INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Bishop's message to high school graduates | PAGE 3
St. Anthony's to hold 100th Mount Carmel celebration | PAGE 13

The Diocese of Ogdensburg | Volume 71, Number 10
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Seeing Jesus in those in need

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Indifference and hostility can blind Christians from recognizing Jesus in those most in need, Pope Francis said.

"This indifference and hostility can turn into aggression" toward people often marginalized by society, the pope said June 15 during his weekly general audience.

Three more pastoral changes

In conjunction with previously announced changes in priest assignments, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has made three additional pastoral changes to take effect on June 29.

• Father Howard J. Venette, is moving from Potsdam to Old Forge
• Father Stephen Rocker, from Gouverneur to Potsdam
• Father Shane M. Lynch, from Old Forge to Gouverneur.

The full list of their parish responsibilities and biographies of the new pastors begin on page 3.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NCC summer schedule

The bi-weekly publication for the North Country Catholic begins this week; the next issue of the paper will be dated July 6.

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK
Bishop Terry R. LaValley is surrounded by priests of the diocese at the altar of St. Patrick's Church in Chateaugay during the May 20 Jubilee Mass honoring Father John J. Looby for 50 years of priesthood. This week's NCC features the annual focus on vocations, titled "Rebuild My Church...Creating a Culture of Vocations." The issue includes messages on vocations from Bishop LaValley and Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, as well as articles about "creating a culture of vocations" in the priesthood, religious life, diaconate and family.

MEET THE STAFF: Maeve, Connor, Kathryn & Nick will be at Guggenheim, p. 16
The witness of the not-so-young

We’ve heard a lot about “creating a culture of vocations” over the past couple of years as we all strive to meet the goals of the diocesan envisioning process.

This week’s NCC offers a salute to some among us who have been living in a vocation-rich culture for decades.

Along with articles about efforts to nurture young vocations, our annual vocation issue offers profiles of a priest who’s been a priest for 50 years, a Sister of St. Joseph who’s been an SSJ for more than 40 and a deacon who spent the last 30 years of his life in service to his church.

And, as often happens, Pope Francis helps me make my point.

In an address he made June 16 to open the Diocese of Rome’s annual pastoral council, Pope Francis reflects on the example of men and women who have been married for many years.

“Couples who have been married for decades know the reality of the challenges, but they also know that true love exists and lifelong fidelity is possible,” the pope said.

Too often, though, “we have deprived them of the opportunity to recount their lives, their stories, their experiences,” Pope Francis said. “Tossing them aside we throw away the possibility of making contact with the secret that allowed them to keep going.”

Without models and guides, he said, there is little chance that young people, who already are fearful of the future, will find the courage to make a lasting commitment and to stick to it even when the relationship gets rocky.

“How can we expect young people to live the challenge of the family and marriage as a gift if they continually hear from us that it is a burden,” the pope asked.

The same is true of course for our priests and religious.

We must ask to hear the stories of our Fathers and Sisters so that we can understand what keeps them going, what keeps them joyful when the inevitable challenges arise.

Pope Francis called it “the power of the witness of the elderly” (which is a little hard to accept since I’m part of a couple nearing 40 years of marriage) but we know exactly what he means.

We can’t ignore the powerful witness of Father Looby, Sister Jennifer, Deacon Schmidt and all the rest who create a culture of vocation in every room they enter.

A Pastor’s Perspective

The role of families in formation

Today I would like to write a bit on the importance of family on the formation of a vocation spirit in the hearts and minds of our young people.

Family has been written about often and the importance of good family life is a frequent theme however, I want to take this opportunity to again speak about family.

As you well know now, the focus of our diocese’s attention in the next few months as we approach the summit is on vocation.

For us, Catholics, our understanding of the life journey is about vocation; we believe that God calls us to be part of his plan.

We are all called – married or single,ordained or dedicated religious. We do not just stumble in a way of life – God has a plan for us.

I want to emphasize today how important I think family is to the decisions made in hearing and following God’s call. In family, we discover who we are, we discover just how loved we are, loved by our God and our family.

As we develop our relationships within our family, we discover our relationships with God so that we become open to God’s call, a call to become part of God’s plan.

We have no doubt that I have been thinking of this today because I am again reading Pope Francis’ wonderful apostolic exhortation on family.

Pope Francis often speaks and writes about the opportunities and importance of formation and education that all children receive in family. Part of that formation is the readiness to realize the call of God.

In “Amoris Laetitia,” Pope Francis writes this, in #261 – “It is more important to start processes than to dominate spaces... what is most important is the ability lovingly to help the children grow in freedom, maturity, overall disciplines, and real autonomy.”

This is the path to find God as their partner in life.

I am not much of an expert in writing about family life, however, I have come to recognize that one of the most important moments in family life is the family meal. I believe there is something formative about a family joining together often for a family meal together. This is truly being family. This is a time for being together, a time for a family to share, to recognize how loved and valuable they are to each other.

I think it is a time to bring God’s call to each other.

I remember being surprised by this and yet I was so impressed so I speak of this to young people and parent groups often.

I do realize that the family meal has lost some of its importance nowadays in many families. Many activities work against families being together – school activities, work demands, sports activities, even church activities.

I would like to add that the other family meal that should bring families together – that is the Holy Mass.

I encourage families to find the love and peace of our Savior at Mass, being together to share this love and peace of God.

The family Mass is time for gratitude – gratitude to our God for the gift of family and the gift of vocation.
Stop, look, listen... and do something

Bishop LaValley’s address to 2016 graduates of Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown June 18

When I’m home, I try to go out jogging around noon-time. A couple of weeks ago I was out pounding the pavement, when I came up to a place on my route where I had to run under a garden hose. You see, it was strung out between an upstairs window and the street.

