Mercy: it's a way of life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mercy is not an abstract concept but a lifestyle that invites Christians to make an examination of conscience and ask themselves if they place the spiritual and material needs of others before their own, Pope Francis said.

A Christian who chooses to be merciful experiences true life and has "eyes to see, ears to listen, and hands to comfort," the pope said June 30 in St. Peter's Square.

"That which makes mercy alive is its constant dynamism to go out searching for the needy and the needs of those who are in spiritual or material hardship," he said.

By being indifferent to the plight of the poor and suffering, Pope Francis said, Christians turn into "hypocrites" and move toward a "spiritual lethargy that numbs the mind and makes life barren."

"People who go through life, who walk in life without being aware of the needs of others, without seeing the many spiritual and material needs are people who do not live," he said. "They are people who do not serve others. And remember this well: One who does not live to serve, serves nothing in life.

Rest in peace, Father George Maroun

Funeral services set for July 6 in Tupper Lake, Father Maroun's hometown

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NCC summer schedule

The bi-weekly publication of the North Country Catholic continues; the next issue of the diocesan paper will be dated July 20

A CENTURY OF CELEBRATION

Bishop LaValley was a guest of honor at the 100th annual Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebration sponsored by St. Anthony's Church in Watertown June 24-26. Bishop LaValley took part in Sunday's religious procession and then presided at Benediction at St. Anthony's. Above he is flanked by two women who have celebrated their Italian heritage at nearly every Mount Carmel festival. At left is Josephine Leone who is 100 years old and, at right, is 99-year-old Vita Messina. More photos on page 7.

HEADING TO KRAKOW: Diocesan pilgrims prepare for World Youth Day... p. 5
Rest in Peace, Father George

I know I join thousands of his friends across the diocese who are still in shock over the news of the death of Father George Maroun.

And, I’m sure nearly every one of them has a story to share about this extraordinary priest who left us too soon.

Personally, I still quake a bit at the 40-year-old memory of riding in the back seat of Father George’s little car after accepting a ride from Guggenheim back to Ogdensburg where we both lived at the time. He had learned to drive in the mountains and traveled through them with speed and confidence.

I just got greener and greener by the mile.

My ride with Father Maroun wasn’t quite so bumpy as years went on and he embraced his life as a missionary and pastor.

During his 26 years in the Diocesan Mission Office, he made sure that I was an enthusiastic partner in his efforts to share the news about the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate and other mission work of the diocese.

His passion was infectious – how could I ever turn down a story suggestion he had for me?

Father Maroun’s life was marked by so much love – for his church, his family, the missions, his Lebanese heritage and his Tupper Lake home.

And, sadly, Father Maroun’s life was also marked by illness and pain as he faced Parkinson’s disease and cancer.

But they never diminished his priesthood.

“The mission experience has helped me to cope with Parkinson’s,” he told me in a 2005 interview. “I have to give total control of my life to God as I did when I was a missionary. When we have less control over our lives, we allow God to do our work and, in the end, we are far more effective.”

Father Maroun was certainly an effective priest for the people in Cartaghe, Copenhagen, Ogdensburg, Watertown, Norfolk, Mollenlo, Wadhams Hall and anyone who was blessed to know him.

Rest in peace, Father George… Padre Jorge.

You will be sorely missed.

A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE

Understanding God’s call to us

I finished the homily last Sunday and, to my surprise, the Offertory song that the music people had chosen fit perfectly into the theme I used in the homily.

I know this happens often but on that day it was so great I couldn’t help but smile.

My homily at the Masses centered on our vocation as a Catholic and Christian. We believe and have great faith that God wants to be a copartner with us in life.

Each day the Lord calls us and leads us with many opportunities to live as dedicated Christians and disciples of Jesus. The Lord invites us to follow him to live like Jesus, bringing happiness and love to others.

To all others – to family, friends even to strangers that we might meet today.

I hoped that the people would come to realize that their prayer is each Mass should be for the grace to hear and understand God’s call to us so that we would recognize our vocation for that very day and have the fortitude to act on it.

Each day God surprises us with many opportunities to live out our vocation.

So, on that Sunday, I was surprised at how well the Offertory song fit into this message of vocation so perfectly.

I hoped that all the folks would follow the words to the music as it would help them understand this message.

I often encourage everyone at Mass to at least follow the words of the songs – they are such beautiful prayers.

Some folks tell me they skip the songs because they are not singers. I usually nag them to follow the songs like prayers.

On that day, the song chosen for the Offertory was entitled “The Summons” written by Kevin Grove. You may know it – so today I would like to share some of it with you.

The First Verse: “Will you come and follow me. If I but call your name? Will you come where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

As we sing our words are the words of Jesus, the invitation of Jesus to follow him, to live like Jesus, and leads us with many opportunities to live out our vocation.

Our prayer is always that God calls us to be ready to demonstrate in our lives God’s great love for us. We are a loved people.

I am called in love to see God in each person I meet – friend, family, even stranger.

This is a vocation for all of us, disciples of Jesus.

This is the call of the Lord.

In this way the life and love of Jesus will grow in us, a love that others will recognize in the way we live our lives.

Our hope is that they discover through us God’s great love for them.

Second Verse: “Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the horrible stare – should your life attract a scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

Again, these are the Lord’s words. The Lord inviting and challenging us. With the words “leave yourself behind,” Jesus calls us to eliminate selfishness in our lives. We do this because the Lord has called us by our own name. He truly knows us. Because we are called, we are ready to care for all, the good and the bad.

We help others best by seeing God in them. As a disciples of Jesus, we are ready to demonstrate to others, the power of prayer, the reflection of God’s love. We have been called.

Fifth Verse: (As usual, the last verse is the most powerful) – “Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go, where your love and footsteps show. Thus, I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.”

Now, the words are our own words. Our prayer is always that God grows in us so that we experience fully God’s great love for us and our readiness to live in that love.

Our prayer is that we become new in the Lord. We are transformed and truly become a new person bursting forth with the love of a disciples of Jesus, showing everyone the love we have discovered in the Lord.

Then we will truly move in the Lord, live in the Lord, grow in the Lord who will grow in us. We have been called.
Funeral held July 6 for Father George F. Maroun

TUPPER LAKE – Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial for Father George F. Maroun, 67, July 6 at 11 a.m. at St. Alphonsus Church with priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Father Maroun died June 30 in Saranac Lake; burial was in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

The fourth son of Camil and Naivie Maroun, Father Maroun was born Sept. 25, 1948, in Tupper Lake. He studied for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College in Ogdensburg and Christ the King Seminary on St. Bonaventure University in Olean. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 4, 1974 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Maroun served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg and Holy Family in Watertown before joining the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate. He served the Diocesan Mission Office for 26 years. He was assistant director from 1978 until being named director in 1984, a position he held until 2004 highlighting his dedication and love for missionary service.

