‘Watch out for false gods’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Watch out for the tempting promises and easy rewards of false gods and idols because they always lead to confusion, disappointment and even death, Pope Francis said.

"We are tempted to seek even fleeting comfort, which seems to fill the emptiness of solitude and ease the exertion of believing" in God, especially in times of trouble, the pope said Jan. 11 during his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

But the hope and security that come from God "never ever disappoint," he said. "Idols always let you down" since they are figments of the imagination and not "alive and real" like God.

The pope continued his series of talks on Christian hope by reflecting on Psalm 115, which warns of the false hopes and securities offered by man-made idols.

While the psalmist speaks of statues made of "silver and gold," the pope said idols also include anything people hold up as the ultimate answer to their happiness and security like money, power, success and false ideologies - all of which carry "illusions of eternity and omnipotence."

Bishop urges support for respecting life

Jan. 22 marks the 44th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

Bishop LaValley has urged generous support of the annual diocesan Respect Life collection, Jan. 21-22, "that supports our many local efforts to help form consciences to embrace the gift of human life at all its stages."

Also, Kathleen Gallagher, Director of Pro-Life Activities, for the bishops of New York State, writes about the pro-life movement 44 years after Roe.

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATIONS

Father Thomas Higman, assistant director of vocations for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and Leagon Carlin, a diocesan seminarian from Plattsburgh, visited the students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh Jan. 6. They talked about following Christ and presented the Gospel story of the Rich Young Man. Carlin, at left, and the Seton students also joined in a "selfie" taken by Father Higman. "The students had great fun and really enjoyed Father's visit," said St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Herrmann, principal of Seton Academy.

SYNOD ON YOUTH

To include their input

CNS photo/Bob Roller
Pope Francis waves as he arrives for a welcoming ceremony during the 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. As the Catholic Church prepares for a meeting of the Synod of Bishops focused on youth, set for October, 2018, the pope wrote a letter to young people saying the church wants "to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith, even your doubts and your criticism." The pope's letter was released Jan. 13 along with the preparatory document for the synod. The document includes a series of questions to be answered by national conferences of bishops and other church bodies. The responses, along with input from young people themselves, will form the basis of the synod's working document.

YOUNG FAITH: A look at special events for teens planned for 2017... p. 4
For the young and faithful

The NCC’s January edition of “Young Faith” (page 4) is well-timed since Pope Francis also has his mind on young Catholics this week.

As does Bishop LaValley. Kelly Donnelly, our diocesan youth director, takes a look at the next 12 months that are filled with faith-building opportunities for teenagers.

Pope Francis is looking ahead to 2018 when he will convene the next Synod of Bishops.

And, Bishop LaValley is looking ahead to Jan. 27 when he will join scores of mostly young people from the North Country at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

The article by our youth director offers great hope for those of us (all of us!) who care about youthful Catholics.

In addition to opportunities that have been offered for decades, (Guggenheim, the national youth conference, the March for Life) there are some intriguing new events to sample.

Kelly has been working closely with members of the Diocesan Youth Council to plan two day-long Lenten retreats held in Malone on March 25 and Canton on March 26.

As she writes, the Reawaken retreat is “a day of prayer, reflection and fun for all in grades 6-12.”

It almost makes me wish I was back in high school.

A slightly older group is the focus for the pope and the synod: “Young people, faith and vocational discernment.” The October 2018 synod will address the faith of Catholics from the ages of 16 to 29.

For their discussion, the bishops will be asked to consider the voices of these young people.

This past week, Pope Francis released a letter to young people, saying the church wants “to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith, even your doubts and your criticism.”

“Make your voice heard,” the pope told them. “Let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls.”

Young people will have an opportunity to contribute to the working document by submitting reflections “on their expectations and their lives” through a dedicated website -- www.sinodogiovani.va -- that will be launched March 1.

And this almost makes me wish I was 20 again!

FATHER MUECH SAYS

John & Jesus - different kind of baptism

Our Catholic Christmas Liturgical Season continues every year until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, a commemoration of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. Then we will begin the next liturgical season, our solemn preparation for Easter with the penitential time of Lent.

Today, I would like to take some time with you to consider this interesting event of the Baptism of Jesus.