As I ran under it on the sidewalk, a pleasant lady stood at the door of her house and told me that her huge waterbed upstairs had sprung a serious leak and water was almost up to her knees in her bedroom. (You can tell that I don’t run terribly fast, in order for me to hear her whole story while I was in motion.) I wished her luck in the cleanup and kept up my pace.

Maybe it was because I didn’t have enough oxygen in my brain or a lack of charity in my heart, but as I kept running, it dawned on me that I never stopped to offer the woman any assistance she might need. I never thought to ask, can I help? Instead, I just wished her luck and kept running, after all I had a schedule to keep.

While we are in school, we get our lessons and then receive the tests. When we leave school and get into the world, we’re tested first and then learn the lesson later. Here was a moment that I got the test and flunked.

The lesson: pay attention to the people you encounter. Oh, I later rationalized: the hose was already in place delivering water to the street below, the lady didn’t ask for help and didn’t seem to need it. She was just standing at her door talking to me - but I never asked her if I could help her with anything.

Graduates, it is good and very necessary to stay focused, to be self-disciplined in running the race, in working towards the goal you set. But life, more often than not, intrudes and we can’t just say, “Oh well, good luck, see you later, I’ve got to tend to my own affairs.”

You see, when life, particularly the lives of others, seems to get in the way of our plans, we are presented with encounters where growth, grace, and challenges can occur - in those unplanned moments of life. Such interruptions need never be a waste of our time. Even speed bumps serve a good purpose. It’s during those moments that character is developed, faith witnessed and Jesus encountered.

What you’ve learned here, at Immaculate Heart Central, helps you to recognize these as moments of opportunity, times to: STOP, LOOK and LISTEN and then... do something. It’s too easy today for you and me to find excuses to dismiss the needs of others because we are busy about our own affairs. It smacks of insensitivity and a real self-centered way of looking at life.

Interruptions to our plans can be occasions when we pay closer attention to our neighbor. We have become so me-centered, so independent, so driven to succeed (however, we might measure it), so focused on our cell-phones and personal agendas, that frankly, the world is passing us by and we become oblivious to so much.

We must do more than touch - we must feel! Do more than look - see! Do more than hear - listen! Do more than understand - we must CARE!

Graduates, I know that the IHC community has equipped you well for your tomorrows. Your parents and families, your parishioners, have sacrificed much so that you might be standing here on this stage this afternoon.

We congratulate you as you reach this important milestone in your young lives. So many possibilities lie before you. Don’t let the cynics or naysayers distract you from moving forward with great determination, energy and hope-filled joy. I pray that as you embark on the next exciting phase of your life, you continue to pay attention and care for those persons who the Lord places unexpectedly before you. Count them as all graced opportunities to see a face of Christ.

Graduates, as we congratulate you today, my prayer for each of you is that as we continue to celebrate this Jubilee Year of Mercy, you may take the time to be Mercy in Motion on whatever road your life’s journey takes you. God bless you!

New assignments for three priests announced

In conjunction with previously announced changes in priest assignments, Bishop LaValley has madethree additional pastoral changes to take effect on June 29.

• Father Howard J. Venette, pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam and St. Patrick’s Church in Colton, along with St. Paul’s Oratory in South Colton, has been named pastor of St. Bartholomew’s Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake.

• Father Stephen Rocker, pastor of St. James Church in Gouverneur, St. Hubert’s Church in Star Lake, and Sacred Heart Church in Edwards, has been named pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam, St. Patrick’s Church in Colton, along with St. Paul’s Oratory in South Colton.

• Father Shane M. Lynch, pastor of St. Bartholomew’s Church in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua Parish of Inlet and Raquette Lake, has been named pastor of St. James Church in Gouverneur, St. Hubert’s Church in Star Lake, and Sacred Heart Church in Edwards.

Profiles of the new pastors follow:

Father Howard J. Venette

Father Venette, new pastor in Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette Lake, has been pastor in Potsdam and Colton since 2015. Previously, he served as administrator of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River from 2012.

Continued on next page
Assignments

CONTINUED FROM AGE 3

In 1997, he became pastor in Colton and, in 2003, administrator in Brushton.

Father Venneur left the diocese to join the Fraternity of St. Peter, a traditional Latin Rite Society in communion with Rome in June of 2004. In June 2009 he was excardinated from the Diocese of Ogdensburg and incardinated into the Society.

Father Venneur returned to Ogdensburg in July of 2012 and served as temporary administrator in Waddington and Madrid before becoming administrator of the Catholic Community of Constable, Westville and Trout River.

His incardination back into the Diocese of Ogdensburg was effective May 1, 2013. His incardination back into the Diocese of Ogdensburg was effective May 1, 2013.

Father Stephen M. Lynch

Father Lynch, new pastor in Gouverneur, Star Lake and Edwards, has served as pastor in Old Forge. Inlet and Raquette Lake since 2011. Previously, he was pastor in Wells and Lake Pleasant from 2007, first as administrator and then in 2008, as pastor. Father Lynch was born Sept. 21, 1971 in Watertown and is a 1990 graduate of Immaculate Heart Central School. He graduated from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and St. John’s Seminary School of Theology in Boston.

Father Lynch also completed a spirituality year program sponsored by St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Allentown, Pa.

He was ordained by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito May 12, 2001.

Bishop’s Schedule

June 22 – 11 a.m., Meeting with the Priests of Hamilton-Herkimer Deanery at St. Mary’s Church, Indian Lake

June 23 – 11 a.m., Meeting with the Priests of Franklin Deanery at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Constable

June 26 – 11 a.m., Mass and consecration of the new altar at St. Stephen’s Church in Croghan 5 p.m., 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Procession at St. Anthony’s Church in Watertown

June 28 – 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

June 29 – 7:30 a.m., Mass with the Catholic Heart Workcamp at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg 5:30 p.m., INSPIRE Reception for Business Leaders at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh

June 30 – 12 p.m., Teacher of the Year Award Luncheon at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg

July 3 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant 10 a.m., Mass at St. Ann’s Church in Wells

July 5 – 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the North Country Catholic will be dated July 6.