Father Maroun served in Mollendo, Peru at St. Martin de Porras Parish from 1982 until his return to the United States in 1988. He continued to visit the South American mission regularly.

After a short sabbatical leave, Father Maroun was named parochial vicar at St. Anthony's in Watertown and, in 1989, pastor in Norfolk. In 1994, Father Maroun was appointed to the faculty of Wadhams Hall Seminary-College where he served as spiritual director and assistant professor of language and religious studies.

Finally, he served the people of St. James Minor Church in Carthage and St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen as pastor from 2002 until his retirement in 2015 for health issues. At that time, he moved to St. Bernard's rectory in Saranac Lake.

Father Maroun is survived by his brothers, Majeed and his wife Heather, Dr. William C. and Carol Fuller, and Camil G. and his wife Ellen, as well as a large extended family.

Memorial donations be made to St. Martin de Porras Parish (checks should read Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg- MPDO), St. Augustinian Academy in Carthage or the Heritage Fund of St. James Minor Church in Carthage.

Inspire: It’s Registration Time!

Bishop Terry R. LaValley is shown entering his registration for the INSPIRE Called to Love diocesan summit to be held Sept 25 in Lake Placid. The event will feature Bishop Robert Barron as keynote speaker as well as breakout sessions led by George Weigel, Bishop Christopher Coyne and Jennifer Fulwiler. Bishop LaValley has designated July 9-10 as Parish Registration Weekend for INSPIRE. Parishes will have all the necessary forms for registering adults and well as youth for the youth rally and children for childcare.

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Funeral held June 30 for Sr. Yvonne Therese Cusson, SSJ

WAVERLY — A Mass of Christian Burial for St. Joseph Sister Yvonne Therese Cusson, 71, was held June 30 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

Father Kris Lauzon, pastor of the Roman Catholic Communities of AuSable Forks and Keeseville, was the main celebrant.

Sister Yvonne Therese died June 25 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

The daughter of Oliva J. and Beatrice Yvette (Fecteau) Cusson, she was born in Berlin, N.H., Jan. 24, 1945. She attended schools in Boston Spa, N.Y., Fort Covington, and was a 1963 graduate of Immaculate Heart Academy High School.


Sister Yvonne Therese taught in the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Andrew’s School, Norwood; St. Patrick’s School, Port Henry; Holy Name School, AuSable Forks; Sacred Heart School, Watertown; St. Mary’s School, Ticonderoga; and St. Augustine’s School, Peru.

She took a sabbatical at Ain Karim, Fairfield, Conn., as an associate member of the retreat staff and then served as Motherhouse Superior and Buildings and Grounds at the sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Sister Yvonne returned to AuSable Forks to serve as pastoral associate at Holy Name School and at the Roman Catholic Communities of AuSable Forks and Keeseville until she moved back to the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Yvonne Therese is survived by her five brothers, Gerard (Bertha), Hooksett, N.H.; Maurice (Veronica), Hooksett, N.H.; John (Marie) Pembroke, N.H.; Albert (Nancy) Florida, and Leo (Julie), Merrimack, N.H.; and six sisters Angele LeMay (Paul), Greybull, WY; Goffstown, NH, Claudette LeMay (Denis), Las Vegas; Rita Troiano (Michael), Hooksett, N.H.; Jeanette Bergerson (Philip), Merrimack, N.H.; Florence Fitts (George), Concord, N.H.; Rose Marie Cusson, Manchester, N.H.; and many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to the Church of the Holy Name, 14203 Rt. 9N, AuSable Forks, NY 12912; Holy Childhood Association (Diocese of Ogdensburg—Propagation of the Faith), 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669, or Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 1425 Washington St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Msgr. Murphy named dean

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has appointed Msgr. John R. Murphy, pastor of the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk, St. Andrew’s Church in Norwood, and St. Raymond’s Church in Raymondville, as Dean of St. Lawrence Deanery.

He succeeds Father Donald J. Manfred, who now serves as pastor in Croghan.

Msgr. Murphy, a native of Saranac Lake was born Oct. 4, 1947. He studied for the priesthood at Wadham Hall and the Gregorian University in Rome before his ordination July 2, 1973 in Rome by Bishop James Hickey.

Father Murphy’s first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. John’s in Plattsburgh and head of the religion department at St. John’s Central School.

In 1976, he was named assistant chancellor of the diocese and assistant pastor in Canton.

He returned to Rome in 1978 and earned a degree in moral theology from Academia Alfonsiana.

Later, he was named assistant dean of the diocese and pastor of Morris-town and Brier Hill.

Upon his return to the diocese in 1982, Father Murphy was named vice-chancellor and administrator in Morris-town and Brier Hill.

Msgr. Murphy served the diocese as chancellor from 1982 to March 1990. He was also pastor in Madrid from 1992 until his appointment as pastor of St. Mary’s in Potsdam from 1990 to 1994.

In 1992, he was named a monsignor by Pope John Paul II. He also served the diocese as dean of St. Lawrence Deanery.

In 1994, Msgr Murphy was named Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services. He served as administrator in Canton for a short time in 2002 and was named pastor in Herkimer and Lisbon in 2003 before becoming full-time Moderator of the Curia later that year.

In 2011, he was named administrator of the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk and St. Raymond’s Church in Raymondville.

In 2012, he was named pastor in Norfolk and Raymondville with additional responsibilities as pastor in Norwood.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

Deacon John O. Lucero led a Eucharistic Procession through downtown Au Sable Forks on the feast of Corpus Christi May 29.

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Third grade teacher from St. James School in Gouverneur is honored

Kelly Sternisha chosen as Teacher of the Year

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

OGDENSBURG - Kelly Sternisha, a teacher at St. James School in Gouverneur, has been named the 2016 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

She was honored June 30 during a luncheon hosted by Bishop Terry LaValley at the Bishop's Residence.

Mrs. Sternisha has been a member of the faculty at St. James since 1987. In her application for the position, she wrote, "I heard of your school from a friend and believe it contains the kinds of classrooms in which I would like to teach, an atmosphere conducive to learning."

At St. James, Mrs. Sternisha experienced this "atmosphere conducive to learning" and chose to commit herself to St. James School and its mission for 29 years as a third grade teacher.

During her years at St. James, Mrs. Sternisha has embraced many changes in education with a positive and "can do" approach.

In nominating Mrs. Sternisha, Clara Cummings, principal at St. James, stated, "Some would think that going on 29 years teaching 3rd grade might get a bit boring, but not in Mrs. Sternisha's classroom. Her students look forward to traditional activities and a hands on approach which make learning relevant and fun. Mrs. Sternisha continuously looks for new ways to improve her lessons and to reach each child. She is very organized and has strong management skills."

"Mrs. Sternisha is also one of the first people at school in the morning, one of the last to leave at night, and often comes in on weekends," Mrs. Cummings said. "She works diligently to know each of her students' individual leaning needs and strives to bring out the best in each of them. Mrs. Sternisha is always dependable, organized, respectful and truly a reflection of Jesus."