As you may remember, John’s Baptism was not the sacramental Baptism that you and I received. Our Baptism was that essential sacramental moment when we were brought into new life by the Holy Spirit, uniting us to Our Savior, Jesus Christ, as a member of His Church. Jesus, as Our Savior, brought that new baptismal life through the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist and Jesus were cousins. They were about 30 years old during the stories in the Gospels, when John began his public ministry.

John became a public preacher at a spot along the Jordan River. His message was simple – repent and believe. He challenged people to make a decision to change and live a better life.

Part of his method was to do something so that the people would remember their new dedication. So he baptized them. He took them into the Jordan River and plunged them into the water. It was a baptism of repentance.

As far as we can tell Jesus often visited this place where John preached. The Gospels indicated that John knew Jesus and believed in him as the Messiah.

In one story John pointed Jesus out to his disciples. So, we can assume Jesus spent some time near where John preached. They may have even spent some time together. I would love to have listened in on their conversations.

So, one day Jesus lines up with the people who were coming to John seeking baptism. Many have tried to imagine why Jesus did this. Possibly, in humility, Jesus wanted to make it clear that he wanted to be united even with sinners. This would be furthered verified when he suffered and died for all sinners.

John was rather surprised when Jesus came before him: “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me.” Jesus tells him, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” So John baptized Jesus.

As it turned out, this became a spectacular, miraculous moment. As Jesus came out of the waters of the River Jordan, a voice is heard – “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The voice of God the Father blesses Jesus and, in a touching, loving moment, speaks this supporting, loving praise.

John the Baptist, speaking of Jesus, tells us that he will come baptizing with the Holy Spirit.

For us, sacramental Baptism brings us new life, brings a new moment in our lives. As we are blessed through the Holy Spirit, our life takes on a new value.

We are called to bring the message of our Savior to our world as members of Christ’s Church.

I have often thought about that day when John baptized Jesus. Can you imagine being there?

Imagine noticing Jesus in the line of us sinners before John the Baptist. I guess I would have hope that Jesus would give a talk to the rest of us. Instead he humbly joins us in approaching John the Baptist to be baptized.

It is obvious to me that he is far more innocent than we are. Yet, he calmly walks with us – no explanations – just strongly supporting us, walking with us, that we may all live our new decision in the Lord.
‘Every life is a gift to be treasured’

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Psalmist proclaims:

For it was you who created my being,
Knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I thank you for the wonder of my being,
For the wonders of all your creation.

Already you knew my soul,
My body held no secret from you
When I was being fashioned in secret
And molded in the depths of the earth.

(Psalm 139:13-15)

These words are particularly inspiring when we reflect on the gift of human life. The sentiments of the Psalmist are clearly those of gratitude: I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation.

Do we believe every human life is a wonder-filled gift? When I don’t embrace human life as a gift, then I need not treat it with any special dignity or respect. The body becomes merely an object that I can do with as I please. Enter: pornography, euthanasia, abortion. If I don’t believe that every human life is precious, my heart risks becoming hardened towards the sufferings endured by others who are vulnerable: the refugee, the homeless, the immigrant.

Back in 1995, Pope John Paul II, in Evangelium Vitae, wrote: “Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh, is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore, every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church’s very heart.”

The Church’s heart continues to suffer the wounds inflicted by our nation’s Supreme Court Roe v Wade decision, when it decided, forty-four years ago, that human life in a mother’s womb was not a precious gift from God to be protected and nurtured.

Again this year, tens of thousands of people from throughout our nation, including faithful pilgrims from the North Country, will join together in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Although the media gives this event scant attention, our legislators will see the large numbers of their constituents who care deeply about the right to life from conception to natural death. The message is clear and compelling: with grateful hearts, every human life is a gift to be treasured, not discarded.

Thank you for your generous support of this year’s collection that supports our many local efforts to help form consciences to embrace the gift of human life at all its stages. Let us continue to pray that minds be opened and hearts softened.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

SSJ’s to raise awareness of human trafficking in area

WATERTOWN - Mayor Joseph M. Butler, Jr. issued a proclamation Jan. 11, declaring that day as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will hold a program “A Look at Human Trafficking Close Up and Personal” Jan. 22 at 1:30 p.m. at the SSJ Motherhouse. Watertown City Manager Sharon Addison presented the proclamation on behalf of the mayor. She is shown above with members of the Sisters of St. Joseph social justice committee. From left are St. Joseph Sister Cathleen Moore, Patricia Fanning, Ms. Addison and St. Joseph Sisters Bethany Fitzgerald and Jennifer Votaw.
Greetings from the Department of Youth Ministry! In Pope Francis’ homily for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, he stated, “Celebrating the feast of the Holy Mother of God makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong, that only within a community, within a family, can we as persons find the climate, the warmth, that enables us to grow in humanity, and not merely as objects meant to consume and be consumed.”

