Prayer is no ‘magic wand’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Prayer is not a magic wand that fulfills everyone’s desires, but it is what helps you keep the faith when you don’t understand God’s will, Pope Francis said.

Prayer is meant to be “our daily bread, our powerful weapon and the staff for our journey,” he said May 25 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

In his catechesis, the pope talked about the Gospel parable of the persistent widow, who incessantly appealed to a corrupt judge for justice. Judges at the time were supposed to be filled with the fear of God as they impartially and faithfully upheld the laws of Moses, the pope said.

But the judge in this parable was dishonest and only cared about himself. He had no interest in protecting the rights of the weakest and easily exploited members of society, which included widows, orphans and foreigners, he said.

“Faced with the judge’s indifference, the widow resorted to her only weapon — to keep incessantly pestering him, presenting him with her appeal for justice,” the pope said.
EDITOR’S NOTE

The priceless gift of a jubilarian

As part of one more NCC salute to a priest jubilarian, here’s a message for parents and grandpar- ents across the diocese: register your teenager for a week at Camp Guggenheim!

On the back page of this week’s paper we’re starting to introduce the 2016 staff for the diocesan summer camp in Saranac Lake. On the bottom of the page is information on signing up.

Since 1972, Camp Guggenheim has enriched the lives of thousands of Catholic kids with a program of faith, fun and adventure. And that’s where our jubilarian comes into the picture.

It was back in 1972 that Father Art LaBaff, (who celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest this past week on May 28) was serving as youth director for the diocese.

Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana gave the young priest permission to start a summer camp program on the property the diocese had received from the Guggenheim family.

Father Peter Butler, an assistant pastor at nearby St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake, made regular visits to the camp to celebrate Mass with the young people.

Together, Fathers LaBaff and Butler developed a teen camp program with liturgy at its heart.

“The primary purpose of Guggenheim,” Father LaBaff told me this week, “was to give young people a good experience of liturgy.

Forty-four years later, liturgy is still the heart of the Guggenheim experience.

As you read the short profiles of this year’s staff members, a common desire is repeated in a variety of heartfelt sentences: Guggenheim has touched my life, and I am blessed to be able to bring this joy to others.

AND I am excited to see both new and familiar faces and pray that campers will grow in their friendships with God and each other this summer.

A week at Guggenheim can be a life changing experience for young people who find a place where they find a place for God in their lives.

There’s great video on the diocesan youth ministry website (www.rcdony.org/youth) that tells the Guggenheim story in less than two minutes.

Personally, I believe the invitation to “Hike. Swim. Praise” will be irresistible!

Nothing’s better than celebrating Mass

This time of the year, our Catholic Church focuses on the Holy Mass in a special way.

Last week, I received an invitation from my friend, Brady Leerkes, to come to his First Communion which will take place at a Mass of course, at St. Mary’s. I recently received an invitation to Father Arthur LaBaff’s 50th anniversary celebration which will be celebrated at a Mass. Last week, I attended a funeral Mass for Deacon Bill Schmidt, a friend, whose family was a good part of my ministry as a priest.

Every Sunday in all our parishes, the parish community joins in prayer at the Holy Mass.

Nothing means more to me as a Catholic and as a priest than the celebration of the Holy Mass – the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. My ordination as a priest was a call to celebration the Mass. I was commissioned to say the same words as Jesus. In faith, I am united with Jesus in the consecration of the bread and wine to His Body and Blood just as at the Last Supper. Nothing else matters to me as a priest.

At each Mass, I receive the Holy Eucharist in Holy Communion. Jesus becomes my help and my strength to do all I must do as a priest and as a disciple of Jesus.

So, each year, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, is truly one of my favorite feasts. Since my own First Communion, I have believed in faith in the real presence of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Blessed Eucharist. I truly believe that the bread and wine brought to the altar in the Offertory Procession, will be consecrated into the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Liturgy of the Eucharist at every Mass.

It is all about gratitude. The very name of this sacrament – the Holy Eucharist – is gratitude. Eucharist, a Greek word used today means “thank you.” Each time we Catholics gather for the celebration of the Mass, we begin in gratitude. There are so many people and things in my life that I am grateful for beginning with the very reason we are all there in gratitude for the sufferings, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. My life has been blessed, my priesthood has been blessed by God. My priesthood has been strengthened by so many wonderful people over the years. Each time I go to the altar for Mass, I begin with gratitude.

Let me tell you about my favorite Mass. I have been honored to offer Mass in some wonderful, holy places. I offered Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, in the very place where tradition says Jesus was entombed after the crucifixion. I celebrated Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. I have been honored to celebrate in most of the parish churches in my diocese – including the Cathedral Church in Ogdensburg. I have been honored to celebrate Mass in many homes of many families in the various parishes I was pastor.