Mrs. Sternisha is a graduate of SUNY Plattsburgh with a degree in Elementary Education, N-6 grade. Her commitment to St. James includes responsibilities that reach beyond her classroom. She is a mentor teacher who works with new teaching staff and serves as vice principal.

She was joined at the June 30 luncheon by Mrs. Cummings, Father Shane Lynch, pastor of St. James, Gouverneur; Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, Vicar for Education; Karen Donahue, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; and Pam Ballantine, Assistant Director of Catholic Education for Christian Formation and Catholic Schools.

Diocesan pilgrims prepare for World Youth Day

By Marika Donders
Diocesan director of New Evangelization

Later this month, from July 23 to August 1, a small band of young adults will be traveling from the North Country to Krakow, Poland to participate in World Youth Day 2016.

The group consists of eight young people, two priests (Father Bryan Stitt and Father Scott Belina, and me, Marika Donders, the director of the New Evangelization Marika Donders.


For many pilgrims, the anticipated highlight of the event is the vigil prayer service on Saturday and closing Mass with the Holy Father and millions of other young Catholics on Sunday.

World Youth Days focus on calling young people to mission in the Church, encouraging them not to be afraid to go out and be disciples.

World Youth Day is a pilgrimage and as such draws young people to offer their joys and struggles and receive grace upon grace.

Those who participate in this pilgrimage as young adults continue on their journey of faith the rest of their lives always seeking to encounter Jesus in the Church and in the world, building bridges of faith and trust.

At World Youth Day, the pilgrims meet young Catholics from around the world and realize that the Church is bigger than their parish, their diocese and their own home country. World Youth Day allows the young people who participate to encounter Christ in each other and truly come to understand the universality of our faith.

The eight young adults in the North Country group are Samantha Bashaw, Leagon Carlin, William Corbett, Anna Fisher, Kevin McCollough, Carter Pierce, Emily Stauble and Lillia Wolschlager. They have spent the past two years fundraising and preparing.

The group will gather the night before departure in Schroon Lake to begin to get to know each other. Then on July 23 will take a van service down to JFK Airport and fly out to Krakow, Poland.

If you have any prayer intentions that you would like us to take with us, please email them to Marika Donders at monders@rcdsny.org.

And of course, we would appreciate your prayers for our pilgrims, for a safe journey and a fruitful pilgrimage.

PS: If the Wi-Fi in Krakow allows, we hope to be able to share photos and updates of our journey as we travel. Please check the Diocesan Facebook page (facebook.com/dioceseofogdensburg) for updates.
Rites held for Sr. Veronica M. Louis

ALLEGANY, NY - A Mass of Christian Burial for Franciscan Sister Veronica Mary Louis, a Lewis County native, was held May 12 in the Chapel of St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, followed by burial in St. Elizabeth’s Cemetery.

She died May 8, 2016 in the St. Clare Community of the St. Elizabeth Motherhouse.

Born Veronica Jane Louis Sept. 1, 1922 in Castorland, she was the daughter of Loren and Laura Hirschy Louis. In Castorland, she attended grade school at Castorland P.S. from 1928-36 and graduated from Lowville Academy High School in 1940.

She was received into the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse on August 15, 1946 and professed her final religious vows on August 16, 1953.

Sister Veronica Mary dedicated the next 70 years of her life to the Mission of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany.

She was soon stationed in Brazil for a ministry of teaching, serving at times as a principal, teacher and principal in the parish schools of Pires do Rio, Anapolis, Ceres and Cristalandia over the next 20 years.

In the late 1960’s, Sister Veronica Mary was missioned to Alto Beni, Bolivia, where she continued to teach catechetics for several years. She later accepted future assignments in La Paz and Tarija, Bolivia ministering as school principal and serving multiple terms in Regional leadership while in residence at two religious houses.

She returned to the U.S. in 1979 and accepted the role of Field representative for the St. Elizabeth Mission Society, where she provided support to fundraising efforts over the next 18 years. Sister Veronica helped to enable hundreds of grant awards that to this day, carry on the Franciscan Sisters’ mission work.

Sister Veronica frequently offered programs on the missions at Catholic schools and religious education programs in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Sister Veronica retired from active ministry in 2009 and was welcomed home by her sisters at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany. She continued a ministry of volunteering whenever there was a need in the house.

Sister Veronica Mary is predeceased by her parents and brothers, James, Robert and William, as well as a sister, Pauline Richardson. She is survived by her sister, Helen Louis and several nieces and nephews.

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PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the North Country Catholic will be dated July 20

REST IN PEACE

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

July 13 – Rev. George Garand, 1941
July 18 – Msgr. Joseph Domina Brault, 1966

Environmental Stewardship

What difference has it made?

What are people around the Diocese saying about the impact of Laudato Si on their lives?

“Laudato Si” has legitimized my concerns with global warming. I work on environmental issues as part of my job; thus I have known about global warming for several years. But, outside of my job, the issue has often been trivialized or relegated to the province of “tree-huggers” and “enviro-nuts.” The encyclical places the issue of global warming squarely into the area of morality, and the Pope calls on each of us to respond according to our moral sensibility. Francis’ call takes the issue from the outside — the arena of debate — and moves it inside, to the arena of my own morality. The question changes from “Is global warming important?” to “What am I going to do about global warming?”

John Tenbusch, St. Mary’s Parish in Waddington

“The change that Laudato Si has brought an awareness of environmental concerns. The need for change is NOW. Becoming involved in the Faith and Ecology group has helped me realize the enormous threat to our earth. So personally I have eliminated purchasing plastic water bottles, paper products, becoming better informed on recycling, and purchasing vehicles that are hybrids to name a few changes.”

Faye Martin, Watertown Faith and Ecology Group

“I think that Jack and I would say that Laudato Si has served as a reminder regarding the use of our precious resources and the little things we can do each day to safeguard those resources. Facilitating a discussion group on Laudato Si was very fulfilling for us, and provided an opportunity to re-examine our viewpoints and political views in light of the preservation of our earth.”

Jack & Michele Meyers, St. Mary’s Church in Canton

July 7 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
July 9 – 4 p.m., Installation of Rev. Mark Reilly as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Massena & St. Lawrence Church in Louisville at Sacred Heart Church 6 p.m., Mass at St. Lawrence Church in Louisville
July 10 – 7:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony Church in Inlet 9 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony Church in Inlet 11 a.m., Mass at St. Bartholomew’s Church in Old Forge
July 11 – 4 p.m., Mass with the Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
July 12 – 8 a.m., Mass with Morning Prayer with the Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
July 13 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 14 – 9 a.m., Meeting with Sisters of the Cross Leadership at the Brzana Conference Room in Ogdensburg
July 15 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
July 16 – Family Pilgrimage to St. Anne’s Shrine in Isle La Motte, Vermont
July 17 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. John Bosco Church in Malone 11 a.m., Farewell Mass for Ursuline Sisters at Notre Dame Church in Malone
July 18 – 7:15 a.m., Novena & Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 19 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
July 20 – 5 p.m., Silver Jubilee Mass for Sister Maria Flavia D’Costa at St. Anthony’s Church in Watertown

To Report Abuse

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

The next issue of the North Country Catholic will be dated July 20
Lay ministers hear about ‘The Power & Wisdom’

By Patricia Marie
Contributing writer

MORRISONVILLE – Fifty-two commissioned lay ministers from the Clinton, Essex, Hamilton-Herkimer deaneries gathered June 3 to participate in a spring event hosted by the Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers’ Association (ERCLMA). The group held its first event in January.