As we enter 2017, I am profoundly filled with gratitude as I look at the many people working tirelessly to help guide our young people so that they are fully aware of the beautiful family of faith that they belong to.

Across the diocese, many past and upcoming events speak to the ever-growing warmth enabling all of us to grow together in humanity.

Two bus-loads of youth from the diocese are traveling to Washington, D.C. to participate in the March for Life. Organized by Colleen and John Miner, the Respect Life Directors, teens will attend a youth rally and Mass for Life, tour the National Basilica, hear guest speakers Laura and Mary Kizor, and stand up for life as they participate in this profound pilgrimage!

Diocesan Youth Council members are hard at work planning for two day-long Lenten retreats held in Malone on March 25 and Canton on March 26.

The members of Diocesan Youth Council met for an opening retreat in Malone where they participated in leadership workshops and prayer, and now they are putting some of that training into action as they plan and prepare for the upcoming peer-led Lenten retreat.

The theme of the retreat is Reawaken, and it will include a day of prayer, reflection, and fun. Open to all in grades 6-12, registration for the retreat is available at: www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat

Planning for the 2017 High School Youth Rally is underway! Committee members are planning workshops and finalizing the schedule for this full-day event that is open to students in grades 9-12. The youth rally will be held at IHC in Watertown on May 6, and the theme of the day is “You Were Made for More.”

The rally will feature the inspiring and engaging Paul J. Kim as the keynote address, include opportunities for prayer, workshops, fun, and a closing Mass presided by Bishop LaValley.

Youth ministry leaders can register chaperones and youth at rcdony.org/youthrally/rally.

This summer will offer several opportunities for youth to stay active in the Church. Registration for Catholic Heart Work Camp, which will be held in Plattsburgh from June 25-30 is open; youth in grades 9-12 interested in attending can register by email: chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com.

Camp Guggenheim registration for 2017 is also available. Weeks 1-5 are open to youth ages 12-15, and Week 6 is available for 16-18 year olds; camps can be registered at www.rcdony.org/camp.

Support and Pray For Vocations

If you have any questions or concerns regarding youth ministry, feel free to get in touch with the Department of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920. Thank you for all your prayers and support for the youth of our diocese!
The pro-life movement 44 years after Roe

I recently signed an online petition at change.org. I'm not ordinarily a petition kind of person, but this particular petition caught my eye.

It was aimed at media organizations and implored them to show the diversity of the pro-life movement when covering the issue of abortion. It was developed by a group called The Consistent Life Network, and it took issue with the media feeding false stereotypes.

As a signer, I attested to the fact that I am “frustrated that news organizations, who would never think of discriminating against women or ethnic minorities in other contexts, do so with free abandon by not selecting them as spokespersons” for the pro-life cause.

Boy have they got that right. I have been active in the pro-life movement for more than forty years, and I have witnessed the diversity of the cause up close and personal all across this country.

I’ve attended conferences sponsored by Concerned Women for America and seminars organized by Feminists for Life. I've spoken at roundtables convened by peace-loving social justice organizations and conventions assembled by conservative Evangelical Christian groups.

I've worked with members of the Knights of Columbus and members of Atheists for Life.

I’ve marched for life alongside the Thomas More Society and the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians.

In the state legislature, I have worked hand-in-hand with both Democrats and Republicans, women and men, to advocate for laws to protect the unborn.

And I recently became aware of a group called the ‘New Wave Feminists,’ an edgy new-age bunch of millennials with brightly colored hair and sharp wit who say “Sometime before we were born, our womanhood was traded for a handful of birth control pills, the ‘privilege’ to degrade ourselves in Playboy, and the ‘right’ to abort our children.”

They aim to take feminism back from those who have corrupted it. You girls.