St. Jude Novena

O Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue and rich in Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen.

B.T.L.

Environmental Stewardship

How many feet does love have?

According to Scripture and the traditions of our Catholic Church, Christian love has two feet. One foot is Direct Service: individual acts of charity to our neighbors in need, as expressed in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

But as followers of Christ, we must move to the other foot: Social Change: political responsibility that acts to remove the cause of the problems. We need both feet to walk and keep our balance.

Laudato Si addresses not only the need to respect the dignity of humans, as other previous encyclicals have done, but it also speaks of the need to respect the needs of our common home. Pope Francis urges all of us to an ecological conversion that calls us to evaluate how we are protecting, conserving and respecting Creation.

However, he reminds us of our social responsibility to speak out for the rights of the voiceless—in our society and in the natural world. Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, . . . love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also “macro-relationships”, social, economic and political ones.” (Para. #231)

During this first year anniversary of Laudato Si, people from around the Diocese have shared how it has impacted their lives. “Laudato Si helped us to appreciate the complexity of environmental stewardship in today’s world. It is an especially resounding Catholic Principle rebuff to worldwide practices and policies afflicting our world and its residents.

In the person of Pope Francis and his moral authority, it provides us insights and moral guidance on how Catholics and others should view and practice rightful stewardship of this planet and its inhabitants.”

(Written by Rebecca and George Trejos from St. Mary’s Church in Canton)
Crucial role of parents

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Having just celebrated Father's Day last Sunday and Mother's Day last month, I'm reminded of the crucial role that our fathers and our mothers have in encouraging their children to respond generously to whatever vocation in life that the Lord might be calling them.

Parenthood is an awesome gift that brings great responsibility for helping to form the faith of children, including the nurturing of Church vocations within our own families.

My father died ten years ago and not a day goes by that I don't think about him, wish he was still with my mother and family and available for fatherly counsel.

My father wasn't one who easily expressed outward affection. However, I do remember how proud he was walking my three sisters down the aisle at their weddings. I recall how proud he was when my two brothers and I joined the Navy. I remember well his words to me while sitting at the counter in the kitchen the day I left for Wadhams Hall, of how proud he and my mother were that I was going to the seminary, assuring me that I shouldn't hesitate to come home if I ever felt it wasn't right for me.

Words of affirmation, encouragement and support from our parents stay with their children for a lifetime. Children don't forget what they hear from mom and dad.

Our children today need to hear words of encouragement from their parents when the possibility of a Church vocation surfaces. Parenthood is an awesome gift that brings great responsibility for helping to form the faith of children, including the nurturing of Church vocations within our own families.

Pope Francis, in his message for the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, urged "all the faithful to assume their responsibility for the care and discernment of vocations." As you know, Creating a Culture of Vocations continues to be an extremely important priority for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. We know the critical roles dads and moms have in providing a home where Christian values are nurtured, where vocations can grow.

As we heighten our awareness of the role that each one of us must embrace in contributing to building a culture of vocations in our parishes, let us pray for our parents.

We ask God to enable them to always find opportunities to affirm their own faith and to speak words of encouragement and support to their children as they discern the Lord's will for them.

So what's the big deal?

By Father Bryan Stitt
Diocesan Vocations Director

No one is going to get ordained at the INSPIRE: Called to Love Vocations Summit. No one is going to make final vows, get married, or probably even rededicate his or her life to Christ in the Olympic Arena in Lake Placid Sept. 25.

It's not a quick fix to the vocations crisis. That's okay. The Church isn't in the "quick fix" business.

The Church is more like a glacier than a wrecking ball, more like a crock-pot than a microwave, more like an epic novel than a soundbite.

The Church is in it for the long haul not for the quick fix.

INSPIRE: Called to Love is going to contribute to the timeless work of the Church in the North Country because it will help answer the question: "Who am I?" This is the deep question underlying every human heart. It is at the core of every vocation - every life.

Just look at how it is addressed in movies: Did you see the Matrix? Neo had to come face to face with the question. So did little Simba in the Lion King. So did William Wallace in Braveheart. Perhaps most clearly it was seen answered in Victor Hugo's Les Miserables. It was Jean Valjean's refrain in the musical versions of the story. Valjean wasn't just the number 24601 that he was assigned in the French prison. He wasn't just the successful businessman or politician that he pretended to be after his incarceration. In the end, he had to face who he was in the eyes of God. "Who am I? - I'm Jean Valjean!"

INSPIRE: Called to Love is what the Diocese of Ogdensburg needs because it's about each of us - young and old, rich and poor, single and married, religious, deacons, priests and bishop. It is about each of us answering that question: "Who am I?"

It can be asked in different ways:

"Who has God called me to be?"

"What is the best version of myself?"

"What is my vocation and how do I live it out today?"

But when it comes down to it, Jean Valjean's question is ours as well.

We all know that we need more people responding generously to their vocations in the Church here in our diocese. INSPIRE: Called to Love will hit the reset button on the culture of vocations as it addresses this deepest of questions.

Listening to great Catholic speakers will contribute to it. Seeing the witness of holy people living out their vocations will contribute to it. And most of all praying together will contribute to it as we let the Holy Spirit work in our lives. The Spirit helps each of us come to know who we are. Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations (Jer 1:5).

When we listen to the Spirit, we know who we are. When we know who we are, we learn how to live out our vocations. When we are living out our vocations well, others are inspired to do so around us.

Sure, it's not a quick fix to the vocations shortage. But when the Holy Spirit is at work great things happen, and vocations are born!
A priest forever

Mass in honor of a 50 year jubilarian is a ‘celebration of priesthood’

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

CHATEAUGAY - Was there a young man giving thought to the priesthood that afternoon in St. Patrick’s Church?