The evening was entitled “The Power and the Wisdom” - a two part event in which the main speaker, Msgr. Lee Poissant offered the first talk and keynote address.

Although Father Poissant is retired, he continues to teach and to share his unique perspective of theology, humor and spiritual insight as it relates to commissioned lay ministers’ service to others.

He helped the lay ministers to understand that “power and wisdom” can be, (and often times are), mutually and equally important regarding love and mercy.

One of Father Poissant’s current responsibilities is as a facilitator/instructor for the CLM program which he has undertaken for many years. He teaches the eight-week course on Moral Theology in the second year of Formation for Ministry.

The second part of the June 3 program featured three concurrent break-out sessions: Father Poissant talked about the ministry of outreach. Eastern Regional Director of Faith Formation, Pam Ballantine spoke about catechesis and Kelly Donnelly, the new diocesan Director of Youth Ministry spoke about her area of expertise regarding today’s youth ministry.

Light refreshments were prepared by the Catholic Daughters, Sts. Kateri and Andre #2663 Morrisonville.

ERCLMA’s fall event will be held in Peru Oct. 14, featuring Bishop Terry LaValley as main celebrant for Mass and keynote speaker.

All commissioned lay ministers, including those in other associations of the diocese are welcome to attend. Information will be emailed from the diocesan Formation for Ministry office.
Religious community to leave North Country this month

The Ursulines - 118 years of service

Submitted by the Ursulines of the Eastern Province

St. Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursulines (1535) encouraged her sisters to "respond to the needs of the times."

The Ursulines have heeded these words from the original invitation of Bishop Henry Gabriel, the second Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, to the present day.

In June 1898, Sister Stanislaus Janisse, originally from the Ursuline Monastery in Chatham, Ontario, accompanied by three sisters, arrived in Malone. It was then that the mission of the Ursulines began to take root in the North Country.

Open St. Joseph’s Academy

The founding Ursuline sisters purchased the Hawley property on Elm Street in Malone and less than a year later had opened St. Joseph’s Academy to a hundred students. The Academy was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1904; by the time it closed in 1976 it had graduated more than 2000 students.

A large convent, housing both sisters and school boarders, was completed in 1906 at 111 Elm Street. All the sisters worked hard – in addition to teaching and caring for the boarders, they did most of the cleaning, tending furnaces, cooking, canning and preserving.

Generations of Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, particularly in the Malone area, have been blessed by the presence of the Ursuline Sisters who arrived in the North Country in 1898. Due the declining number of sisters, the religious order will be leaving the diocese this month. Bishop LaValley will preside at a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Ursulines July 17 at Notre Dame Church in Malone. Shown in traditional habits, in this Ursuline historical photo, are Sisters Veronica Malone, Constance Marie Kelly, Jane Mennis, Robert Rozon, Stasia Hollahan and Angela Chauvin.

Beyond boarding, day schools

From their earliest days the Ursulines reached beyond their boarding and day schools by offering religious education in the surrounding Malone parishes and to various town in the North Country.

Ursuline staffed the Malone District School of Religion and served as pastoral associates in St. Mary’s, Fort Covington; St. Patrick’s, Chateaugay; St. Francis of Assisi, Constable, in addition to the Malone parishes in Notre Dame, St. Joseph’s and St. John Bosco.

The closing of St. Joseph’s Academy in 1976 offered other opportunities to become involved in numerous new ways of ministering to the needs of the area.

Among these ministries was involvement with Pastoral Outreach Services, an ecumenical organization that worked with the elderly, sick and homebound. The sisters also taught at North Country Community College, in the Malone public schools, and the Montessori program.

In addition, Ursulines were actively involved in the Permanent Diaconate Program, Caring Friends Hospice, Community Action Agency of Franklin County, North Star Behavioral Health Services, the Holistic Care Center of Malone, and Franklin Country Prison Ministry.

They also served on numerous civic and ministerial boards, and peace and justice organizations.

The sisters also expanded their ministry to other parts of the diocese, establishing Ursuline communities in Witherbee/Minerva and Lisbon. While in these parishes the sisters continued to reach out to the needs of the people and worked very closely with clergy, religious, and laity to spread the Gospel.

Leaving in July

In July 2016 the Ursulines will be leaving Malone due to declining numbers of sisters. The Ursulines may no longer have a physical presence in Malone and the Diocese of Ogdensburg, but their spirit, legacy, and mission will surely continue in the thousands of lives they have touched since 1898.

Ursuline alumnae, outstanding members of their local communities, continue to carry on the tradition and values of Ursuline education. Ursuline Lay Associates, who have been integral to the Ursuline Mission, continue to reflect the charism of St. Angela Merici in their lives and in the pastoral activities in which they are engaged.

Malone has been described and experienced as “a place where one can grow and give life to others.” The Ursuline Sisters, who have been ministering to the North Country since 1898, have witnessed to this and express their gratitude for the opportunity to have been able to serve as an integral part of the Malone and larger North Country community and Diocese of Ogdensburg for these past 118 years.

In the spirit of St. Angela Merici, they have faithfully responded to the needs of the times by their commitment to the Gospel and to the people of the North Country. In recognition of the ministry of the Ursulines, Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at a Liturgy of Thanksgiving July 17 at Notre Dame Church, Malone.

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THE URSULINES... FROM 1898 TO 2016

St. Joseph Academy students of the early 1900's are ready for a parade. Under the direction of the Ursuline Sisters, SJA was chartered by the New York State Board of Regents in 1904; by the time it closed in 1976 it had graduated more than 2000 students.

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, is shown with the Ursulines who lived in Malone in the early 2000s. In front are Sisters Rita Beach, Priscilla Malone and Constance Kelly; back, Sisters Mary Thomas Malone and Marie Paul Denesha; Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of Notre Dame Church in Malone; Sister Christine Denesha, Bishop Barbarito; and Sisters Ann Pe-

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Military families depend on chaplains for more than spiritual guidance

For God and country

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

GREAT FALLS, MONT. (CNS) - As U.S. Air Force Maj. Justin Secrest organizes moving boxes in the family garage, his wife, Jennifer, surveys the kitchen to see what she can do without before the movers come in a few weeks to take their belongings to their new home near Kansas City, Missouri.

It will be the 13th move that the couple has made in their 24 years of marriage.