Diverse? You bet we are. And yet the secular media consistently portray us as a single issue, male-dominated, right-wing, intolerant bunch of zealots.

I can personally swear to the media bias that the petition seeks to eliminate.

Back in the early 90’s, I was seven months pregnant with my second child, and testifying at a legislative hearing in Albany about the need for better maternity leave policies. I knew the Associated Press reporter who covered the Capitol was in attendance, and I also knew he was planning a feature piece on “the face of the pro-life movement.”

“Here I am,” my expectant body seemed to say as I waddled up to the microphone, “my witness broadening the very meaning of ‘pro-life’ by encouraging more family-friendly policies in our state.”

No such luck. The reporter’s syndicated piece ran that weekend. It featured an angry old man who often stood outside the Senate chamber holding large graphic photos of dead unborn children.

Then there was the time I handed my business card to the New York Times reporter so that he would get my correct spelling and title when the paper printed my quote. You know, the card that reads “Director of Pro-Life Activities” for the Catholic Bishops. Except when the story ran the next day they quoted me as the “Director of Anti-Abortion Activities.” Apparently they can’t even read without bias. They were forced to publish a correction.

We need to shatter the stereotypes and discourage the media from typecasting the pro-life cause. Yes, it’s an uphill battle. But it needs to be done to bring balance and fairness into the public conversation surrounding abortion, a conversation that’s showing no signs of ending, even after 44 years.

Support the Respect Life Collection of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in our parishes the weekend of January 21-22

Proceeds will be distributed through grants to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.rcdony.org/pro-life
The ecumenism of St. Peter Faber

By Deanna Hagan
Contributing Writer

“We need to win their goodwill (i.e. of the Protestant reformers such as Luther) so they can love us... This can be done by speaking familiarly with them about matters we both share in common and avoiding any debate in which one side tries to put down the other.” (The Spiritual Writings of Pierre Favre, Institute of Jesuit Sources, St. Louis, 1996, p. 379).

Such was the advice of St. Peter Faber (co-founder of the Society of Jesus together with St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis Xavier) to Jesuit Father Diego Laynez on his way to the Council of Trent. Father Faber was also appointed by Pope Paul III to the Council, but never made it due to his death in 1546 at the age of 40.

However, Father Faber’s approach to church unity has not been forgotten by today’s Jesuits. In fact, Jesuit Father Don Ward of St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville, North Carolina, repeated this theme more than any other in his homilies given during a pilgrimage to France in September 2016 entitled “In Search of Peter Faber.”

During this Octave of Church Unity, it seems fitting to consider these words of Father Faber especially since Pope Francis considers Father Faber as one of the roles for his papacy and canonized him on his birthday Dec. 13, 2013.

Will the method proposed by Father Faber help us to accomplish unity, i.e. to agree in friendship on that which unites us and avoid that which divides us?

The pope declared in an interview with Jesuit Father Antonio Sparada in 2013 that he admired Faber’s “ability to dialog with all... even his adversaries.” Moreover, the pope has incorporated the humility and openness of Father Faber in his ecumenical efforts.

In tune with the vision of Pope Francis, Father Ward called Father Faber “a gentle soul who wanted to do great things for God” when he celebrated Mass in Paris at the St. Denis Chapel, the place where the Jesuits took their vows of Montmartre in 1534.

Also in his sermon, Father Ward went on to recall Father Faber’s advice to Father Laynez.

“These words were especially moving in this place where Pierre (Father Faber), as the first priest of the Society, and his companions, received their preliminary vows “to leave for Jerusalem at a date which would be indicated to us and to place ourselves under the authority of the Roman Pontiff, and to begin each one of us at a certain time to leave our parents and our nets, keeping only a little money for the journey.” (Pierre Favre, Memorials, #15.)

These early companions had all met at the University of Paris, where the protestant reformers studied with the same professors as the companions. Influenced by the ideas of Luther, one such student was John Calvin, who had to escape through the roof of his dormitory to avoid execution when King Francis I of France decided to crack down on some of the university’s freedoms in discussing new ideas challenging the faith.

This topic of Christian unity was a recurrent theme throughout the pilgrimage especially at the Pierre Favre Chapel in Villaget, Haute Savoie, which stands on the birth site of Faber in the alpine shadow of the rugged Grand Borland.