If so, he would have seen firsthand the beauty of the priestly vocation as hundreds of parishioners, friends, and family members joined Bishop LaValley and more than 40 clergy May 20 to celebrate Father John J. Looby’s 50th anniversary of ordination.

It was a day for giving thanks in the Eucharist, and for remembering—especially through the homily preached by Father L. William Gordon, a seminary classmate and lifelong friend of Father Looby’s.

“This,” Father Gordon said, “is neither Father John’s canonization nor his eulogy. It is a day that celebrates priesthood, vocation, family and friends—but most of all, Father John’s.

“Father John was anointed to serve, not to be served, and to build up the body of Christ,” he said.

Yet that vocation, Fr. Gordon pointed out, did not simply begin 50 years ago.

He credits the faith lived in the family home, and the loving example of parents Helen and Clarence: “See how many vocations Jesus called forth to the Looby family!” (In addition to Father John: Carmelite Sister Ellen; Grey Nun Sister Mary Elizabeth; Deacon Philip and, in the next generation, his son, Father Chris Looby.)

Even so, there was the usual “fear, prayer, and decision-making necessary to discern God’s invitation.”

That discernment led first to “old Wadhams Hall,” then on to St. Mary’s in Baltimore.

“We arrived on a hot, humid Maryland afternoon,” Father Gordon recalled, “and the cab took us to the old Paca Street seminary. Built in 1792, the place was surrounded by a high brick wall topped by glass shards.

‘Father John took one look and quickly said, ‘Oh my God! Let’s go home.’ After a good swift kick from the Holy Spirit, we went in,” Father Gordon said. We were just 20 years old, and we were responding to Jesus’ invitation, ‘Follow me.’”

Ordained in 1966

Following his ordination on May 28, 1966, that response led Father Looby all across the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and as far as South America, where he served in the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate.

In listing these many assignments, Father Gordon noted that they brought their share of challenges, rewards, disappointments and triumphs.

Through them all he observed, Father Looby knew, “as any good priest knows, that you can do nothing. But Jesus works through you if you will let him.

“How many Baptisms, First Communions, Masses, confessions, marriages and funerals has Father John celebrated? Pope Francis reminded us that shepherds should have the smell of their sheep; this is how a priest gets to know that smell,” Father Gordon said.

“And Father John, you smell of your sheep. That is why your parishioners and everyone here today loves you.”

On the other hand, the homilist continued, “Father John hates meetings. How many parish, pastoral council, school board, and diocesan meetings has he dutifully attended?”

“Last October Father John retired and no longer has the responsibility of the business side of parish life,” Father Gordon said. “Now he is sacramental minister in six parishes. He continues to hear Jesus saying, ‘Follow me.’ Today I join all of you in joyful thanksgiving for Fr. John’s priestly ministry.”

“Today we ask Jesus to bless Father John and to strengthen him in his priesthood. We ask Mary to keep him close to her heart,” Father Gordon said. “It has been 59 years since that critical moment in Baltimore when we decided to stay. May many more men from across our diocese hear and follow Jesus’ call to priesthood.

“Father John, you are a priest forever. Thank you for saying yes to the call to follow Jesus. AD MULTOS ANNOS!”

Sustained applause

As the homily ended, the congregation erupted—not for the first time or the last—in spontaneous and sustained applause.

Deacon Brian Dwyer, pastoral associate at St. Patrick’s, remarked that “People just seemed to jump at any chance to applaud this good and humble priest. It was as if they had waited 50 years for the chance to let him know how much they love him, and they were not about to miss it!”

This response was evident throughout the celebration: in the presence of so many grateful people; in the beautiful music provided by a combined choir from the various parishes Father Looby serves; and in the attentive altar servers, also drawn from all the parishes.

And the focus of so much appreciation?

When asked at the end of Mass to make a comment, Father John Looby walked to the ambo and shortly returned to his seat. While there he had quietly uttered two words: “Thank you.”

From this good priest whose life has been a gift to others, it was enough.
CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS... IN RELIGIOUS LIFE

‘My greatest joy has been my religious vocation’

By Mary Lou Kilian

OGDENSBURG - After ten years of service as chancellor of the Diocese of Ogdensburg – the first woman to hold the position – St. Joseph Sister Jennifer Votraw is preparing to move to Watertown to offer more service, this time to directly benefit her religious order.

On Sept. 1, she will assume duties as superior of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

A native of AuSable Forks, Sister Jennifer entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1967, received the habit in 1968 and professed final vows in 1975.

Over more than four decades in religious life, she has been a teacher, school administrator and assistant superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese.

From 1989 to 1997, Sister Jennifer served as major superior for the Sisters of St. Joseph before being named director of the Catholic School Administrators Association of New York State.

Upon her return to the diocese, Bishop Paul S. Loverde appointed her to lead the newly formed diocesan Planning Office.

In 2004, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham named Sister Jennifer vice-chancellor and director of communications; two years later, he appointed her as chancellor of the diocese.

Now, as Sister Jennifer prepares to move from the diocesan offices to the Motherhouse, she looks back on her life as a Sister of St. Joseph.

Here, she shares reflections:

The joys
Looking over the past 40+ years, I have to say that I am amazed at where the time went and how many people, places and events I have been privileged to be a part of! I think my greatest joy is my religious vocation, with the many blessings it has brought: a deeper relationship with Jesus, the sisters in my community and the beautiful people that I have known in my several ministries.

The challenges
The challenges, along with the blessings, have been many, but I think the greatest is learning to “let go and let God”. This realization has been a blessing for a good night’s sleep: God says, “Go to sleep, let me do it. I am going to be up all night anyway!”

Role of religious
I see religious women of the future as guides, mentors; women who can foster future leaders in our Church. We are no longer “sages on the stage” but “guides on the side”. We can point to a future and be able encourage, support, challenge women and men on their journey.

Religious life is ultimately relationship. Everything a religious can do, a woman can already do as a lay person. One has to want to grow and deepen in her understanding and relationship with the Lord, in service to His Church, and to do so in companionship of women who are called and energized to do the same.