Frequent moves are a fact of life when one or both spouses in a family have military careers, and though the physical transport of their belongings to a new home at Whiteman Air Force Base is a manageable task, it’s the saying goodbye to friends that never gets easy, 46-year-old Jennifer Secrest told Catholic News Service as she was packing up her home of a few years at the Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls.

The golden-haired mother of two adult sons and a teenage daughter in high school became misty-eyed when she talked about leaving the life her family has made in northwest Montana, the friends who will stay behind and the Catholic Church on base in which she has immersed herself.

“We say goodbye to a lot of people,” Jennifer Secrest said as she fought back tears.

The military chaplain helps families with unique challenges that don’t necessarily impact most people in civilian parishes

Her husband recognizes the emotional toll these moves have on his wife and said he has built up some barriers to protect himself from the impact of the frequent change in assignments.

“There are some great things about military life, but there are definite hardships,” Maj. Secrest said. “It’s a strange life and it’s definitely not an easy life.”

The biggest constant the Secrests said they have had in this “crazy life that is the military,” is the church and the relationships they have forged with various chaplains along the way.

“Our family has benefited so much from the church and we’ve been very fortunate to have close ties with Catholic chaplains over the years,” Maj. Secrest said. “Yes, the religious aspect has been important to us, but the presence of the church in our lives has kept our foundation strong during some very difficult times.”

Frequent deployments have required the 46-year-old major to be away from the family sometimes for a year at a time.

Jennifer Secrest figures that her husband’s absences from the family total about five years in all.

The Secrests’ situation is among military families, making the presence of the chaplain that much more important, said Father John Reutemann, the Catholic chaplain at Malmstrom.

“The military chaplain helps families with unique challenges that don’t necessarily impact most people in civilian parishes, Father Reutemann told Catholic News Service during a May interview at the Montana Air Force Base.

Frequent relocations, deployments, family separations, dangers associated with war -- and at Malmstrom, the stress of guarding missiles on U.S. soil -- are just some of what military families cope with.

Joyce Flores’ husband, Army Maj. Rufino B. Flores Jr., has been deployed to Afghanistan four times during the course of the past several years.

The young couple is currently stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where they celebrated his latest homecoming last December.

The dangers Maj. Flores’ war-zone missions have carried their own levels of stress on the young mother of three small children.

Though she is thrilled each time her husband returns home, reintegration isn’t as easy as one may think, Joyce Flores told CNS during a March interview at Fort Bragg, as her 7-year-old son was preparing for his first confession at one of the chapels on base.

“Being on his own for such a long time during the last deployment, I found that when he returned, he had forgotten what it was like to be a part of a whole family,” she said. “He was responsible on his own for himself and his gear and his mission, and his day-to-day life didn’t include taking care of children, helping with household chores and helping the kids with homework.”

“Being on his own for such a long time during the last deployment, I found that when he returned, he had forgotten what it was like to be a part of a whole family,” she said. “He was responsible on his own for himself and his gear and his mission, and his day-to-day life didn’t include taking care of children, helping with household chores and helping the kids with homework.”

It took me a while to realize that he wasn’t in that mindset and that it wasn’t automatic the way it had been after other deployments,” she said.

Joyce Flores also said that since she had spent the entire year he was gone taking care of the family, she didn’t reach out to her husband for help when he returned and he sometimes watched while the family went on with their daily life, wondering where he fit in.

Their Catholic chaplain at Fort Bragg, Father Lukasz J. Willenberg, said reintegration is one of the biggest stresses military families endure following deployment and he tries to provide support when a mother or father returns from war.

“Soldiers return home, sometimes with different issues, and it can be a real challenge to adjust,” Father Willenberg said. “The combat zone changes them. But also, as they are away, the kids are growing up; the spouse left behind has to adjust to the new normal. After 12 months, there are two people who are not really different who have to learn how to deal with each other again, how to rediscover one another.”

Sometimes Father Willenberg provides these couples with counseling himself and other times he refers them to reintegrations seminars and retreats offered by the Army.

“I encourage them to set up a date night or something special just for the two of them,” he said, “to get away and rediscover each other.”

The Catholic Church is invested in helping families stay together and to keeping marriages intact, Father Willenberg said, and so is the military, because armed forces service members and women function better when their home lives are stable.

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Supreme Court's Texas decision impacts states, galvanizes both sides

By Carol Zimmerman
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The Supreme Court's June 27 decision to strike down restrictions on Texas abortion clinics is having ripple effects on legislation across the country and it also has galvanized those on both sides of the abortion issue.

The impact of the ruling - which said Texas abortion clinics do not have to comply with standards of ambulatory surgical centers and their doctors are not required to have admitting privileges at local hospitals - was felt almost immediately.

That same day, Alabama's Attorney General Luther Strange said his office would drop its appeal of a federal district court judge's 2014 ruling that the state's admitting privileges law, similar to the Texas law, unconstitutional.

"While I disagree with the high court's decision, there is no good faith argument that Alabama's law remains constitutional in light of the Supreme Court ruling," Strange said in a statement.

Support for the Supreme Court's decision in Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt - the court's first ruling on abortion in several years - predicted a swift wave of changes striking down similar restrictions on abortion clinics across the country.

Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, described the court's ruling as the first step in opening the doors to restore more access to abortion.

Carol Tobias, president of National Right to Life, doesn't see it that way.

"There may be some laws that are turned down because of what the Supreme Court did," she said, "but by and large the laws are going to stay."

"The abortion industry wants to set up this mirage that no laws are going to stand and they will try to intimidate or scare pro-life legislators," she said in a June 30 interview.

Tobias thinks the pro-life movement will be more invigorated in their fight after the court's decision.

"Pro-lifers are steadfast and determined," she said, noting that they are accustomed to taking a few steps forward and then some backward, but they will continue to vote for those who promote pro-life legislation.

"The court decision was a step backward but it does not change what we're doing," she added. She also said pro-life advocates have other issues they are emphasizing such as fetal health legislation that bans abortions at 20 weeks or later based on fetal pain.

She said it is worth noting that one part of the Texas law, H.B. 2, that was not challenged was its prohibition on abortions after 20 weeks. Similar legislation has passed in 14 states and she believes other states will follow suit.

In the meantime, state Catholic conferences are taking a close look at laws on abortion clinics in their states. Ingrid Delgado, associate for respect life and social concerns with the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the Florida law for abortion clinics is similar to the Texas law that was struck down but it also has key differences.

In Florida, for example, medical directors at state abortion clinics have been required to have either admitting privileges at hospitals or transfer agreements, meaning patients could be treated at local hospitals, which was not part of the Texas legislation.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports legal abortion, 25 states have laws or policies that regulate abortion providers and clinics that perform surgical abortions that it claims "go beyond what is necessary to ensure patients' safety."

Five states currently require providers of either medication-induced abortion or surgical abortion to have admitting privileges at a local hospital and another 10 require the provider to have either admitting privileges or another type of relationship with a hospital.