It was made a permanent chapel by the Bishop of Geneva, St. Francis de Sales (1602-1622) who did his best to promote the beatification of Favre.

Interestingly the feast of St. Francis de Sales falls on January 24 within the church unity octave. St Francis De Sales had been tormented in his youth by the Calvinist idea of predetermination and tried diligently to reconstruct his flock.

Although the sainted bishop was successful with many, to this very day, the northern shore of Lake Geneva remains Protestant while the southern side is Catholic.

In these troubled times of Christian persecution and even genocide, many recall the words of Jesus in John 17:20, “I pray that they all will be one.”

Will the method proposed by Father Faber to Father Laynez help us to accomplish this unity, i.e. to agree in friendship on that which unites us and avoid that which divides us?
Catholic panel sees need to find common ground with Trump administration

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Catholic panelists gathered to discuss "Faithful Priorities in a Time of Trump" said it is difficult to get over some of the words the president-elect said during the campaign - and even before he was a candidate.

But as his presidency nears, many of them said it’s important to find ways to work with him for the common good.

"When Donald Trump says things about women ... I have a hard time stomaching those comments," said Msgr. John Enzler, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. "We can still find a way, though, to listen and say, 'How do we find common ground?'"

Msgr. Enzler was one of five panelists Jan. 12 who addressed the role the Catholic faith can play as the country gets ready for the incoming Trump administration. Some Catholics such as Rep. Francis Rooney, R-Florida, expressed great optimism.

"We can have a lot of hope that he will protect life the way we want him to do ... defunding Planned Parenthood, protecting life," Rooney said.

"Things like the insurance mandate can be brought into harmony of First Amendment rights."

Yet others such as panelist Jessica Chilin Hernandez expressed uncertainty and apprehension of the days ahead. Chilin works at Georgetown University’s Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor, thanks to a work permit she has through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA.

President Barack Obama, through executive action in 2012, created a policy that allows certain undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children to have a work permit and be exempt from deportation.

Chilin is one of more than 750,000 people who signed up for DACA. During the campaign, Trump said he would kill the program and threatened mass deportations, sending those like Chilin into panic.

"I felt a fear unlike any other fear I have had before," she said about the moment she learned Trump won the election. "The fear was visceral. ... one thought that occupied my mind was that homeland security knows exactly where I live. It was hard to imagine myself having a future in 2017."

Joan Rosenhauer, executive vice president of U.S. Operations for Catholic Relief Services, said now is a good time to review the principles of Catholicism and social justice, explaining that they don’t divide people and don’t say refugees or immigrants are enemies or a burden on society.

"What we have to do is lift up our principles," Rosenhauer said. "The problem is deeper because our own Catholic people do not know those principles."

Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of Network, a Catholic social justice lobbying organization, said the country is showing a high level of ambiguity, fear, dysfunction and chaos.

"I think that challenges all of us as people of faith," she said.

"Now is the time to stand up for the stronger, the working poor, and anyone who needs our kindness or help, and Catholic social teaching has a lot to say about it," Sister Campbell said.

Msgr. Enzler noted that it is also important to understand that individuals can do much by performing kind actions toward others. People can start by asking: "What did I do today? It’s not an agency that can make things better but people, he said.

Chilin said it’s important to keep in mind language that we use in daily conversation.

"Be conscientious of language," she said, "Illegal is a racial slur. No human being is illegal and yet, in many circles, they use it to describe us."

Panel moderator John Carr, director of Georgetown University’s Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, which sponsored the event, asked how Catholics can build bridges in "an angry country, a divided country." There are a lot of people who feel under attack, he said.

"It’s important to see what role (Catholics) can play in divisions that have been created over the past year," Rosenhauer said. "I was really struck by Cardinal (Joseph) Tobin and his homily at his installation where one of his key points was that our kindness must be known to all."

It’s important to stand up for beliefs even when others disagree with them, she said, "but we have to find a way to do it with kindness."

"We want to protect children in the womb. That’s something we can work with this (the Trump) administration and Congress on," Rosenhauer said. "Senator (Jeff) Sessions said there would be no Muslim ban. That’s something we would support and work together on ... then let’s be clear about the areas for disagreements."