Looking ahead
It has been an exciting opportunity to serve as diocesan planner and later as chancellor. I am equally blessed to be able to be of service to our sisters in community at our Motherhouse and am looking forward to this challenge!

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE?

Why not COME and SEE?

A life of conversion

A life of Love

For questions, please contact Sister Rose Mary at 315-788-1669 or srml@twcny.rr.com

www.sisterspreciousblood.org
When I was a freshman in high school I developed a crush on a girl in my class. I was too shy to talk to her but I wrote her name on the desk in a big heart and declared my love for her to the world (in pencil of course, just in case).

Then, I started learning everything I could about her, all the little details that are important to a 13 year old, but not so much to the rest of the world. I could tell you what bus she rode, all her family members, her friends, where she lived, what she liked to eat, what she liked to listen to.

But I never talked to her. I did a lot of talking about her, telling people how pretty she was and what a great person she was, and how much I liked her, but I never talked to her.

One day, another girl I was friends with went to her and said, "Do you know that he likes you?" She said "Yes, but he never talks to me. Tell him to come and talk to me."

As much as I knew about her and as much as I believed that I loved her and told the rest of the world about it, I never developed any kind of relationship with her.

While this was developmentally appropriate at the time, my friends did not offer much assistance in helping me progress to a more mature view of relationships between men and women, but thankfully my family did.

I learned from my family that knowing things about someone is important, but it does not equal a relationship with them.

There is always a risk of rejection in pursuing a relationship. In order to have a successful relationship with another person, there has to be a tolerance for that risk, and a belief that the potential benefits far outweigh the risks. There has to be a belief that I have something good to offer this other person and if that person rejects me, it is not the end of the world, but rather, an indication that the other person does not see, does not appreciate, or is not ready for the good things I offer.

I learned that in order to have a successful romantic relationship, men and women need to become friends first, and that dating someone is an invitation to a more intimate kind of friendship which is motivated by mutual attraction to things that are deeper than just surface appearances.

C.S. Lewis, in The Four Loves, says that it's a matter of orientation. Initially, lovers are mutually attracted and absorbed by each other. Friends, on the other hand, are absorbed by a common interest, so rather than facing each other, they stand side by side and move toward something together.

When a man and woman marry, there is, of course, a mutual physical attraction, but this is probably the least powerful motivating factor for them. The real driving force is the question "What can we accomplish together?"

As Catholics, the question is phrased "How can we best glorify God together?"

I think that the Church is facing a situation that parallels my experiences as a freshman. People may learn about God, but it is crucial to develop a relationship with God for any of their knowledge about God to have any value.

A relationship with God carries risks, for it requires us to turn away from other scenarios that we might be enjoying or hope to enjoy in the future. It requires us to turn away from the false gods that society presents us with constantly, that are attractive on the surface and easy to get absorbed into, but do not satisfy us.

Continuing the parallel, the Church prays that parents, who are their children's first teachers, be their best teachers.

I believe that the family is the place where the relationship with God is most effectively developed, if parents have the relationship themselves.

I've written a series of articles on the topic of faith development within families. In the process of writing the articles, I've watched my own family grow closer to God. I invite you to return each week to read more in the hopes that your family will grow closer to God as well.
It’s been over 800 years since young Francis heard these words spoken by Jesus through the San Damiano cross. Nevertheless the call is just as relevant today in Ogdensburg as it was then in Assisi. The Church of Christ, not just the physical structures but the souls of the faithful

For more information about INSPIRE: Called to Love, vocations to the priesthood and religious life, or vocations in general, please contact the Vocations Office.

www.mylvocation.net
www.facebook.com/ogdensburgvocations
315-393-2920 ext. 1450
‘This deacon taught us to serve... and to juggle’

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff Writer

WATERTOWN - Deacon Bill Schmidt died May 16, 2016 at 93 years, a day shy of his 94th birthday. When I visited him the Monday before his death, Bill wanted to talk about a recent announcement from the Vatican regarding a commission to study the ordination of females as deacons. That was so Bill. When you least expected him to be on top of something, he slam-dunked you back to reality.

His signature greeting was “How’s it go?” His question had as much “I already know” in it as it had inquiry.

My wife, Kathy, and I will be forever grateful to Vivian and Bill Schmidt for the love and mentorship they have shown us in our journey.

Being a deacon is a call from Christ to serve. Being a deacon needs the love and support of a wife who is willing to accept the phone calls in the middle of the night; the Baptism that has to be done the same day a grandson’s soccer game is scheduled; the parish event we really should go to even if it conflicts with a daughter’s concert.

Viv and Bill taught us how to juggle and we are grateful.

Deacon means serve. Bill and Vivian Schmidt served St. Patrick’s Church for more than 30 years. Bill was ordained to the diaconate October 5, 1985, one of the first to hear the call after the re-institution of the Diaconate in our church and Diocese.

He served St. Patrick’s in Watertown in ways none of us in the parish will ever fully appreciate.

While assisting at the funeral Mass for Deacon Bill, I could not help but think about the blessing God gave Kathy and me to be on a pilgrimage, only two months earlier, with Bishop LaValley. I had to smile as I thought about sharing with Bill in advance of that trip, that I would be assisting Bishop, with my brother deacons Tom Kilian and Henry Leader, at the great churches, basilicas and cathedrals of Italy.

He was clearly moved when I told him I would be preaching at the Basilica of Francis of Assisi. I was ordained on St. Deacon Francis’ feast day (October 4, 2003).

The Holy Spirit inspired me to talk about the deacon in that homily.

“We who are ordained to the Permanent Order of Deacon are mostly married men who have heard God’s call to greater service to the Church. However our first vocation is to our marriage and families. Our work for the church reflects the three-fold dimensions of service, conformed to the servant Jesus; preaching the Good News and assisting at Liturgy. We serve our Bishop and work with the priests of the Diocese to serve God’s people as best we are able.