Florida - like Alabama, Idaho, Indiana and South Dakota - also has legislation taking effect July 1 that limits what can be done with the remains of aborted fetuses. The state also joins Mississippi and Missouri in adopting laws to stop tax dollars from going to Planned Parenthood.

An abortion restriction law set to take effect July 1 in Indiana was blocked by a federal judge June 30 saying the state does not have the authority to limit a woman's right to abortion. The law would have banned abortions based on genetic abnormalities such as Down syndrome or because of race, gender or ancestry of the fetus.

North Dakota is the only other state with such a law in place.

The decision against the Indiana law "forbids extending the equal protection of the law to disabled unborn children facing the most lethal form of discrimination," said Carter Sneed, a law professor and director of the Center for Ethics and Culture at the University of Notre Dame.
Finding God’s direction for our lives

In the beloved story, “The Wizard of Oz”, Dorothy seeks high adventure in the exotic land of Oz. When she becomes homesick, she is transported home to Kansas. The wise and loving people who had guided her journey in Oz were the same loving people she had left at home in Kansas!

This is what the book of Deuteronomy is trying to tell us about finding God’s directions in our lives. How down to earth and practical are the words of Scripture!

The message is a clear one. If we want to see Jesus Christ in our lives, we need to look into the eyes of our brothers and sisters in need—our neighbors. How embarrassed the young scribe must have been when Jesus questioned him at the end of the story. “Which of these three in your opinion was neighbor to the robbers?”

The young man was unwilling to even say the word ‘Samaritan’, so he said instead, “the one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus generously gives him credit for the right answer. This message is the same one which Pope Francis preaches to the world, loud and clear!

‘DO YOU LOVE ME? KEEP MY COMMANDS’

The decision to marry: vocational discernment

By Stephen Tartaglia
Diocesan Family Life Director

A holy marriage is always something that should be celebrated! Normally we recognize married couples in our annual Marriage Jubilee held at the Cathedral in September. This year we will be celebrating all vocations at the Inspire Summit and we will recognize married couples there.

For more information about the Inspire Summit or to register for this free event, please go to http://www.inspirecalledtolove.org

Pope Francis, in his recent Papal Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, said that the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be the fruit of a process of vocational discernment. This statement is so deep and important that it is necessary to pause and really consider what it means.

The heart of discernment is a judgment. Normally, a person is said to have discernment if they habitually show good judgment. In our day to day lives, we make thousands of judgments, and sometimes these happen so quickly that we aren’t even aware of weighing options.

Discernment, though, is not a lightweight judgment. It means to make a close examination and to sort things out in order to arrive at a good and careful decision.

There is a difference between normal discernment and a vocational discernment. A vocational discernment, when done diligently, can take several years, because the decision affects the rest of the person’s life and also affects many other people.

In secular settings a career or a job is referred to as a person’s vocation; students may receive vocational training to help them develop the skills necessary to be successful in that career. What Catholics understand by vocation is a bit different. Catholics believe that a vocation is a permanent state of life (marriage, priesthood, religious life) that is intended to help the person get to Heaven themselves and to help other people get to Heaven.

Two things are significantly different between the two versions.

First, the secular version of vocation is focused on worldly success, whereas the Catholic version of vocation is focused on success for the next world.

Second, the secular version relies on a person’s own interests, wants and feelings exclusively, whereas the Catholic version recognizes that a vocation is a special calling from God. Indeed, the word itself comes from the Latin ‘vocare’ which means to call.

Although a Catholic vocational discernment does rely on a person’s interests, wants and feelings, it is primarily about hearing and responding to God’s invitation.

In order to make any vocational discernment, there are certain, foundational things that one must believe first: God exists; God loves us; people sin against God; sin also weakens and destroys relationships between people; God’s grace heals the wounds caused by sin; and when we love other people, we are loving God.

We learn and experience these foundational concepts within our families as we are growing up. But just knowing about these concepts is not enough.

We need to believe and practice them so that we can be in a relationship with God and be sensitive to His promptings in our lives. Most people would accept immediately the idea that without a relationship with God, there is no possibility of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. It is equally impossible to have a vocation to marriage as God intends it, without a relationship with God.

This is the reason why the decision to marry and have a family has to be the result of a vocational discernment.
The decision
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12
But the ‘process’ is also very important.
There are similarities and differences in the processes of discerning a religious vocation and a marital vocation. The differences in the preparation for marriage and holy orders focus primarily on what each will be doing, for example, a priest is required to pray the divine office, to offer sacraments, and to preach. Each of those duties requires specialized knowledge and training not necessary for a vocation to marriage.
Conversely, an engaged couple will soon plan to welcome new life and should be trained in Natural Family Planning, which is also specialized knowledge and requires practice.
The same qualities in a man that make for a good husband and father also make for a good priest, and first among these qualities is to be open to the will of God and sensitive to His promptings. It is within the family that the foundation for every future vocation is built. If there are problems in the foundation, then whatever vocational ‘structure’ is built upon it will likely have problems.
Good vocational discernment process takes a look at the foundation, repairs and strengthens it.
Being open to God and sensitive to His promptings entails being free from slavery to sin and false gods. For this reason, it is extremely important that families take the Ten Commandments very seriously. They show us the idols we worship.
When we use the commandments in our regular examinations of conscience, we can pinpoint very speedily the idols we embrace and we can work to weaken them through sacramental confession, prayer, and the development of habits that replace our vices with virtues.
ADIRONDACK

SUMMER RETREAT
Lake Placid - Summer Retreat is set
Dates: July 16-17
Schedule: The mission will begin on the weekend liturgies and then Mon., Tues., and Wed., at 7 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes
Speaker: Fr. Don Henry on the theme “Everything we say and do teaches.”

"VACATION WITH THE LORD"
Saranac Lake - A summer retreat is set
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Dates: Aug. 12 - 14
Cost: $150
Features: Facilitated by Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ and Paul Gibaldi, Adirondack guide and published nature photographer; A time to enjoy nature as “a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of His infinite beauty and goodness,” (Laudato Si #12) and a time to discover lessons for life from the “Gospel of Creation” (Laudato Si Chap. 2). Father Paul Kelly will celebrate Mass.
Contact: Space limited. For more information, call 315-212-6592 or email srbethssj@gmail.com

CLINTON

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Dannemora - A Vacation Bible School, “Cave Quest” is to be held
Date: July 11 - 15
Time: 9 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Joseph’s Church
Features: Cave Quest is filled with Bible-learning experiences. Science-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, Bible songs and treats
Contact: Call Lynn Lynch at 492-2524 or beth@spj.org for an application.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Plattsburgh - St. Peter’s is sponsoring their annual Golf Tournament.
Date: Aug. 5
Time: Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.; arrive 30-60 minutes prior to the start
Place: Adirondack Golf Club
Cost: $65 for non-Adirondack members, $50 for Adirondack members, $25 for awards dinner only.
Features: The proceeds will benefit the Youth Programs sponsored by St. Peter’s such as scholarships to Guggenheim. Farmers Insurance Company is the new Corporate Sponsor. They are also accepting $50 hole sponsors
Contact: Send registration form, check payable to John Mookry, 51 Oak St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901 by Aug. 1. Call 518-578-4927 or 518-562-4179

RENOVATION GOLF TOURNAMENT
Plattsburgh - 6th Annual St. Joseph’s Church (Dannemora) Building Renovation Golf Tournament to be held.
Date: Aug. 12
Place: Bluff Point Course
Cost: $60 per person which includes golf, cart, meal and prizes.
Features: 4 person scramble. Proceeds will go to the Renovation Fund.
Contact: Teams or individuals may contact Deacon Ed at 563-0828 or Fr. Mickey at 492-7118 for an application.