Msgr. Enzler said Catholics, particularly the church’s leaders, must also speak and raise their voices for the vulnerable, and strongly speak the church’s message.
Seeking unity and light in times of darkness

Our readings this weekend speak loudly of the importance of "unity" and "light." How important for us who live in a world and in a nation overshadowed by darkness and division.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah announces: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." How much we need that assurance that Jesus brings!!

His world was filled with as much darkness as ours, yet his message of deliverance and the power of His grace brought tremendous changes.

With fear and anxiety we begin a new administration in our country. We see hints of policies and attitudes that are quite the opposite of the teaching of Jesus. Our leaders are confused and divided.

How can we bring the light of our Christ's teaching into our present distress? Into the darkness comes Christ's answer: He is the true light that has power to dispel the darkness.

His message of love for all peoples is the true source of unity. The marvelous prophecy of Isaiah concerns the land of Zebulun and Naphtali in northern Galilee where Jesus lived and worked.

What worked there so long ago can also work today in our world and in our country. It will take much prayer, trust, and courage for those who are true followers of Jesus and lovers of the world God has created. Just as the land of the

Gentiles sat in darkness until Jesus came, so too do those in our time and in our culture, await a new evangelization.

Pope Francis calls for a new boldness and fiery hearts from all followers of Christ that will bring the message of God's love, mercy, and salvation for all people and nations.

Next week, thousands of people will flood Washington with the message of respect for life at all stages. Their mission seems even more urgent this year. Never have we seen such abuse of human dignity as in our time.

In the Middle East especially our refugee children are deprived of education, freedom, security, and a future. In 2016, there were 150 million child laborers. Thousands of children are kidnapped and forced into human trafficking.

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT!!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
LA LA LAND

By Joseph McAleen
Catholic News Service

Though it’s set in present-day Los Angeles, the comedy-drama “La La Land” (Lionsgate) takes a spirited stab at reviving the musicals of Hollywood’s golden age.

Writer-director Damien Chazelle (“Whiplash”) dreams big in this over-the-top fantasy where drivers exit their cars on a freeway overpass and burst into song, and lovers float in the air amid the projected stars in a planetarium.

Beautifully shot in widescreen CinemaScope, “La La Land” is a unique and self-indulgent film, to say the least. But it tends to lose its way when song and dance take over.

Fortunately, that’s largely made up for by Chazelle’s engaging script, a cast of first-rate actors, and superb jazz music.

In the city where dreams are manufactured, two star-crossed lovers meet: Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a jazz pianist. Each is driven toward a singular goal. Mia wants to be a movie star, while Sebastian hopes to open his own club.

Their gooey romance bubbles over into a series of numbers worthy of Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. In this context, the corny dialogue is utterly appropriate, even charming: “It’s pretty strange that we keep running into each other,” Mia tells Sebastian. “Maybe it means something,” he replies.

And how! Needless to say, the path to success is rocky, and perseverance is sorely tested. Mia suffers one humiliating audition after another. Sebastian, broke, joins a rock band led by his newfound friend Keith (John Legend), and heads out on the road, sacrificing his craft for a paycheck.

Separation frays the relationship, and conflict ensues. As the music swells and Mia warbles tunes like “The Fools Who Dream,” the power of love to conquer all seems momentarily in doubt.

The film contains an implied premarital relationship, a few crude terms and some rude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Thinking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

of relational commitment and security.” While marriage doesn’t automatically solve every problem, it clearly offers a different and vastly better set of dynamics than cohabitation for all the parties involved.

Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neurosciences from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

See www.ncbcenter.org

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

#Pontifex

FACEBOOK

North Country Catholic has gone Green

Here is what one subscriber has to say:

“What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner – as sometimes I don’t have time to sit and read a paper – but when I can’t sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks”

To sign up to receive the NCC in your e-mail you can call our office at 315-608-7556

At the Movies

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone star in a scene from the movie “La La Land.”