“Deacons are called from our congregation,” I said that morning. “You do your part by encouraging men through your comments and prayers to consider the vocation. If you know someone in your parish who you think would make a good deacon then the Holy Spirit has already picked you to help Him send the message.”

Are you looking for a definition of Church? Look at Bill and Vivian Schmidt. Bill will tell you it is you and he was honored to be your deacon. Vivian, thank you for sharing Bill with us.

“It goes well, Bill.” Thank you, friend; thank you Deacon, for bearing the call of Christ and serving so well. May you rest in the peace of Christ.
Too many couples do not understand marriage is for life, pope says

ROME (CNS) -- Because most people today do not understand that sacramental marriage really is a bond that binds them to each other for life, many marriages today can be considered invalid, Pope Francis said. Raising a point he has raised before, and one also raised by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis insisted June 16 that the validity of a marriage implies that a couple understands that sacramental marriage is a bond that truly binds them to another for their entire lives. “We are living in a culture of the provisional,” he told participants in the Diocese of Rome’s annual pastoral conference. Answering questions after giving a prepared talk, Pope Francis told the story of a bishop who said a university graduate came to him saying he wanted to be a priest, but only for 10 years. The idea of commitments being temporary “occurs everywhere, even in priestly and religious life. The provisional. And for this reason a large majority of sacramental marriages are null. They say ‘yes,’ for my whole life, ‘but they do not know what they are saying because they have a different culture,’” he said.

A sword has pierced heart of city, says Orlando bishop

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) -- Orlando Bishop John G. Noonan urged people of faith to remember the shooting rampage at a gay nightclub in Orlando, and his mother called for help, but their son was killed in an alligator attack in Omaha, Neb.

A sword has pierced the heart of our city, says Orlando bishop –­ Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna, a respected theologian.

The document, he said, fully conforms to Catholic doctrine, but some people “want doctrine that is mathematically precise. That does not exist.”

Truth is found in neither strictness nor laxity,” the pope said. “The Gospel teaches something different: welcome, accompany, discern, integrate.”

A priest must listen to each family, ask questions that help the person reflect and grow, but “not sticking his nose into every detail” of the couple’s life, the pope said.

Morality is always an act of love, Bishop of Rome says.
Beginning a new, very important journey

This thirteenth Sunday of the year is all about the excitement and challenge of beginning a new and very important journey. Many young people facing the new and frightening freedom of leaving home to face the unknown future. Most of them are excited at the possibilities life holds for them, while others are really frightened and unsure. It will take much courage and effort. In today's first reading, the theme of journey into the future begins with the first Book of Kings.

Here we read that the prophet Elijah is tired out, so God allows him to retire. First, though, he must pass on his prophetic powers to young Elisha, son of a rich landowner. Dramatically, he throws his cloak around Elisha's shoulders, and tells him to leave everything and follow him. Reluctantly, he allows Elisha to bid goodbye to his family first.

No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks back to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God," Elijah tells him.

This young man had to sacrifice much wealth to take on the role of prophet. In the Gospel, Jesus invites his followers to accompany Him on his last and most important journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. It is a journey filled with the excitement of healings, miracles, and the rich wisdom of Jesus' preaching to the people, but at the end, to be a follower of Jesus. But, as St. Paul tells the Galatians in today's second reading, "For freedom, Christ set us free, so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." He then warns his listeners not to give in to the "flesh" but to follow the grace of the Holy Spirit in giving oneself over completely to the gifts of the Spirit.

It's all about daily focus. In order to plow a straight furrow, we must keep our eyes constantly on the goal of it all which is the joy of heaven.

Practical priestly promotion

By Father Bryan Stitt
Diocesan Vocation Director

What can we do to promote Vocations to the priesthood? Many if not most of you have heard me preach about this subject before in your parishes across the North Country. On my first visit to a parish, I talk about three practical tips:

1. Prayer (Vocations are first and foremost God's work, so we must pray for priests!)  
2. Words of encouragement to young men who we think have what it takes (Those invitations you make have great power for discerners!) and  
3. Living out our respective vocations the best way possible (When we are joyfully following the call of the Lord in our lives, others will want what we've got). "Okay. Outstanding. We can do that," many of you will say. "But what else can be done? We want more priests!"

In the Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana they had 28 men in priestly formation in 2010. This year, they're expecting 52 seminarians. (That's an increase of 86% in six years.) What's more things are moving forward in such a way that they expect to be ordaining more priests in upcoming years than will be retiring! So what are they doing? Father Kevin Bordelon, the Vocations Director down in Lafayette just wrote this: "One of the most helpful tools out there is the Melchizedek Project. Based upon Father Brett Brannen's [book] To Save a Thousand Souls, the Melchizedek Project assists vocation directors and parish priests form and lead discernment groups. It is a journey filled with the excitement of healings, miracles, and the rich wisdom of Jesus' preaching to the people, but at the end, to be a follower of Jesus. But, as St. Paul tells the Galatians in today's second reading, "For freedom, Christ set us free, so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." He then warns his listeners not to give in to the "flesh" but to follow the grace of the Holy Spirit in giving oneself over completely to the gifts of the Spirit.

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...continued next month.

The Melchizedek Project isn't the only program out there. But it's a good one, and I thought you'd like to know about it. Please keep asking what you can do to build up the culture of vocations. The prayer, the words, and the witness are invaluable, but sometimes the Holy Spirit has something new for us to consider. Wouldn't it be great if you were the one to discover it?
St. Anthony’s plans 100th Mount Carmel Celebration

WATERTOWN - St. Anthony’s Church will celebrate the annual Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel June 24-26. Notably, Watertown’s Mount Carmel Celebration is one of the longest continuously running parish festivals in northeastern United States.