FRANKLIN

ST. MARY’S BREAKFAST
Brushton - St. Mary’s breakfast buffet to be held.
Date: July 10
Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $8; Seniors, $7; Children 6-12, $4; under 5, Free; Immediate Family of 5 (mother, father, and school age children) or more, $25
Contact: For take-outs, 518-529-6580

HAMILTON-Herkimer

WMF FAMILY MISSION
Old Forge - The team that represented the diocese at World Meeting of Families is presenting a day of Adoration.
Date: July 8
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Bartholomew’s Parish
Features: The Day of Adoration follows the 8 a.m. Mass. There will be a breakfast from 9 a.m. to 10 with a short presentation, the opportunity to meet the team members, ask questions and receive resources from the World Meeting of Families. There will be exposition and adoration from 10 to 11 ending with a Holy Hour from 11 to noon.
Contact: Those wishing to attend the free breakfast should call 315-369-3554.

CHICKEN BBQ
Indian Lake - The Knights of Columbus have a Chicken BBQ
Date: July 17
Time: Noon to 5 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church
Cost: $10

SUMMER HEAT GOLF TOURNAMENT
Wells/Speculator - The 5th Annual St. James “Summer Heat” Golf Tournament will be held.
Date: July 23
Time: Shotgun start at 8 a.m.
Place: Lake Pleasant Golf Course
Cost: $55 per person. Includes a cart
Features: The format is Foursomes/Scramble. All the proceeds go towards supporting neighbors in Lake Pleasant, Piseco, Speculator and Wells needing heating assistance next winter. Lunch and prizes will be provided. Sign-up is at the Clubhouse, St. Ann’s & St. James “Summer Heat” at Wells.
Contact: For more information, call Richard at 548-3635/3636 or e-mail swolf9957@frontier.net.

SUMMER PARISH PICNIC
Wells - The Fifth Annual St. Ann/ St. James’ Summer Parish Picnic is set
Date: July 24
Time: 2 p.m. to 5
Place: Wells Pavilion
Features: This year’s theme is “Favorite Summer Sports” and all are invited to come dressed in the outfit they would enjoy their favorite summer recreation in. There will be a prize for best dressed. Hamburgs, hotdogs, sausage and drinks provided; bring dish to pass.
Contact: Call Dan at 265-3977 or e-mail debwalters@frontier.net for more information.

JEFFERSON

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Carthage - St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity, Secular Franciscans will have a 2 hour Adoration to pray for Vocations.
Date: July 23
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. James Church

HOMESCHOOLERS MASS, LUNCH
Cape Vincent - Homeschoolers invited to participate in a family craft, enjoy the company, and lunch.
Date: July 31
Features: Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Vincent of Paul Church followed by a pot luck lunch at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dalbon Point.
Contact: RSVP to Dolores at 315-654-3932, call or text.

LEWIS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Lowville - Eucharistic Adoration set
Date: July 7 and 21
Time: 4 p.m. to 5
Place: St. Peter’s Church
Features: Silent Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Benediction.

CHICKEN BBQ
Hartsburg - Knights of Columbus sponsoring Chicken BBQ to be held.
Date: July 23
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Francis Solanus Church
Cost: Adults, $5; Children 5-12, $4; under 5, Free; Chicken only, $5
Features: For pre-sale tickets call Larry 315-543-2946 or Dan 1-845-292-3053

SUMMER SOCIAL
Constableville - St. Mary’s Church will be holding their 10th annual Summer Social.
Date: July 13
Time: 5 p.m. to 7
Features: No price changes, same delicious picnic menu with all carte pricing; games and raffles.

ST. LAWRENCE

SUMMER PRE-CANA CONFERENCE
Norfolk - Summer Pre-Cana conference to be held.
Date: July 9
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Place: Church of the Visitation
Contact: Deacon Henry and Dayna Leaders, diocesan Pre-Cana coordinators, 315-233-0827, dleader@rcdony.org

FAMILY PILGRIMAGE
Isle La Motte, VT - Join us for a Family Pilgrimage to St. Anne’s Shrine in Isle La Motte on nearby Lake Champlain.
Date: July 16
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Features: Bring a picnic, swimsuits, participate in a family craft, enjoy the walking Stations of the Cross, celebrate Mass with Bishop LaValley. The Event is free, but freewill donations accepted
Contact: Steve Tartaglia tartaglia@rcdony.org 315-393-2920

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM
Saranac Lake - Come celebrate family at Family Guggenheim.
Date: Three Sessions: Aug. 11-14; Aug. 18-21; and Oct. 7-9
Features: A four day get away in the Adirondacks to hike, swim and praise with other faithful families! You will enjoy engaging workshops, free time for the beach and nature and rest, fishing, liturgies, family rosary, campfires, a variety show, prayer, and lots of time to play.
Contact: Deacon Henry and Dayna Leaders, dleader@rcdony.org 315-287-2874

VOCATION PILGRIMAGE
Join Bishop LaValley Will lead a pilgrimage to pray for vocations.
Date: Oct. 11-13
Cost: Single Occupancy $460, Double Occupancy $335 each
Features: Mass and tour at Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, MA, Holy Hour, Mass and tour of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, visit to Norman Rockwell Museum, 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts, and 1 lunch, buses with pick-ups in Watertown, Ogdensburg, Potsdam, Plattsburgh, Schroon Lake. Space limited, sign up today! (Non-refundable payment due August 27.
Contact: Call Anne at (315) 353-2950 or Connie at (315) 265-2762.
OBITUARIES

Adams — Alfred R. Gilbert, 78; Funeral Services June 21, 2016 at St. Cecilia’s Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Henderson.

Bombay — Margaret M. (Ayotte) Major, 80; Funeral June 27, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Brownville — Douglas Frank Himman, 92; Funeral Services June 24, 2016 at immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Helen M. (White) LaBare, 91; Funeral Services June 28, 2016 at the Chateaugay Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Clayton — Thomas J. Brabant, 72; Funeral Services June 25, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church.