Adirondack Center For PEACE
P.O. Box 2748
Plattsburgh, New York 12901
Phone: (518) 561-5083

These Masses for Life are co-sponsored by Adirondack Center For PEACE and Knights of Columbus Council #255

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Our Lady of Victory:
One per month, date and time TBA

Please join us in prayer for a greater reverence for all human life!
**BREACKFAST**
Moosers Forks – All you can eat breakfast to be held.
**Date:** Jan. 22
**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
**Place:** St. Ann’s Hall
**Cost:** Adults, $8; Children 6-12, $5; under 5, Free
**Contact:** call 236-6118 for take-outs

**CDA TEA PARTY**
Peru – Tea Party to be held to honor women serving in WWII sponsored by the CDA Court St. Monica #2598.
**Date:** Feb. 12
**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4
**Place:** St. Augustine’s Church
**Cost:** $10; 50% of the proceeds will go to the Plattsburgh Honor Flight.
**Contact:** Jane Woods 518-834-5324 or Janice at 518-643-2455 ext. 101

**MARCH FOR LIFE**
Plattsburgh – The Champlain Valley Right to Life is sponsoring the annual Plattsburgh March for Life.
**Date:** Jan. 22
**Time:** 12:15 p.m.
**Place:** Gather at Newman center and March to St. John the Baptist Church
**Features:** Guest speaker, Dale Barr, RN, Silent No More Coordinator to speak at 1 p.m. Reception follows in Parish Center.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**
Peru - St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council will host a spaghetti dinner.
**Date:** Jan. 21
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30
**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center
**Cost:** Adults, $7.50; Children 6-12, $2.50; Children under 5, Free
**Features:** Regular & gluten-free spaghetti. Take-outs available.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Treadwell Mills – St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold pancake breakfasts.
**Dates:** Feb. 5, March 5, April 2 and 23
**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon
**Place:** St. Joseph's Hall
**Cost:** Adults, $7; kids, $3; under 5, Free

**JEFFERSON**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
Watertown – Presentation on Human Trafficking to be held.
**Date:** Jan. 22
**Time:** 1:30 p.m. to 3:30
**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse
**Features:** Andre Marie, from Montreal, Member of the North Country Human Trafficking Task Force, will present how people are often recruited and ways that we may be able to help. Event is free and open to the public.
**Contact:** To reserve a seat, please call 315-786-3240.

**LIFERIGHT MEETING**
Watertown – Liferight will hold a prayer vigil.
**Date:** Jan. 23
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Heartside Hospitality Center
**Features:** Catholic women interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**LIFERIGHT PRAYER VIGIL**
Watertown – Liferight will hold a prayer vigil.
**Date:** Jan. 23
**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Place:** St. Anthony’s parking lot
**Features:** Refreshments in Seichi Hall.

**BEREAVEMENT MEETING**
Watertown – Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.
**Date:** Jan. 23

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**WINTER RETREAT DAY**
Morristown – Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSI will lead a retreat day on the theme “Praying With the Psalms.”
**Place:** Cedarhaven
**Date:** Feb. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 with option of overnight for extended retreat
**Suggested offering:** $25 for day (includes lunch); Additional $25 for overnight (dinner, breakfast included)
**To register:** Call 315-212-6592 or email srbethssj@gmail.com by Feb. 1

**DAYS OF DISCERNMENT**
Potsdam – Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call to the Roman Catholic Priesthood.
**Contact:** Anne Seegarbarth at 315-783-4596

**WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**
Sackets Harbor – St. Andrew’s has scheduled weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 6

**HOLY HOUR FOR Vocations**
Watertown – Holy hour for vocations
**Date:** Mon. – Fri.
**Time:** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
**Place:** Holy Family Church

**K OF C BRUNCH**
Lyons Falls – The Father Pascual Rys Knights of Columbus will sponsor an all-you-can-eat brunch.
**Date:** Jan. 22
**Time:** 8 a.m.
**Place:** St. John’s Church
**Cost:** Adults, $7; Children 5-12, $4; under 5, Free

**DIVINE MERCY**
Honeoye Falls – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of February to be held.
**Date:** Feb. 5
**Time:** 3 p.m.
**Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church
**Features:** The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.
**Contact:** 585-6260 for information.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**
Lowville – All are invited to one hour of exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.
**Date:** Jan. 19
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5
**Place:** St. Peter’s Church

**PILGRIMAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE**
Father Donald Robinson is hosting a pilgrimage to Poland and Eastern Europe.
**Date:** April 24 – May 7
**Cost:** $3199 per person from New York. Price includes roundtrip airfare, government taxes/airline surcharges, first class select hotels, most meals, services of a professional tour director & comprehensive sightseeing, all hotel service charges, local taxes, porterage & entrance fees.
**Features:** Visit Warsaw, Poland’s capital; Krakow, site of the Divine Mercy Shrine; Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, home of the Black Madonna; Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II; Budapest, capital of Hungary; Vienna, and beautiful, 1,000 year old Prague.
**Contact:** Father Robinson at 315-493-3224 or donrobin@twcny.rr.com
The founder of SPOF

January 9, 2017 marked the 155th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Pauline Marie Jaricot.