The Mount Carmel celebration, first held in July 1916, celebrates and promotes family activities, food, entertainment and spirituality. The feast provides homemade Italian food as well as rides and games. Ontario Amusements provide the rides and games for the very young and old. Unlimited rides will be provided on Sunday afternoon for $13.

This 100th Anniversary celebration will provide an enhanced menu of entertainment.

On Friday, Lisa Scrivani-Tidd and her sons will share their musical talent from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by Lester Gates, a local entertainer well known in the North Country, until 9:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Michael Beyette (3 p.m. to 5) will mystify the young with his magic; Chuck Ruggerio (5 p.m. to 6:30) will grace his audience with his beautiful tenor voice; and Nick Mulpagano (6:30 pm to 9:30) will present his “Legends of Music Impersonations Show,” impersonating especially Elvis Presley.

On Sunday, the entertainment schedule reaches new heights as La Banda Rossa (redbandutica.com) from Utica will play from 4 p.m. to 5 and 6 p.m. to 7.

In addition, during the religious procession, La Banda Rossa will change its repertoire from popular Italian music to classical religious melodies.

At 7:30 p.m., the premier dance band Fred and the Eds will take over the entertainment spotlight from 7:30 pm to 9:30.

Religious procession

The two well-known events are the religious procession and the fireworks.

To honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the people of the parish and community, organized by the Men’s Mount Carmel Society, walk in procession through the local streets beginning at 5 p.m. Prayer and an atmosphere of honor and respect permeate this event.

The procession ends with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in church. The parish and community are honored to have Bishop Terry R. LaValley serve this year as Grand Marshall.

The Feast culminates in a spectacular display of fireworks at 9:30 pm.

To highlight the 100th Anniversary, this year’s fireworks display will be enhanced. At the end of the fireworks display, the winners of this year’s raffle will be drawn.

In addition to all of these events, there will availability of homemade Italian specialties such as sausage, pizza, meatballs, shells, eggplant, fritos, famous Italian cookies, and elaborate Italian pastries.

Also, hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drink, wine and beer will be available.

On Thursday, June 23, a spaghetti supper from 4:30 pm until all are served will introduce the three-days of festivities. In addition, there will be bingo on Friday at 7 pm in the school building.

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St. Mary’s Church, Clayton
14th Annual Summer Gala & Raffle

Only 370 Tickets to be sold! (One need not be present to win)
Ticket Price: $100.00 U.S. (Includes dinner for two, two drinks and chances to win - Sorry no take outs)

1st Prize $10,000.00
2nd Prize $1,000.00
3rd & 4th Prize $500.00
5th & 6th Prize $250.00
7th - 11th Prizes $100.00

**Prize amounts depend on 370 tickets sold**

All winning tickets will be returned to drum and be eligible for all 11 prizes.

Where: The Cerow Arena at Clayton Recreation Park
When: Tuesday, August 9 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Make checks payable and mail to:
St. Mary’s Church
521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624
(315) 686-3398

Name__________________________
Address_________________________________________________________
City____________________State____Zip_____________________________
Phone__________________________

Must by 18 to purchase
SUMMER RETREAT
Lake Placid – Summer Retreat is set
Dates: July 16-17
Schedule: The mission will begin on the weekend and continue through noon, Tues., and Wed., at 7 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes
Speaker: Fr. Don Henry on the theme “Everything we say and do teaches.”

2TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
Plattsburgh - The Roman Catholic Community of St. Alexander and St. Joseph is hosting its 12th Annual Golf Classic.
Date: July 8
Time: Shotgun start at Noon
Place: Barrack’s Golf and Country Club
Features: Team registration will include the following, green fee, cart, complimentary welcoming gifts and awards dinner featuring “Defore” Famous Chicken BBQ.
Contact: Send four person team info and check for $240 payable to R.C.C St. Alexander & St. Joseph Golf Classic, 1 Church Street, Morrisonville NY 12962 by July 1. Barracks members welcomed, please call for details. Business Sponsorships and Family Memorial. Sponsorships are available, call for details. Forward all inquiries to Cheryl Dodds at 518-572-4622 or Jackie Black at 518-561-5039.

LEWIS
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
Lowville – St. Peter’s Church to have a Strawberry Festival.
Date: June 23
Time: 5 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Peter’s Church Hall
Features: Strawberry Shortcake, Strawberry Sundaes, French Strawberry Pie, Hamburgers, Hotdogs & Sausage Sandwiches, Cake Walk & Tricky Trays.
DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Housesville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of July will be held.
Date: July 3
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.

ST. LAWRENCE
FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY
Massena – First Saturday Rosary Devotion to be held.
Date: July 2
Time: 3:15 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Church
Features: The Rosary will be prayed to Our Lady of Fatima with the intention of making reparation for offenses committed against The Immaculate Heart of Mary. A private meditation will follow on the Luminous Mysteries. Confessions will be available and the Saturday Mass will begin at 4:00 PM.

JUNE 22, 2016
Mercy at work

Have you ever felt in great need of the loving presence of God in your life, wanted to experience His mercy and His love?

There are seminaries across Africa and Asia helping to prepare future priests who will carry the Lord’s loving, merciful heart to uplift the poor, to reach out to children, and to comfort the sick. These future priests need your help.

St. Peter Apostle Appeal supports seminarians and religious studying in mission lands

There are thousands of seminarians and religious currently studying in the mission lands. They are at the heart of all that can be miserable in this world, yet they stay and continue to spread the joy of our Gospels.

The St. Peter Apostle appeal is designed to help keep these seminarians and religious in place with assistance of their tuition, living expenses and care.

“We visit the sick and share the word of God with them,” says Phiri Zakariah Moses, studying at St. Dominic’s Major Seminary in Zambia. Like his fellow seminarians, he needs help to pay tuition costs, and St. Dominic’s wants to expand to accept more students.

“St. Luke tells us, ‘Whoever has two cloaks should share with those who have none, and whoever has food should do likewise,’” Phiri says. “I pray that you will do the same, helping us to help others.”

In Timor-Leste in Asia, a student, Nato, at San Pedro e Paulo Major Seminary in Dili, longs to bring help to his people there. Timor-Leste, one of the poorest countries in the world, is torn by war, violence and is where Nato’s family became refugees.

“I feel compassion for my people, I know their pain and suffering,” he says. “We still have a vision of hope. I work to confirm this hope in them and realize our vision with our faith in God.”

Sometimes, real life stories and tales are what can make you sit up and notice what is really happening there. The stories that make various aspects of life in developing countries come alive.

These are the people whose lives you touch by your prayers and sacrifices in support of missionary efforts.

Your support to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Society of St. Peter the Apostle brings concrete help and builds sustaining hope.

While the cost of training is yearly $700 whatever amount you can sacrifice will be treasured. They will be remembering you in prayer and you will be connected to their Mercy at work.

The Mission Office continues to be grateful for all you do.

Support and Pray for Vocations

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

http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html

OBITUARIES

Altona – Ruth Anne (Ebar) Brunelle, 71; Funeral Services June 20, 2016 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Altona – Roger J. Deyo, 86; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery.

Altona – Janice Mary (LaBarge) LaFontain, 77; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ausable Forks – Christine (Ano) Griffith; Funeral Services June 16, 2016 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Bomford – Jeremiah A. Savage, 76; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Cape Vincent – Michael F. Bashaw, Sr.; Memorial Services June 15, 2016 at St. Vincent of Paul Church

Champlain – Irene R. Bechard, 83; Funeral June 18, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Cobson – Sarah E. “Betty” (Fisher) Frank, 89; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Dannemora – Winnifred G. “Winnie” (Canning) Everleth, 94; Funeral Services June 14, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in Saranac Independence Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Allen R. “Al” Douglas, 79; Funeral Services June 18, 2016 at the Green Funeral Home; burial in Riverside Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Dorothy W. McManus, 70; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at St. Agnes Church.

Lowville – John Conrad Shumway, 63; Funeral Services June 21, 2016 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Malone – Thomas F. McClain Jr., 52; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Massena – Leonia Kocienski, 87; Funeral Services June 16, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Simeon F. Langevin, 89; Funeral Services June 16, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood – Martha (Linker) McNulty, 95; Funeral June 18, 2016 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Timothy Couthier, 64; Funeral Services June 16, 2016 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Tuna M. (DiToullio) Lira, 92; Funeral Services June 18, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Peru – Thomas E. Dragon Sr., 68; Funeral Services June 15, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery.

Peru – Ethel Douse Stewart, 94; Funeral Services June 20, 2016 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Rachel (Poirier) Bedard, 84; Funeral Services June 17, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Marie J. LaRocque, 91; Funeral June 16, 2016 at St. John’s Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Marcel J. LaRouque, 91; Funeral Services June 16, 2016 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Potsdam – Elaine J. (Lawson) Feticz, 76; Funeral June 14, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Beatrice Jefferson, 92; Funeral Services June 21, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Star Lake – Nancy A. (Reynolds) Valentine, 79; Funeral Services June 18, 2016 at St. Hubert’s Church; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery, Harrisville.

Watertown – Helen E. Egan, 95; Funeral Services June 18, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Free Energy Assessment for your Church or Small Business can help you get ahead!

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) offer no-cost energy assessments for not-for-profit organizations and small businesses throughout New York State. A team of energy efficiency experts identify cost-effective, energy-saving opportunities to help organizations make informed energy efficiency decisions. The assessments identify improvements that can yield substantial annual energy savings, as well as available incentives and low-interest loan opportunities to reduce the cost of implementing the energy-saving improvements. In many cases the assessments help identify low-cost, no-cost action items and encourage church members by taking action on the issue of climate change. Additional assistance is also available to help churches move forward.

Organizations with 10 full-time equivalent employees or fewer are eligible for this free program.

Get started by contacting L&S Energy Services, the regional program contractor, at 518-383-9405, ext. 223 or mwoodell@LS-Energy.com.
Guggenheim 2016

Meet the Staff

Bonjour from Paris! My name is Maeve McCullouch and I am excited to be coming to Camp for a third summer on staff. I am from Black River and attend Holy Family Church when I am home. I am currently a junior at Siena College where I double major in Economics and French.

This past semester, I studied abroad in Paris, France where I am having the wonderful opportunity to explore the world, meet new people, and see God in all of it along the way.

I cannot wait to welcome all of you campers through the gate of Guggenheim with my love for interpretive dance, rappelling, avocados, and God.

My name is Conner Cummings and I am 20 years old. I live in Alexandria Bay and I belong to the Catholic Community of Alexandria. I graduated this spring with an associate’s degree in business administration from SUNY Jefferson.

I have attended Camp Guggenheim for seven years as a camper and this will be my first year on staff. Camp has been such an influential part of my life and I don’t know where I would be without it! By being a part of the 2016 Camp Guggenheim staff I hope to help lead the many campers to Christ just as I was through this wonderful camp! I am incredibly grateful to have received this awesome opportunity to give back to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and its youth!

Hi, my name is Kathryn Petrelli! CAMPERS! ARE YOU EXCITED? Another summer! I can’t wait! It’s going to be amazing! You should read some of these bios! I love to hike, swim and praise and so do they! I just recently moved to Plattsburgh to finish college. Saint John’s is my parish here but Saint Andre Bessette in Malone is my home parish.

I worked at Guggenheim last year and my favorite thing about returning is seeing all of you guys! Camp wouldn’t be the same without you!

Nicholas Olley is excited to be on staff this for his first time this year. Nick lives Natural Bridge, and goes to St. James Parish in Carthage where he is active in two parish councils and in youth ministry. Nick went to Jefferson Community College this year and is in the application process to become a seminarian for the diocese.

He is also excited for the youth this summer and what God has in store for them!

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