Clayton — Aimee L. Cooley, 44; Funeral Services June 22, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Colton — Mary Jane (Hayes) Lintner, 84; Funeral Services June 25, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Croghan — Leslie Francis Ver Schneider, Sr., 84; Funeral Services July 1, 2016 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Edwards — Frank E. Wagner, Sr., 94; Funeral Services June 24, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in the Hermon Cemetery.

Glenfield — Arlene Margaret (Urtez) Patty, 100; Funeral Services June 23, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Glenfield — George C. Robinson, 73; Funeral Services July 15, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church.

Hogansburg — Allen J. Gorrow, 83; Funeral June 29, 2016 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Lowville — Benjamin L. Blair, 89; Funeral Services July 1, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Beaches Bridge Cemetery.

Lowville — William J. “Jim” Welch, Jr., 85; Funeral Services July 2, 2016 at the Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Colton.

Lyon Mountain — Richard E. Wilson, 63; Funeral July 1, 2016 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone — Warren W. Brand, 87; Funeral Services June 28, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Morning Side Cemetery.

Massena — Robert F. Post, 84; Funeral Services June 24, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Sandy F. Romeo, 93; Funeral Services June 25, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Laura M. Stubb; Funeral Services June 30, 2016 at the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisville — Gerald A. “Jerry” Bushey Sr., 85; Funeral Services June 23, 2016 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in St. Alexander’s Cemetery.

Morrisville — Gordon R. “Gordie” Little, 79; Funeral Services June 28, 2016 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk — Sandra L. and Bernard J. Campbell; Funeral Services June 23, 2016 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Ilia Buckley, 72; Funeral Services June 25 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Arnold P. “Arnie” Burdon, 80; Funeral Services June 27, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Stephen C. Conner, 69; Funeral Services June 24, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Malone.

Plattsburgh — Henry W. Green, 88; Funeral Services June 25, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Ronald G. Maloepse, MD, 68; Memorial Services July 13, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church.

Plattsburgh — Ruth M. “Goldie” Moore, 90; Funeral Services June 2, 2016 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Alexander’s Cemetery, Morrisville.

Plattsburgh — Terry R. Schmutz, 68; Funeral Services July 2, 2016 at St. John’s Church.

Plattsburgh — Margaret “Lena” (LaBarre) Whalen, 88; Funeral Services June 20, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Port Leyden — Evelyn (Foley) Lesperance, 90; Funeral June 24, 2016 at St. Martin’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Potsdam — Robert H. Buck, 81; Funeral Services July 8, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Redford — Ronald M. Buckley, 72; Funeral Services June 24, 2016 at Church of Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Rouses Point — Joyce Marie (Carr) Duffy, 64; Funeral Services June 22, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. George’s Cemetery, Burke.

Rouses Point — Beatrice Frances Jeffers­son, Sr., 92; Funeral Services June 21, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Champlain.

Schoon Lake — Lynane M. (Estes) Anslow, 77; Funeral Services July 1, 2016 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in North Hudson Cemetery.

Star Lake — Donald R. Pomerville, 59; Funeral Services July 2, 2016 at St. Hubert’s Church; burial in St. Hubert’s Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Elizabeth Jean Merrihew Smith, 85; Funeral Services June 22, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown — Mary L. (Burr) Branski, 78; Funeral June 23, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery Watertown.

Watertown — Ethel M. Gagniere; Funeral Services July 1, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Parish Road Cemetery, Pametla.

Watertown — John “Jack” Morin, 82; Funeral Services July 1, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown — Resamond A. (Horton) Van Arnam, 78; Funeral Services June 28, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Willboro — Janice A. Dorey, 60; Funeral Services June 30, 2016 at St. Philip of Jesus Church.

From Indonesia to Watertown

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Jonas Tandayu is the current pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church and has been building a spirit of unity, love and service within the Watertown community since 2012. Father Jonas believes his strength and inspiration comes from the belief that God has love for us through Jesus Christ (John 4:16), and he loved the world so much that he gave us his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life (John 3:16). Fr. Jonas expresses that kind of love everyday through his homilies, reflections and teachings.

Many parishioners throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg have supported the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) through the Sacred Heart Foundation located in Watertown, which supports the formation of missionary priests and brothers. Each summer, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart participate in the Coop – Collection. A Sacred Heart priest speaks on the training of seminarians as well as the training of religious sisters and lay catechists in developing countries. Father Jonas at some time received assistance in his training from the North Country collection. It is fitting to know that a missionary we supported in his early years has come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and specifically Watertown to support us spiritually.

Father Jonas is from a small town, Kawangkoan, Manado, Indonesia. He has six sisters and one brother. Three of his sisters are religious. A Carmelite, a Franciscan and a Holy Family Sister. As a youngest, Father Jonas was happy to meet an MSC who came riding into his town on a motorcycle. He was filled with compassion and fun which influenced Father Jonas’s vocation.

Father Jonas studied Biblical Theology and was head of the Catechists in his diocese. He was in formation ministry in the Philippines, Novice Master in India, Director of Major Seminarians and Vice Provincial of his local community. He desired to visit other MSC communities in the United States in Los Angeles and San Bernardino, California. He really wanted parish work. It is a blessing for us that he chose the wintry north country instead of sunny California.

Reflecting on his time in the USA, Father Jonas thinks of the struggle for his people to provide the necessities of life compared to a less struggle for people in our country. Catholicism is growing in Indonesia. He is grateful to see the acceptance of Catholics and especially for him within the American Culture. He does well mastering the language barrier.

We are grateful to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart for sharing the gifts of Father Jonas with us. He is grateful for the welcome in the north country for accepting him as he is as he ministers among us. He shows by his “all - time smile” a Christ-like enthusiasm for all.
FACES OF FAITH

Another year of formal Catholic education comes to a close

Father Francis J. Flynn, pastor in Willsboro, Westport and Elizabethtown, celebrated a senior class recognition Mass at each of his parishes. At St Philip of Jesus Parish in Willsboro, Zack Pierson, Connor Sheehan, Taressa Lacey and John Shaw were honored.

Father Mark Reilly, pastor in Massena, presented Trinity Catholic sixth grade student Luke Greco, the Bishop’s Award during the school’s recent graduation Mass at St. Mary’s Church. Greco earned the award for seven years of academic excellence, discipleship, school spirit, and good character.

At St Elizabeth’s Church in Elizabethtown, Natalie Martin, Shannon Canavan and Wesley Putnam were honored at a senior class recognition Mass. The graduates are shown above with their pastor, Father Francis J. Flynn.

Thomas Mero, Anderson Gay and Jonathan Gay were honored at the senior class recognition Mass at St Philip Neri in Westport.

As the 2015-2016 school year came to a close, so did the tenure of four of Trinity Catholic School’s leaders. TCS bids farewell to Denise Neves, Christine Britton, Shirley Chartrand and Father Don Manfred, who combined, have served the school for about 91 years.

Hailey Moore is the 2016 valedictorian at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh.