley Estes, Tina Bigelow and Commander Gary Hamel.

Who will replace Sister in the fields?

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FACES OF FAITH

PHOTO BY HEIDI SAMPLE

Members of the Catholic Community of Burke & Chateaugay Youth Group in conjunction with the Chateaugay Community Bowling Alley sponsored a Family Bowling Day event to help raise money for charity Jan. 31. The students raised $186 and chose to award the money to the Chateaugay Central School Athletic Association. From left are members from the CCS Athletic Association, Josh Secore, Nathan Roach, Dylan LaBare, Derek, LaBare and Rebecca Roach, Mr. LaPonte, Leena Hoseler, representing Chateaugay Community Bowl; and youth group members, Madison McComb, Alinsley Crawford, Drew Crawford, Kennedy Boyea, Anna Dalton, Luke Dalton, Hannah Cook, and Cody Warriner.

The Office of the New Evangelization exists as a resource to parishes, groups and individuals. Some ways that our office can assist:

WORKSHOPS FOR PARISH EVANGELIZATION
Establishing a Parish Evangelization Team
Forming Intentional Disciples workshops
Workshops on Documents: Go and Make Disciples, Disciples called to Witness, Evangelization in the Modern World, Joy of the Gospel, On the Role of the Laity, etc.
Evangelization through Social Media
Welcoming Catholics Home

SPEAKING TO GROUPS
Telling our Story, Sharing our Faith
The New Evangelization and You
TV, Movies, Games and Evangelization
Speaking to and supporting Young Adult Groups

SUGGESTING RESOURCES
The Office of the New Evangelization can suggest books, DVD-series, and other material for group study, prayer groups, and individual enrichment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Marika Donders, Director at mdonders@rcdony.org or see www.rcdony.org/evangelization

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For more information please contact:
Scott Lalone, Executive Director
Development Office
PO Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.
315-393-2920 Ext. 1330
slalone@rcdony.org
News flash: the pope is human

During trip to Mexico, Pope Francis delights many and frustrates some, too

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The pope is human. Pope Francis demonstrated that in Mexico, as he does wherever he goes, and most people find it attractive most of the time.

In Pope Francis, Catholics can see a real person trying to live his faith in a complicated world. Sometimes he waves at them and they can see the frayed edges of his soutane sleeve. When his sciatica is acting up, he needs extra help going down steps. His aides do not keep his reading glasses, so sometimes he fumbles with the soutane pocket trying to get them out.

Crowds "ahhh" when he tenderly strokes the face of an obviously sick person, and they applaud when he gives a big hug to a child. However, they can be shocked when the human side of the pope is impatience or downright anger like it was Feb. 16 in Morelia, Mexico, when one of the thousands of people who grab the pope at public events yanked him, pulling him on top of a person seated in a wheelchair.

"What's the matter with you?" the pope snapped. "Don't be selfish!"

While security officers helped the pope back up, Pope Francis caressed the face of the boy he'd fallen on.

The off-the-cuff Pope Francis is very human, too. That touches people who experience a pope really listening to them and who is taking notes as people ask him questions. It sometimes frustrates journalists who are given his prepared remarks in advance, knowing full well that they may use little or none of the printed text.

For people who do not usually agree with Pope Francis, the ad-libbing is just a nightmare. And, those spontaneous remarks can be frustratingly incomplete or imprecise.

But the pope knows that. For example, when he speaks about the growing gap between the rich and poor, he openly approximates. "If I'm not mistaken -- the figures are approximate -- but more or less 80 percent of human wealth is in the hands of less than 20 percent of the population," he said Feb. 10 at his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

When people call Pope Francis "the pope of surprises," they usually say it with a delighted sense of expectation. But there are people in the world who really don't like surprises.

As far back as the papal trips of St. John Paul II, journalists have valued being on the papal plane because it is the only time they are guaranteed a chance to ask the pope questions. Popes do not hold regular news conferences. With Pope Francis, unlike with Pope Benedict XVI, the questions are not submitted in advance, and his answers almost always make the news.

Flying back from Mexico Feb. 17, Pope Francis was asked to react to Donald Trump's accusations that the pope is political and, since the pope had just celebrated Mass at the Mexican-U.S. border, he also was asked to comment on Trump's proposal to build a wall along the entire length of the border and deport millions of immigrants. Pope Francis answered, "If he says these things, this man is not Christian."

The pope was less clear in responding to a question about whether "avoiding pregnancy" could be considered a "lesser evil" when facing the possibility of birth defects from the Zika virus. The pope used the word "contraception" when referring to Blessed Paul VI allowing women religious in the Belgian Congo in the 1960s to take the pill to avoid becoming pregnant if they were the victim of rape, which was being used as a weapon of war.

Then, answering the question about Zika, he said, "Avoiding pregnancy is not an absolute evil. In certain cases, such as the one I mentioned of Blessed Paul VI, it was clear." The answer led to headlines saying the pope said it was possible that using birth control in response to Zika could be tolerated.

The pope's responses to journalists, particularly, to the Trump question and to the Zika question made a splash in the news and on social media.

Thomas Peters, who tweets as @AmericanPapist, tweeted, "For the 1 millionth time, no more in-flight papal news conferences please!" And a bit later, he added, "Seriously, who believes that off-the-cuff interviews at 30,000 feet after a weeklong international trip is a good idea anymore?"

Pope Francis, answering to another question, one that did not make the news, also illustrates his human side. He was asked what he was praying for during the 20 minutes he sat before the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

He said he prayed for so many things that Mary, "poor thing," probably had a headache when he was done. He said he prayed for forgiveness, for the growth of the church, for the Mexican people, for priests, nuns, bishops. "I asked for a lot."

But he would not say more or give more details. "The things a child tells his mother are kind of secret," he explained.
Justice Scalia remembered as both an upstanding Catholic and jurist

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Tributes to the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia poured in almost as soon as news emerged of his Feb. 13 death at a Texas ranch while on a hunting trip.

Scalia "was routinely described as a conservative, and so he was. He held fast to a lot of traditional values. He loved his church, his wife and nine children, and his country. He favored small government over big, and local over national," said a Feb. 14 column by Catholic University of America President John Garvey written for Catholic News Service. "But as a judge he was a democrat, not a conservative, and his death diminishes by one strong voice our commitment to constitutional democracy."

"Justice Scalia was arguably the most consequential Catholic in American public life since the death of John F. Kennedy," said Villanova University law professor Michael Moreland, a former domestic policy advisor to President George W. Bush, in a Feb. 15 statement. "Justice Scalia remarked once during a visit to Villanova that there is no such thing as a Catholic judge' just as there is no such thing as a Catholic way to cook a hamburger," Moreland added.

"But, in his commitment to textualism, penetrating prose style, and aspects of his jurisprudence, there are marks of his Jesuit education and lifelong Catholic faith. While Justice Scalia thought contentious social and moral questions were best left to the political process and not to the judiciary, he increasingly came to worry about the state of the legal culture in ways that were inevitably informed by his Catholicism."

Justice Scalia was arguably the most consequential Catholic in American public life since the death of John F. Kennedy.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who represents the Trenton-area district where Scalia was born, said in a Feb. 15 statement that Scalia was "an extraordinary man of deep faith, great intellect and with -- who wrote complex legal analysis with a strength and clarity that will leave an enduring mark on American jurisprudence." Smith added, "His commitment to the Constitution, as written and not as interpreted, and to the separation of powers among the three branches of government, led to Justice Scalia's ongoing concern about actions by the Supreme Court which he deemed 'legislating from the bench' and which he vehemently opposed with his persuasive arguments and votes. A truly gifted writer, he offered articulate, consistent and persuasive opinions on the important issues of our time."

A challenge to the federal Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate under the Affordable Care Act is one of several cases scheduled to be heard in March by the now-eight-member high court.

Calling Scalia "very witty and funny," Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore dwelt more on his legal mind. "Whether one agrees or not with his juridical approach, he was a brilliant jurist. I think that even those who disagreed with him widely appreciated him and he took positions that were widely appreciated within the church."

The archbishop also took note of the vacancy on the bench, given the upcoming hearing on the HHS mandate. "There's no doubt that (Scalia's) death introduces instability in the court and that instability is a source of concern," he said.

The community of Thomas Aquinas is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia," said a Feb. 13 statement from Michael F. McLean, president of Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California. "A faithful Catholic, a patriot and a brilliant jurist, Justice Scalia will long be remembered for his fidelity to the Constitution of the United States," McLean added, calling his death "an enormous loss for our country."

At the court, in keeping with tradition, Scalia's bench chair and the bench directly in front of it have been draped with black wool crepe in his memory. There also is a black drape hanging over the courtroom doors. According to a Supreme Court news release, the tradition dates back at least as far as 1873 when Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase died.

President Barack Obama ordered flags to be flown at half-staff at the high court and other federal buildings throughout the country, as well as at U.S. embassies and military installations throughout the world.

Scalia's current and past colleagues on the Supreme Court each issued separate statements.

"He was an extraordinary individual and jurist, admired and treasured by his colleagues," said a Feb. 13 statement by Chief Justice John Roberts. "His passing is a great loss to the court and the country he so loyally served."
Scripture Reflections

Getting out of our comfort zones for Lent

The first reading this Sunday gives us a favorite story. It's about Moses and the burning bush. Imagine Moses, who at this point, is just a lowly shepherd, living in exile in Midian when he wanders with his sheep to the Holy Mountain and there sees a bush on fire - and the bush is not destroyed.

Filled with curiosity, he moves closer. When he hears a divine command, he takes off his sandals. Then God calls him to go on a mission to free the Israelites. He gives God excuse after excuse in protest, but to no avail. God then reveals His name to Moses: “I am who I am,...tell them that Yahweh sent you.” In fear and trembling, Moses goes back to Egypt to announce God’s decision to the elders. On our Christian journey through Lent, as we hear read the stories about the prophets, and listen to the teaching of Jesus, there is a danger that we’ll keep the same cozy distance that we do when watching a TV drama or an old movie.

Should we stick to our comfort zone this Sunday as we hear Jesus struggle to convince his “righteous” hearers that it’s time for action, time for them to repent of their sins and change their ways before God’s grows tired, and brings them to final justice?

Toward the end of the Gospel, Jesus tells them about the owner of the vineyard who wants to cut down his barren fig tree. Year after year, he’s waited. Now he’s tired of waiting. Fortunately, he’s persuaded to wait just one more year... just one more year!

To prepare to vote: dig deeper than the debates

by Kathleen M. Gallagher

Director, Pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference

Is it just me, or are you as weary of these presidential debates as I am?

I am so tired of the malicious, childish and rehearsed behavior --- of the candidates and the moderators as well -- that I can no longer watch. They play out like Republican and Democratic reality shows, alternating between spews of venom and strings of boredom. Give me a Law and Order rerun, an episode of House Hunters, a basketball game, anything but these God-awful spectacles.

The sudden death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia made the South Carolina debate seem more uncharitable than usual, as his passing on that very day was politicized before the country even had a chance to mourn. To borrow Uncle Jesse’s famous phrase on Full House, “Have mercy!”

Coming from me, an admitted political news junkie, this is quite a statement. What are we voters to do?

The simple answer is, we have to dig deeper. And, yes, we have to have mercy.

As citizens of this great country, we enjoy all the rights and privileges and protections of the United States of America. We are blessed. But along with those rights come certain responsibilities. And chief among them is the moral obligation to inform ourselves about our political choices. If the television performances (and they are performances) are not informing us, then we must do it ourselves.

Gospel: March 6, 2016

God, in His mercy, is so very patient with us. That fig tree is a symbol of each one of us today. In what way have we perhaps exhausted God’s patience? Lent is the time for some action on our part that will remedy that.

St. Paul, in his exhortation to the Corinthians, is urging them not to be complacent at all the good they have done, but to make sure they have gotten rid of any sinfulness.

How about us? Are there sins that we’ve been unwilling to part from?

God is calling each of us this week to move out of slavery into the desert freedom of prayer and penance. Above all, we throw ourselves on God’s mercy.

That, of course, means making a good confession - at least once - during this season of grace.

“Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.”

Respect Life

Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our city/state/country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness, so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Kathleen Gallagher

running for office has a website, not to mention a Facebook page, a Twitter feed and various other apps for your phone. You could start there, but quite frankly, those are just going to give you more carefully scripted acts. As an alternative, I recommend “On the Issues” at www.ontheissues.org.

“On the Issues” lists all of the 2016 Presidential candidates and their positions on a wide range of issues, from international issues of war and peace, to domestic issues like health care and gun control, to social issues like abortion and education, to economic issues like tax reform and Social Security. It doesn’t rate anybody, attack anybody or endorse anybody. It simply gives you each candidate’s positions, based on things they have said on the record, with sources for every quote. I find it helpful.

It’s also critically important to understand what our faith teaches about the pressing issues of the day. For that I recommend the U.S. Bishops “Faithful Citizenship” documents, all available by going to www.faithfulcitizenship.org. There is a wealth of information here, like the key principles of Catholic teaching and how to apply them to a broad range of issues. There are also lots of resources you can share with your parish, like prayer and liturgy suggestions, bulletin inserts and announcements, and do’s/don’ts for the election season.

Digging deeper for a closer examination of our political choices requires more time and effort than just sitting in front of the television. Yet our faith calls us to do just that. Because we are Catholic, we must demonstrate that we care about the future of this country; that we value civility, morality, mercy, and true public service; and that we vote.

Start today. There is much to be done.
Risen

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

In days of yore, Hollywood knew how to make Christian themes pay off at the box office. Though the result was not always decorous—risque content in 1932’s “The Sign of the Cross” helped spur the formation of the National Legion of Decency—they were sometimes spectacular.

And so there arose the biblical epic, a genre which gave us such iconic spectacles as the chariot race in 1959’s “Ben-Hur” and such memorable lines as Pharaoh’s imperious order in “The Ten Commandments” (1956): “So let it be written. So let it be done.”

“A heresy…”

St. Augustine of Hippo, to

By Agostino Bone
Catholic News Service

Walking hand in hand through history has not been easy for science and faith. People on both sides too often and easily toss invectives at the other, such as “superstition” and “heresy.”

At the same time, ambitious historical efforts have been made, going back at least to the fourth-century St. Augustine of Hippo, to reconcile or bridge some of the gaps between the two.

True, faith and science abide comfortably in many people; but so far no one has succeeded in convincing all of the diverse mentalities in either camp to accept a basic compatibility.

Adding his voice to the reconciliation effort is Michael Dennin. A cradle Catholic who continues to attend Mass regularly and is active in parish life, Dennin also is a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of California, Irvine. Dennin’s book, “Divine Science,” uses his faith and scientific knowledge to make a case that believers should embrace science as a tool for deepening their belief.

As others before him, Dennin uses several key building blocks to make his case: science can’t prove or disprove the existence of God; the Bible is not a scientific textbook; science can tell us how the earth and its inhabitants came to be but can’t tell us why this occurred; science deals with the physical while theology and philosophy deal with the nonphysical.

To these, he adds a definition of God as the “fullness of reality,” the “I am who am” of the Old Testament. His thesis is that as science helps us understand the reality of the physical world, this knowledge deepens our understanding and personal relationship to God, the “poser of reality,” without arguments over the existence of God can be fruitless, believers and scientists can more easily come together to discuss what is reality, goes his argument.

Dennin squarely confronts scientific evidence that many things described in the Bible could not have occurred, such as God creating the world in six days. He parries this by debunking literal biblical interpretations such as creationism, noting that the Bible is more interested in conveying truths rather than facts.

The book is strongest and most convincing in its chapters on creation and evolution.

In these, Dennin uses the metaphor of a fetus in the womb: The mother represents God while the fetus represents creation and evolution. The fetus is dependent on the mother/God but is destined to become independent while still sharing in the identity/reality of the mother/God.

Dennin is not so convincing in discussing biblical miracles and the afterlife. His basic argument is that while science may not be able to prove specific miracles or the afterlife, it does provide academic underpinnings that these things may be possible.

Despite some failings, Dennin succeeds in his overall aim of showing believers that science is an aid rather than an obstacle to furthering their faith.

Like science, “true faith, agile faith, dynamic faith is about constant reflection, constant revision, and constant refinement,” he writes.

About the book

**ADIRONDACK**

**END OF LIFE ISSUES**

Saranac Lake - Join Kathy Gallagher from the NYS Catholic Conference to discuss proposed NYS Legislation on Physician Assisted Suicide and the Catholic understanding on End of Life issues.

*Date:* March 19
*Time:* 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
*Place:* St. Bernard’s Church
*Cost:* $20 will be accepted to help with the cost of lunch and materials.
*Features:* Includes testimony of J.J. Hanson, a former Marine, husband and father who will share the story of his will to fight against a terminal cancer.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

Paul Smiths - Climate change as a moral issue discussion to be held.

*Date:* March 5
*Time:* 7:30 p.m.
*Place:* Paul’s Smiths’ Freer Auditorium
*Features:* Catholic Climate Change Ambassadors from the Nation are invited to bring the light of faith to the topic of climate change. Dr. Gerry Garcia, head of Cardiology in Rochester, who has spoken under understanding on End of Life issues.

**CLINTON**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander & St. Joseph’s Church will host an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

*Date:* March 6 and April 3
*Time:* 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
*Place:* St. Joseph’s Church parish hall
*Cost:* Adults, $7; Children 6-12, $3; under 5, Free

**SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER**

Morrisonville - St. Alexander Church and the Knights of Columbus 7248 and 6067 will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for vocations for the priesthood.

*Date:* April 30
*Time:* 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
*Place:* St. Alexander’s Jubilee hall
*Cost:* Adults, $8; Children 6-12, $3; under 5, Free

**ANNUAL FISH FRY**

Chazy - Sacred Heart Church to have its annual fish fry.

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**JEFFERSON**

**ST. PATRICK’S DINNER**

Elizabethtown - The Annual St. Patrick’s dinner, ham and corned beef, sponsored by St. Elizabeth’s parish to be held.

*Date:* March 13
*Time:* 2 p.m. to 6
*Place:* St. Elizabeth’s Parish Hall
*Cost:* Adults, $12; Children under 12, $5

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**FRANKLIN**

**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD**

Malone - A Jubilee of Mercy observance called for by Pope Francis has been planned for Franklin Deanery

*Date:* March 4-5
*Time:* 1 p.m. Friday to 1 p.m. Saturday
*Place:* Notre Dame Church

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**IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL MYSTERY PLAYERS**

**LENT 2016: “Oh, The Places We’ll Go Tour”**

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<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Church</td>
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*www.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players*
Discover the Missio App

Missio is a mobile digital technology platform that offers a direct, reliable and communal way to be a change-maker in some of the world’s poorest places. Direct: Missio gives you an unfiltered access to those in greatest need – and to those who are making the greatest difference in their lives. Reliable: Our existing global network guarantees that your support will go directly to the project and the people that you select.

Communal: You can get in touch with others close by or friends around the world to make a difference.

What is Missio?
Missio is an online tool that connects people to the people to change the world, providing a variety of ways to show your support: give, share or act. Who is behind Missio? Pope Francis launched Missio from the Pontifical Mission Societies in May 2013 as a way to disseminate news of heroic work being done all over the world. The latest version of Missio makes connecting people with people and projects so much easier.

Missio is an app you can download from iTunes or GooglePlay. It is currently available for iOS and Android, and a web based interface is under development. Below is an example of something you might find on Missio....

News From The Change-Makers...

Tuberculosis is one of the most common infectious diseases worldwide. While significant progress has been made toward its elimination in the United States, this disease remains an urgent public health threat in many other parts of the world. In the Philippines, Sister Maureen Cejas is working to change that.

At the Canossa Health and Social Center, she and the other Sisters in her community serve the poorest of the poor who are sick and suffering. Patients receive free health care and pastoral care. Last year, the center treated 100 adults and 40 children with tuberculosis. The Center has a 98 to 100% cure rate for tuberculosis, in fact; the world target for success: 85%. There is also outreach to address the nutrition needs of poor children and families, specifically treating malnourishment.

Through the Pontifical Mission Societies’ new app, Missio, Sister Maureen and her team of change-makers received support to collect food to feed its young patients and to purchase the necessary equipment and medications for tuberculosis treatments. In just four days on Missio, the project raised its target of $1,000.

Through Missio, you can also be a change-maker with Sister Maureen and other missionaries half a world away. As she and the smiling children say in the video they posted on Missio, “thank you... we love you... we pray for you!” Watch on Missio for updates on updates on how that support is used – and for another project from Sister Maureen.

Through Missio, you can also be a change-maker with Sister Maureen and other missionaries half a world away.

Download the new Missio app today!

OBITUARIES

Bombay -- Gerald F. Jock, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Bombay.

Burke -- Freeda H. Whitney, 98; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. George’s Church; burial in Ridgeway Cemetery.

Hogansburg -- Cecelia "Sadie" Peters, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2016 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Akwesasne.

Lowville -- Nancy C. (Feisthamel) Boliver, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery, Croghan.

Lowville -- Shirley E. Dening McGrath, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church.

Malone -- Martin "Marty" G. Bissonette, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena -- Bernard L. M. Ashley, 65; Funeral Services Feb. 15, 2016 at Donaldson Funeral Home.

Massena -- Phyllis (Trees) Marlows, 86; Funeral Feb. 13, 2016 at Church of Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena -- Joseph R. Romero, 78; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morisonville -- Bertha M. (Martin) Wood, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2016 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in St. Phillips Cemetery.

Norfolk -- Agatha P. (Robideau) Carson, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 20, 2016 at Church of the Visitation; burial in parish cemetery.

Newcomb -- Elizabeth Mary Fennysey; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Therese; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburg -- Ambrose J. Kipp, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 22, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church.

Plattsburg -- Byron T. "Joe" Mosher Jr., 86; Memorial Services March 18, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in So. Glens Falls.

Redford -- Dona J. (Hart) Parnell, 72; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at Church of the Assumption.

Rouses Point -- Rodney I. Harvey, 57; Funeral Feb. 22, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

St. Regis Falls -- Raymond A. Susice, 85; Funeral Feb. 18, 2016 at St. Ann’s Church.

Tupper Lake -- Gloria "Dolly" May LaPointe Gerrels, 81; Funeral Services Feb. 13, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Parish Cemetery.

Tupper Lake -- Alan LaFlamme, 53; Funeral Services Feb. 16, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake -- Theresa A. (LaLonde) Yugoslavia, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 17, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown -- Peter E. Hare, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 19, 2016 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Westville -- Odean Emma (Renault) Chatland, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 18, 2016 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Bombay.
**Around**

**JEFFERSON**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14**

**Schedule:** Beginning Good Friday
March 25 at 3 p.m., the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chapel in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 3 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Hymn of Divine Mercy, & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.

**Contact:** For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**COMMISIONED LAY MINISTERS**

Ogdensburg – The Commissioned Lay Ministers Association will hold a Lenten affirmed of Prayer and Reflection.

**Date:** March 12
**Time:** 12 p.m. to 3:30 followed by Mass at 5
**Place:** St. Mary’s Cathedral Bishop Brzana Hall

**Theme:** Mercy: The Primary Divine Attribute?

**Features:** A light luncheon will be provided. There is no charge for the event, but donations are accepted.

**Contact:** Register before March 8 by contacting Jeannine Grizzuto at (315) 393-2920, Ext. 1413 or by email at jgrippz@rcdny.org.

**LEWIS**

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER**

Harrisville – St. Patrick’s Day dinner to be held.

**Date:** March 5
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 6
**Place:** St. Francis Solanus Church
**Cost:** Adults, $10; Children 5-12, $6; under 5, Free

**Features:** Baked Ham, take-outs after 4, “Fraser Family and Friends” will be there to entertain with Irish music!

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of March will be held.

**Date:** March 6
**Time:** 3 p.m.
**Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church

**Features:** The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

**LENTEN EUCHARISTICADORATION**

Lowville – Lenton Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

**Date:** Feb. 26 & March 3, 10, 17
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5
**Place:** St. Peter’s Church

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Lenten Mission**

Colton and Potsdam – Father Thomas Higman will preach at the March 5-6 weekend Masses at St. Mary’s and St. Patrick’s and during the week.

**Schedule:** March 7 – Sought After; 8 a.m. – Mass & Mission Preaching – St. Patrick’s Confessions to follow; 6 p.m. – Sung Vespers & Mission Preaching – St. Mary’s Confessions to follow; March 8 – Loved; 8 a.m. – Mass & Mission Preaching – St. Patrick’s Confessions to follow; 8:30 a.m. to 11 Confessions – St. Mary’s (Fr. Venette); 1 p.m. to 4 Confessions – St. Mary’s (Fr. Higman); 6 p.m. – Sung Vespers & Mission Preaching – St. Mary’s, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament to conclude Confessions to follow March 9 – Forgiving; 8 a.m. – Mass & Mission Preaching – St. Patrick’s Communal Breakfast to follow at St. Patrick’s Parish Center; 6 p.m. – Mass and Conclusion of Mission – St. Mary’s Communal Supper to follow at Sergi’s

**Contact:** Check the parish website stmaryspatrisk.org for the full schedule.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Lenten Adoration**

Massena – St. Mary’s & St. Joseph will be offering Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mon. & Fri. during Lent.

**Date:** March 6, 10 to 10 p.m.

**Features:** Spend some extra time with God in prayer. Adoration will be held in the side chapel here at St. Mary’s, just to the left of the sanctuary.

**MANICOTI MONDAY**

Norfolk – Manicotti Monday is the first Monday of every month.

**Date:** 4 p.m. to 6:30
**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center
**Cost:** Adults, $9.75; Under 5, Free

**Contact:** Laurie at 315-384-4242

**FAMILY GUGGENHEIM**

**Gouverneur – A Family Guggenheim Winter Event has been planned**

**Date:** Feb. 27

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**Place:** St. James School
**Cost:** $10, includes lunch
**Features:** Fun, food, and prayer. Connect with old friends, meet new friends

**Contact:** Steve Tagart at (315) 393-2920 startaglia@rcdny.org

**MOVIE NIGHT**

Ogdensburg – Movie night at St. Mary’s Cathedral to be held.

**Date:** March 12
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Place:** Brzana Hall

**Features:** The Quiet Man, an Oscar winning classic from 1952. Retired American boxer (John Wayne) returns to the village of his birth in Ireland where he meets a Woman (Maureen O’Hara).

**Contact:** Amy at 315-393-3930

**FISH & SHRIMP**

Gouverneur – Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday.

**Date:** Feb. 12 to March 25
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:15
**Place:** St. James School
**Cost:** Adults, $10; Children 12 and under, $5; under 5, Free

**Features:** Take-outs available, phone ahead for faster service and deliveries, 287-0130.

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION**

Ogdensburg – A Lenten Day of Prayer & Reflection, a Year of Mercy program, for all involved in charitable apostolates in the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been planned.

**Date:** March 8
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2:30
**Place:** Wadhams Hall
**Program:** The presenters will be Deacon Mark and Theresa Bennett of St. Peter’s Parish in Plattsburgh and Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop LaValley at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will follow. This day is open to all who are involved in the charitable works of our parishes and local communities.”members of the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Project Gabriel, Catholic Daughters of America, Soup Kitchens, Food Pantries, Visiting Nurses, etc.

**Registration:** There is no fee for the day, but participants are asked to complete the registration form available from pastors or the online registration at www.rcdny.org/licten by March 1.

**DAYS OF DISCERNMENT**

Potsdam – Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.

**Dates:** Feb. 28; March 13; April 3 & 17
**Time:** 3 p.m.
**Place:** St. Mary’s Rectory

**Features:** Reflection and vespers.

**Contact:** Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Howard Venette, pastor @stmaryspatrisk.net, 315-265-9680; Father Douglas Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com or Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director bstitt@rcdny.org

**RACHEL’S VINEYARD**

Saranac Lake – The spring Rachel’s Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be offered.

**Date:** June 3-5
**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat offers a safe, non-judgmental environment of hope and healing for those suffering after abortions. The chaplains for the spring retreat are Father Mark Reilly of Massena and Father Thomas Higman of Saranac Lake.

**Note:** The fall Rachel’s Vineyard retreat will be held over Labor Day weekend Sept. 2-4. Confidential registration forms will be available soon.

**Contact:** For a list of retreat locations or for more information about Rachel’s Vineyard visit www.rachelsvineyard.org and for local information visit www.rcdny.org/pro-life.

**NEIGHBORING DIOCESES**

**HOLY WEEK RETREAT**

Chesterton, N.Y. – A Holy Week Retreat has been planned.

**Date:** March 20, 7 p.m. to Easter Sunday March 27 (After Breakfast)
**Place:** The Priory Retreat House in the Diocese of Albany
**Cost:** Donation: Private: $60-70/night; Directed: $65-75/night

**Features:** How will you honor the most sacred time in the Christian calendar? Deepen your faith and honor this time by participating in a silent private or directed retreat. You may also choose to experience the Holy Week rituals in the Norther Point cluster churches in Chesterton and North Creek. Participants are invited to join for as many days as they are able.

**Contact:** Call 518-494-3733, email prioryretreat@yahoo.com