But let me tell you about the Mass I remember best. I was invited by my friend and classmate, Father Phil Allen, to go hiking with him. I know what you are thinking – a rather daunting task – but I insisted he slow down for me. We were somewhere in New Hampshire, on the Appalachian Trail.

I remember well. It was a perfect day, bright and sunny, not too hot, just perfect. At one point, we came upon a spot that opened up through the trees and could clearly look out on the whole expanse of a valley – a truly magnificent sight. Father Phil suggested, “Let’s say Mass.” So the two of us celebrated Mass on the side of a mountain, looking out on this unbelievable sight, just as in a brightly lit Cathedral. We read the scriptures; we prayed the prayers. We celebrated the Eucharistic Prayer – we received Holy Communion. Every moment was a time to recognize the glory of Mass and every Mass. It was a time of gratitude that we, two priests of the Lord, could offer such a celebration of the Mass high up in the White Mountains.

I am certain that you have noticed I use the word “celebrate” often. No other word can describe what it means for a priest to offer Mass – no other word can describe what it means for a parish community as they join together every Sunday for Mass.

This is why we sing and pray and demonstrate our gratitude so enthusiastically: we are celebrating the love of Our Savior, who truly died and rose again for us.
**FOLLOW ME**

**Be effective... gentle...constant**

Bishop LaValley's homily for the diaconate ordination of Michael Jablonski May 28

In our Opening Prayer today, we entreated the Lord that the new deacon may be effective in action, gentle in ministry, and constant in prayer. These words express beautifully the Church's desire that you, Michael, allow yourself to be constantly transformed and renewed by God's Spirit so that your ministry in His Name will make a real difference in the lives of God's holy people—their lives here on earth and into eternity—so that the example of your way of life might inspire the imitation of the faithful.

Be effective in action:

This desire of the Church assumes fruitful activity on your part—not running in circles with no direction or priorities nor just sitting around waiting for the faithful to come to you. Being effective in action assumes that you know and embrace the richness of Church teaching and that you are eager to share, to teach and proclaim what God has done for us. Such a charge assumes that you know your people and their needs, that you love and care for their well-being—material and spiritual—that you want to be with them, yes, even smell of them.

To be effective in action, you must be aware of the Spirit's guidance in your ministry and of Jesus' ever-loving Presence. Being effective in ministry demands that you continue, for a lifetime, to deepen your love of Scripture through time spent reflecting and studying the Word of God. By knowing your people and upon reflection of your own faith struggles, you will be able to apply God’s Word to the joys and challenges they encounter in life. In this way, you will be an effective deacon and Minister of the Word.

Be gentle in ministry:

Michael, your heart must beat with the tenderness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Hearing the words of the Good Shepherd in today’s Gospel from John, you know personally, coming from a farming family, that sometimes the hired hands can be hard on the equipment and on the herd. Some feel that they have no real investment in the farm, so why give it special attention? Our God has invested the life of His very Son for the sake of the salvation of every human person. The ordained must be tender and gentle in our ministry to God’s holy people. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't be firm in our teaching, but particularly during this Jubilee of Mercy, we are keenly aware that our relationship with others must reflect the mercy and forgiveness we have experienced from God.

For too many months now in the public square, we have seen, increasingly, a pathetic and embarrassing display of what anger and crude behavior towards others look like. We must be kind and approachable to all those entrusted to our care, however difficult it may be, at times. These last several years, Michael, you have engaged in considerable pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg from the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain to the St. Lawrence Valley. You have been touched by the beauty of our land and, most importantly, you have experienced, first hand, the beauty of those who call the North Country “home.” As you have done so nicely, continue to reach out with compassion and genuine concern for the faithful. These are the encounters where you grow in holiness.

Be constant in prayer:

We can be effective in action and gentle in ministry only if our ministry is fueled by a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Our relationship with Jesus is strengthened as we share in communal worship and spend time with our people. The people of God expects its ordained ministers to be men of prayer. Michael, turn to our Blessed Mother continually for the comfort, courage and solace that only the Mother of God can offer you. Through it all, remember the words we just heard in our first reading from Jeremiah: “Have no fear...because I am with you.” Michael, be not afraid; the Lord has chosen you for ministry and we are glad, mighty glad!

In his recent Exhortation, *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis, in his inspiring section on love, reminds us that “love understands, shows concern and embraces the weak.” (#97) As a deacon of the Church and Minister of Charity, this kind of love must motivate your ministry, particularly to those whose lives are especially difficult because of poverty, addictions, violence or abuse.

Michael, should you be effective in action, gentle in ministry, and constant in prayer, you will be a credible witness of Jesus Christ. You will have shown us the difference between being a hired hand and a true shepherd.

I join the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in thanking you, Joseph and Rachel, for the wonderful gift of your son who will soon join the ranks of the ordained of the Church of Ogdensburg.

We congratulate you and your family, Carolyn and brother Steven, on this holy and happy occasion. Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled the North Country is blessed!
Clayton Catholic was a Civil War hero

By David Shampine, staff writer; and Neil Fuller, contributing writer

CLAYTON - An 85-year-old Civil War hero, Joseph Michael Lonsway, who was a life-long worshiper at St. Mary’s Church, thought he was just one in a crowd of veterans as he stood in front of the White House.

Wearing his faded-blue Congressional Medal of Honor, he soon learned on Nov. 11, 1921, that his service to the Union merited special recognition.

General John J. Pershing, the commanding officer of the United States Army, approached him and "literally hugged him, lifting the little old man high in the air," the Watertown Daily Times reported.

And then, newsmen closed in on the two old soldiers in time to hear the general to say: "I’m proud to meet a Medal of Honor man, and I know the president will want to see you.”

Moments later, Joseph Lonsway was being introduced to President Warren G. Harding.

The occasion for the Clayton man’s memorable day was a ceremony honoring an unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, to which Mr. Lonsway and several other Civil War veterans had been invited.

During his 15-minute chat with the president, Mr. Lonsway was asked if he had paid his own travel expenses. That affirmed, President Harding not only arranged reimbursement, for his round trip, but additionally asked the veteran to stay over another day in Washington. The president wanted to have a follow-up discussion to hear about the old soldier's war experiences.

Wrong train

When Joseph, traveling alone, was ready to return to Clayton, he inadvertently boarded the wrong train. In doing so, he entered the private car of Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France, who was also in Washington for the unknown soldier dedication. Recognizing the old soldier, the Field Marshal greeted Joseph, and they were able to converse in French.

The Field Marshal congratulated him for being so brave. He eventually ordered his private guard to escort Mr. Lonsway to his train and to make sure he was comfortably seated for his journey home.

The following month, on the eighth of December 8, Joseph appeared on stage in Clayton as "The Boy of 65" in a skit put on by the Knights of Columbus in a musical comedy, "The Merry Travelers.”

Clayton native Joseph Michael Lonsway, a life-long parishioner of St. Mary's Church, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his service in the Civil War. He is shown, at left, accepting congratulation from Gen. John J. Pershing, the commanding officer of the U.S. Army. President Warren G. Harding is shown in the back in the top hat. Dee Fuller, current parishioner of St. Mary's, and wife of writer Neil Fuller, is among several great great grandchildren of Joseph Lonsway.

Clayton native Joseph Michael Lonsway, who was later to become a Medal of Honor winner, was also in Washington for a ceremony honoring an unknown soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, to which Mr. Lonsway and several other Civil War veterans had been invited. The president wanted to have a follow-up discussion to hear about the old soldier's war experiences.

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Faces of Faith in the North Country

The Spirit of Spring

Recently Father Donald Manfred, pastor of the Church of Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence in Massena, blessed a chasuble with the depiction of Our Lady of Perpetual Help before celebrating Mass at the St. Regis Nursing Home in Massena. The chasuble was donated in memory of Josephine Poore, a resident in the St. Regis for seven years. She was also a volunteer for over 30 years visiting residents on her free time. Catholic Masses or Communion services at St. Regis are held Wednesdays beginning with rosary at 2 p.m. Bereavement Support Group meets the last Tuesday of every month at Sacred Heart Convent. Further information about any of these services is available from Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence Rectory at 769-2469. Pictured, from left are Betty Beaudet, Father Manfred and Mary Holmes.

In the front page photo of the 2016 priest jubilarians featured in the May 25 issue of the NC, Father Patrick W. Mundy was mistakenly cropped out. The complete group is shown above after the Jubilee Mass held May 18 during the diocesan Priests’ Retreat at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of the Archdiocese of New York was the retreat leader. Pictured, seated from left, are Father Mundy, celebrating 50 years of priesthood; Father Leo A. Wiley, 60 years; Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy, 70 years; Father Richard S. Sturtz, 60 years; and Father John J. Looby, 50 years; back, Father Garry B. Giroux, 40 years; Cardinal Dolan, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father Arthur J. LaRaff, 50 years; and Father Kris Lauzon, 25 years.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley administered the Sacrament of Confirmation May 10 at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown. He is shown with five of the young people who were confirmed as well as parish leaders. In front are Gabrielle Barnes, parishioner of St. Anthony’s; Keith Carroll, St. Patrick’s; Bishop LaValley, Payton Barnes, St. Anthony’s; Tuyen Huynh, St. Patrick’s; and Andrew Cisco, St. Patrick’s; back, Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Joseph Christy, parochial vicar, St. Patrick’s and St. Anthony’s; Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor, St. Patrick’s and St. Anthony’s; Deacon Kevin T. Mastellon, pastoral associate, St. Patrick’s Watertown; and Deacon Guy Javorone, Deacon Associate, St. Anthony’s.

Loretta Fiacco and her class at St. Andrew’s Parish in Norwood made their first Communion on Mother’s Day. Loretta is pictured with her pastor, Msgr. John R. Murphy.

Photo by Pat Hendrick
Clayton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Because he knew he may be killed himself he asked a friend from Clayton to write home to his family and let them know what had happened. Joseph then jumped stark naked into the river, swam across the river on his back with just his nose above the surface.

Undetected by the enemy he returned with the cable in hand, enabling his unit to secure the barges and transport men, horses and artillery across the river and win the battle.

Afterward, Joseph was asked how he had learned to become such a strong swimmer. “I learnt how to swim by watching the muskrats swim up French Creek... dat I know,” he said.

After his swim he got separated from his detachment. Trying to find his way back, he came across some rebel soldiers guarding 250 head of cattle.

He managed to “knock out” the guards and he stumped the cattle back to his own men, solving their needs for fresh meat.

Upon his return to his unit, he was heard whooping and hollering as he drove the cattle, but his commander mistook the racket to be a rebel attack and ordered his men to take aim.

The friend from Clayton, identified only as Jenkins, recognized Lonsway’s hollering and begged the commander to hold fire.

Joseph credited Jenkins with saving his life that day.

According to the Harold Sanderson Master File of Civil War Soldiers from the North Country, that soldier may have been Jackson Jenks of Clayton, who was a member of the 20th Regiment.

Private Lonsway was reportedly offered a promotion by President Lincoln, but he appreciatively declined, choosing to return to Clayton upon completion of his enlistment.

Married his sweetheart

Awaiting his return was his sweetheart, Mary LePage, to whom he was married at St. Mary’s Church. The ceremony on Sept. 11, 1865 was performed by Father James Sherry.

Joseph and Mary parented nine children, but five of them failed to reach the age of two: Joseph, born in 1870, James, born in 1871, Edward, given birth in 1872, M. Louise, born in 1875, and Paul, who was carried to his 1890 birth by his 43-year-old mother.

The first-born child, Mary, arrived on Oct. 25, 1866, and died on her 48th birthday, the victim of a flu epidemic.

Three survived their parents: Josephine, born in 1877, Louisa, born in 1879, and Addie Sophia, who was added to the family in 1883.

Many of their descendants still make their homes in Clayton and worship at St. Mary’s Church.

Joseph lived to be 81, passing on Jan. 22, 1925. Mrs. Lonsway died five years later, on April 9. Their funerals were both held in the new St. Mary’s, dedicated in 1889, which still stands today.

Joseph and Mary are buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery along with their parents and descendants.

In 2011, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, a celebration was held to remember Pvt. Joseph Lonsway and his heroism.

It was attended by his surviving granddaughter, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren and great great great grandchildren. A memorial to Private Lonsway is on the wall of the Claryton American Legion. His medal is still in his family.

Per his wishes the medal is handed down generation to generation to the oldest male descendant.

A blue flag signifying his Medal of Honor adorns his grave.

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration is required in order to participate. Participants must 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:

June 7 - 11 a.m., Meeting with the Priests of the Adirondack Deanery at St. Bernard’s Church in Saranac Lake

June 9 - 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact: Victims Assistance Coordinator, TeriAnne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northen New York, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY 12923; e-mail: terianneyanulavich@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr. James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Environmental Stewardship

Time to Celebrate

Did you know that June 18 celebrates the one year anniversary of the release of Laudato Si: Care for our Common Home?

The title “Laudato Si” means “praise be” and is taken from a famous creation canticle by St. Francis of Assisi, as he thanked God for the beauty of Creation.

It is in this spirit that Pope Francis “invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.”

Only when we become more amazed at God’s Creation around us and within us, will we have the passion and energy to become more educated on how we can assume responsibility as caretaker of this magnificent earth.

Why is this encyclical so critical to our world today?

In answer to this question, Jesus Father James Martin, gives us “Ten Things You Need to Know About in 4 minute video.

In the next few weeks we will be looking at some of these “things” that Father Martin offers us.

First, “SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE: The encyclical provides an overview of the environmental crisis from a religious point of view. Previously the dialogue has been mainly framed in political, scientific and economic language. Now the language of faith decisively enters the discussion.”

Secondly, “EFFECTS ON THE POOR: The disproportionate effect of environmental change on the poor is strongly highlighted in almost every page of the document, with many examples.”

Thirdly, “AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING: Pope Francis explicitly states that Laudato Si is now added to the Church’s body of social teaching (continuing a tradition which in the modern era dates back to Leo XIII’s Rerum Novarum in 1891). To be continued next week.”

*Taken from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_IqFLYLC_4 or google James Martin video Top Things You Need to Know about

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Fatima facts: Vatican shepherds the flock away from conspiracy claims

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - When then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger met the press in 2000 for the formal release of the so-called Third Secret of Fatima, he said he knew many people would be disappointed.

Almost 16 years later, at the beginning of a yearlong preparation for the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima in 2017, now-retired Pope Benedict XVI is still dealing with people not convinced the secret is really out.

An online journal called OnePeterFive published an article May 15 claiming that shortly after then-Cardinal Ratzinger released the secret and his commentary, affirming that it was the complete text, he told a German priest that, in fact, it was not.

"There is more than what we published," the article claimed the cardinal told Father Ingo Dollinger. The article went further: "He also told Dollinger that the published part of the secret is authentic and that the unpublished part of the secret speaks about 'a bad council and a bad Mass' that was to come in the near future."

A statement released May 21 by the Vatican press office said Pope Benedict "declares 'never to have spoken with Professor Dollinger about Fatima,' clearly affirming that the remarks attributed to Professor Dollinger on the matter 'are pure inventions, absolutely untrue,' and he confirms decisively that 'the publication of the Third Secret of Fatima is complete.'"

The Vatican's publication of "The Message of Fatima" in 2000 included a photocopy of the text handwritten in 1944 by Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, the last survivor of the three children who saw Mary at Fatima in 1917.

Speculation naturally swirled around secrets, and when a secret is held for decades, the assumptions gain ground and followers.

The common message of Marian apparitions throughout the centuries has been: pray and convert. But a message read only by a few popes and their closest aides? There had to be something more to it to justify keeping it so secret, many people thought.

When Cardinal Ratzinger presented the text in the Vatican press office June 26, 2000, he told reporters that the choice of St. John XXIII and Blessed Paul VI to withhold publication and St. John Paul II's decision to delay it was not a "dogmatic decision but one of prudence."

But, he said, "looking back, I would certainly say that we have paid a price" for the delay, which allowed the spread of apocalyptic theories about its contents.

Meeting the press that day, the first words out of his mouth were: "One who carefully reads the text of the so-called third secret of Fatima will probably be disappointed or surprised after all the speculation there has been."

The text, he said, uses "symbolic language" to describe "the church of the martyrs of the century now past," particularly the victims of two world wars, Nazism and communism.

But what was most difficult for many to believe after the secret spent more than 40 years in a Vatican vault was what the text did not contain. "No great mystery is revealed," Cardinal Ratzinger said. "The veil of the future is not torn."

In a 1996 interview with Portugal's main Catholic radio station, the cardinal -- who already had read the secret -- tried the reasonable, tradition-based approach to pointing out what was and was not in the message. "The Virgin does not engage in sensationalism; she does not create fear," he said. "She does not present apocalyptic visions, but guides people to her Son."

Cardinal Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI five years after the text was published. If there was more to the secret, he had eight years of complete freedom as supreme pontiff to share what supposedly was withheld.

Marianist Father Johann Roten, a former student of then-Father Joseph Ratzinger who for years headed the Marian Research Institute at the University of Dayton, said there is "no doubt there is truth" in what many Fatima devotees see as "the moral decline in the church."

"The difficulty is in the method" many of them choose to convince others of the need for conversion and prayer, Father Roten said in an email response to questions.

"The method tends to be magico-ritualistic, based on the conviction that a particular act, such as the consecration of Russia performed in a particular way, will solve all problems," he said.

"Apparitions always stress the message of Christ," Father Roten said. "Mary urges prayer, conversion and practical manifestations of one's faith."
**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**God’s mercy for those in desperate need**

Two Sundays ago, the readings presented a God shrouded in mystery. There is nothing in our theology more awesome than the Holy Trinity.

This Sunday, Scripture shows us a God with both human and divine qualities, a God of mercy.

How appropriate for this Year of Mercy.

The theme for this Sunday is God’s mercy and compassion to those in desperate need.

Widows were particularly vulnerable. They could easily starve to death without a son to support them. Both Elijah the prophet and Jesus know this, and show how merciful God is to widows.

In the first reading from the first Book of Kings, God directs a widow of Zarephath to take care of Elijah. Even though Elijah miraculously provides her with all the food she needs, in her grief and mistaken conviction that her sins have brought about his death, she shifts the blame to Elijah for carrying out God’s vengeance.

She shouts “Have you come to call attention to my guilt and to kill my son?” Elijah takes pity on her, and, in turn, complains to God about this.

Now the main lesson of this reading comes in. God doesn’t like people thinking that he is a vengeful God, but rather, a God of mercy. He hears Elijah’s plea, and breathes life back into the boy.

The widow now acknowledges that the word of God is powerful, and Elijah is a true prophet of this Word!

We have a similar theme in the Gospel. This takes place in the city of Nain where a large crowd is gathered to hear the preaching of Jesus.

At the city gates, a funeral procession is passing by. Jesus immediately sizes up the situation: a poor widow has lost her only son, and will be totally destitute.

Jesus takes pity on this poor widow, and immediately shows the power of His merciful Father in restoring life.

The crowd is ecstatic, crying out that “God has visited His people”!

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**Pope: sainthood can mean biting your tongue**

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Holiness doesn't depend on superhuman powers, but rather demands a heart filled with courage, hope and grace that strives for conversion each and every day, Pope Francis said at his morning Mass.

In fact, holiness is reached by taking tiny steps, like biting your tongue every time there is the urge to gossip or demean somebody, he said May 24 during the Mass in Domus Sanctae Marthae.

"Bite your tongue a little. Your tongue will swell up a bit, but your spirit will be holier," the pope said.

"Holiness is a journey. Holiness cannot be bought, it is not sold and it is not given away as a reward, he said. It is "walking in God's presence in an irrefutable way."

Every person is responsible for striking out on a path of holiness, he said. "I have to do it, someone else can't do it in my name. I can pray for someone else to be a saint, but he has to take that path, not me."

The holiness Christians must strive for is an "everyday" task often carried out in anonymity, he said.

"This journey first demands courage. "The courage to move forward," he said.

That courage is inspired by hope -- the hope "in an encounter with Jesus."

However, people cannot live holy lives on their own. "It is a grace of God and we must ask for it and be open to receiving it," he said.

Christians must not conform themselves to the world, but must "change one's own heart from within -- in an ongoing, daily intense activity within."

Conversion isn't telling the priest, "Oh father, for me to convert I must do penance - give me a clobbering," he said.

The process of conversion requires small concrete steps, he said. For example, "If you are able to not speak badly about someone else, you are on the right path for becoming a saint. It's that easy."

"Tackle the little things and don't turn back, always move forward" with hope and strength, he said.

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**The Nice Guys**

By John Mulderig

Catholic News Service

The morally unstable tone of the clever action comedy "The Nice Guys" (Warner Bros.) is typified by the fictional resume of one of its two main characters.

Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe) is a thug-for-hire in 1977 Los Angeles. Yet he's also a good-hearted soul who prefers to beat up only bad guys, especially lowlife types who prey on women.

It doesn’t, of course, take a great deal of ethical discernment to realize that no degree of chivalrous feeling can excuse a career based on brutality.

Nor do Healy’s good intentions prevent him from making mistakes, as when he causes serious injury to a missing girl named Amelia (Margaret Quakerly), but Healy’s clients prefer that she not be found. So Healy takes the art of arm-twisting to an extreme.

Since director and co-writer (with Anthony Baragouin) Shane Black has a fondness for ironic plot developments, however, loyalties prove liquid and it’s not long before Healy has switched sides, joining March in the search for the endangered Amelia.

Tagging along on the hunt, to troubling effect, is March’s precocious teen daughter, Holly (Andorite Rice).

Viewers familiar with Tatum O’Neil character Addie Loggins in the 1973 film "Paper Moon" - or with any number of feisty young ‘USN played, in her youth, by Jodie Foster - will recognize Holly’s persona as something of a throwback to the era in which "The Nice Guys" is set.

Holly is the mature, frequently disapproving observer of her widowed father’s rampant disorganization, semi-fraudulent dishonesty and fondness for drink. She also provides the moral center not only for his life but for the movie as a whole.

Yet her involvement in Amelia’s case, which comes about very much at her own insistence, exposes Holly to all manner of inappropriate experiences.

Since clues seem to suggest a link between Amelia’s disappearance and the recent death of a porn star, Holly finds herself attending a decadent party at the home of a pornographic filmmaker where she watches as one of his productions is screened.

Later she witnesses the bloody end of one of the villains whoever been chasing her dad and his newfound partner.

Along with the moments of excess sprinkled through the otherwise generally restrained presentation of the picture’s gritty atmosphere, the attempt to play Holly’s incongruous presence in such situations for laughs sends the proceedings irrevocably off-track.

The film contains a few instances of extreme gore, much stylized violence, pornographic images, including fleeting but explicit sexual activity, upper and rear female nudity, a same-sex kiss, about a dozen uses of profanity and pervasive rough and crude language.

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

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**June 5 concert to benefit Mission of Hope**

For the seventh time, the band Towne Meeting is performing a concert at St. Augustine’s Church in Peru to benefit the North Country Mission of Hope. The concert is set for June 5 at 7 p.m.

The band, Towne Meeting, known for vocal harmonies and engaging performances, will hold its seventh benefit concert for the Mission of Hope stove project in Nicaragua on Sunday, June 5 at 7 p.m. at St. Augustine’s Church.

Over the years, proceeds from these concerts have provided 316 Nicaraguan families with safe, fuel efficient, environmentally friendly cook stoves.

Towne Meeting has recently released its 5th CD entitled “Journeys” an outstanding collection of their music which includes folk and popular tunes with messages of hope and peace.

Further information is about the band is available at townemeeting.com and, about the Mission of Hope, nmissionofhope.org

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Follow Pope Francis on Twitter! www.twitter.com/Pontifex

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**Clinton**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Peru - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host its 30th annual charity golf tournament.
**Date:** June 17  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Place:** Adirondack Golf and Country Club  
**Cost:** $300  
**Features:** The four-person scramble, awards dinner in the clubhouse.  
**Contact:** Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 643-0242 or email gnelombard@charter.net

**SUMMER PROGRAM AT OLA**
Ellenburg Center - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer program for the summer has been announced.  
**Schedule:** Each first Saturday through Nov. Rosary will begin at 11 a.m. (with confessions available) and Mass will be offered at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. Each third Saturday (except Aug.) there will be a retreat day on a theme of Mercy starting at 10 a.m. with Mass and lunch. Reservations are required. The House of Prayer will be opened each weekend from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
**Contact:** For reservations or information call 518-594-3253 or email olahouse@gmail.com

**FOR LAY MINISTERS**
Morrisonville - Commissioned Lay Ministers Association of the Clinton, Essex and Hamilton-Herkimer Deaneries to have Spring event.  
**Date:** June 3  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 8  
**Place:** St. Alexander's Church  
**Features:** Msgr. Leeward Poissant will speak on “The Power and the Wisdom” The evening will begin with a social and light refreshments.  
**Cost:** $10  
**Contact:** Jeannie Grizuto, 315-393-2920, Pre-registration is required by May 23

**FESTIVAL OF CARS & BAZAAR**
Moosers Forks - First Festival of Cars & Annual Bazaar to be held.  
**Date:** June 5  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Ann’s Grounds  
**Features:** Big ticket; Pull Tabs; Theme baskets; entertainment; crafts; food; Pre-registration $10 or $15 day of the show (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.)  
**Contact:** To pre-register your vehicle or for more information call 518-236-5632

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**Essex**

**8TH ANNUAL NUN RUN**
Ticonderoga - St. Mary’s School is holding its 8th Annual Nun Run  
**Date:** June 11  
**Time:** Registration 9 a.m.; Run and Walk at 10  
**Cost:** Adults, $10; Children, $5; Family, $20; T-shirts, $10  
**Features:** Prizes, free raffle drawing & barbecue  
**Contact:** Call school: 518-585-7433

**WMOF FAMILY MISSION**
Malone - The World Meetings of Family Mission is a day of prayer for families.  
**Date:** June 3  
**Time:** 12:05 p.m. to 8:30  
**Place:** Notre Dame Church  
**Features:** Program begins with Mass and concludes with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day, and concludes with a Holy Hour from 7 p.m. to 8. Members from the team that represented the diocese at the World Meeting of Families will be on hand to make a presentation, to speak and to offer free books, other resources.  
**Cost:** $10  
**Contact:** Jeannie Grizuto, 315-393-2920, Pre-registration is required by May 23

**Franklin**

**HEALING MASS**
Clayton - St. Mary’s Church will hold its annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.  
**Date:** June 11  
**Time:** 11 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary’s Church  
**Features:** During Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered and immediately following Mass will be prayer teams, to pray for individual needs. A social time, with refreshments, will take place in the Parish Center. The Tetrault family will be available to share stories about their grandfather, Antoine.  
**Contact:** St. Mary’s at 315-688-3398 or website www.stmarysclayton.org

**Jefferson**

**Lay Minister Retreat**
Ogdensburg - All commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to a retreat.  
**Date:** June 10 from 7 p.m. to June 12 at 12 p.m.  
**Theme:** “Called to Church”  
**Contact:** Registrations and payments can be completed online at: www.rcdony.org/formation or by contacting Jeannie Grizuto at: jgrizuto@rcdony.org - (315) 393-2920, Ext. 1413.

**North County Catholic**

The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to “Around the Diocese.” Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
- North County Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
- e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.
Do you have a mission interest?

If you are a baptized Catholic, you have the opportunity to participate in the worldwide mission of the Church by offering their prayers, sacrifices or financial contributions to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association or the Society for St. Peter Apostle.

Here’s how you can further your personal commitment to the Church’s universal mission:

The Missionary Union of Priests and Religious is a spiritual apostolate for Priests, Religious men and women, catechists and lay people. In October, World Mission Sunday gives an opportunity for Catholics to express their prayerful and financial support of the Church’s worldwide missionary work and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in particular. The Pontifical Mission Societies, active in 120 countries throughout the world, work to animate the faithful to a universal missionary spirit, and gather support for the efforts of the Church in 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Rim and Latin America.

The four Pontifical Mission Societies are:

- The Missionary Childhood Association directs its efforts to elementary school children, while the Society for the Propagation of the Faith seeks prayer and support for programs and needs of mission dioceses from adults.
- The Propagation of the Faith gives assistance to the Church in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Rim and remote regions of Latin America, including aid for the education and support of seminarians, Religious novices and lay catechists. It helps with Religious Communities in education, health care, social services, communication and transportation needs.
- The Society of St. Peter Apostle focuses on gathering help for seminarians and Religious novices in the Missions.
- The Missionary Union of Priests and Religious is a spiritual apostolate, working on formation in the missionary spirit among those called to animate all the faithful.

How can you further your personal commitment to the Church’s universal mission? If you are a lay person, you can by offering your prayers and personal sacrifices for the Missions and for missionaries. Additionally, the Pontifical Mission Societies offers publications on mission spirituality for lay people. Possibly you may speak to your pastor or diocesan director of the Pontifical Mission Societies about activities, discussions or pilgrimages in your area designed to animate Catholics to the missionary work. If you are a priest, seminarian, Religious Brother / Sister or catechist, please contact your diocesan Pontifical Mission Societies about mission education programs available to you.

Thank you for all your contributions to the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies!

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
MEET THE STAFF

Kelly Donnelly, camp director

Kelly Donnelly is ecstatic to be directing Guggenheim for her third season! She is a parishioner at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh and has taught English and Religion at Seton Catholic for the past six years.

Kelly is currently the diocesan director of youth ministry. In her free time, she loves to read, travel, and kayak.

She feels incredibly blessed to be able to spend her summer working with the counselors and campers at Guggenheim!

Joey Izzo

Joey Izzo is a native of Lake Placid and a parishioner at St. Agnes parish. He just graduated from Berkeley College of Music with a degree in Music Production and Engineering and works as a composer, producer and performer in an ever-growing variety of bands, composition partnerships and recording projects.

He is more excited than ever to be gearing up for his fourth year on staff at Camp Guggenheim. Camp has always been the highlight of his year for many memorable summers. He's very excited to see both new and familiar faces and prays that campers will grow in their friendships with God and each other this summer.

Allison St. Louis

Allison St. Louis is excited to begin her second summer on staff at Camp. She is from Morrisonville and is extremely blessed to be part of the St. Alexander's Church community.

Allison attends SUNY Plattsburgh and is studying to be an elementary school teacher. Camp Guggenheim holds a special place in her heart and she looks forward to sharing her love for Christ with the campers this summer!

Michael Bobak

Hi, my name is Michael Bobak. This will be my first year working at Guggenheim, and I am super excited! I have always wanted to work at camp ever since I went when I was twelve. I would watch my older siblings bring God’s love to campers, and that has inspired me to want to do the same.

I am from Grand Island, New York and a parishioner of St. Stephen's Church.

Now, I am currently studying Biology at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. Guggenheim has touched my life, and I am blessed to be able to bring this joy to others.

Grace Leader

My name is Grace Leader and I am currently a freshman at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. I am from St. James Parish in Gouverneur and have loved Guggenheim for as long as I can remember. Ever since my parents first brought me to Family Guggenheim when I was two months old, Guggenheim has continued to be my favorite place to go every summer since.

From being on Family Camp Staff for the past 11 years, and attending Teen Camp for the past seven years, I have always hoped to one day become a Teen Camp Counselor. I am very blessed and excited to have this opportunity and I am very excited to see what adventures this summer holds.

More profiles in next week’s NCC

Visit www.rcdony.org/youth for information and registration forms. Weekly sessions begin June 26