Baptized Marie Pauline Jaricot on the day of her birth (July 22, 1799), she was the last child born to Antoine and Jeanne Jaricot in Lyons, France. The couple had seven children. Pauline wrote of her parents: “Happy are those who have received from their parents the first seeds of faith... Be praised Lord, for giving me a just man for a father and a virtuous and charitable woman as a mother.”

Lyons, Pauline’s hometown, was an industrial city that became famous for its silk factories. Her family were silk merchants, and bourgeois family of that French city. While the early years of her childhood were marked by the exclusive society life of Lyons, something would happen as a teenager that would open her heart to the whole world. Pauline saw this as her vocation – to become a missionary of the love of God. She came to believe that “to truly help others is to bring them to God.”

One day while at prayer, 18-year-old Pauline had a vision of two lamps. One had no oil; the other was overflowing and from its abundance poured oil into the empty lamp. To Pauline, the drained lamp signified the faith in her native France, still reeling from the turbulence of the French Revolution. The full lamp was the great faith of Catholics in the Missions – especially in the New World. By aiding the faith of the young new country of the United States of America, Pauline knew that seeds planted would grow and bear much fruit.

So she came up with a plan to support missionaries. She gathered workers in her family’s silk factory into “circles of 10.” Everyone in the group pledged to pray daily for the Missions and to offer each week a soup, the equivalent of a penny. Each member of the group then found 10 friends to do the same. Within a year, she had 500 workers enrolled; soon there would be 2,000.

As a child, Pauline had in fact dreamed of building such support for the Missions: “Oh! I’d love to have a well of gold to give some to all the unfortunate, so that there would not be any more poor people at all and that no one would cry anymore.”

Pauline’s successful efforts – where clearly not isolated or unique – were the main thrust behind the formation of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. She was “the match that lit the fire.” Pauline died on January 9, 1862; the prayer found after her death, written in her own hand, ended with these words: “Mary, my Mother, I am Thine!” In 1963, 100 years after her death, Pope John XXIII signed the decree which proclaimed the virtues of Pauline Jaricot, declaring her “venerable.” The cause for her beatification and canonization continues.

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

www.dioodensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks – Ruth C. (Clodgo) Borette, 91; Funeral Jan. 13, 2017 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Au Sable Forks – Virginia M. Wray, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2017 at Holy Name Church.


Croghan – Paul J. Martin, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2017 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Belfort.

Ellenburg – Vincent Victor Fisher, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2017 at St. Edmund’s Church.


Hogansburg – Hubert J. “Hubie” Rourke, 59; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2017 at St. Regis Church.

Indian Lake – Maria King, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Cedar River Cemetery.

Malone – Grace M. (Emery) Bourey, 95; Funeral Jan. 10, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone – Lee W. Dumas, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2017 at Notre Dame Church.

Massena – Evelyn M. McKenzie, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Bombay.

Massena – Cecile M. (Pomainville) Rafter, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2017 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery, Norfolk.

Morrisville – Edward Robert DuBray, 65; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2017 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisville – Gloria (Feneye) Phaneuf, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2017 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Shirley E. (Spooner) Smith, 98; Funeral Services at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Robert F. Champagne, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2017 at St. Peter’s Church.

Plattsburgh – Donald L. Durocher, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2017 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Todd Christopher Filion, 45; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2017 at St. Peter’s Church.

Redford – Margaret Mary Waldron, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2017 at Church of the Assumption.


Saranac Lake – Germaine (Martin) Miller, 87; Funeral Services at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Peter H. Sullivan, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2017 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. John’s Cemetery, Lake Clear.

Watertown – Michael L. Murphy, 61; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2017 at Church of the Holy Family; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Edna E. (Shaw) Sullivan, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2017 at Cummings Funeral Home; burial in Indian River Cemetery, Indian River.

OUR READERS WRITE

Mercy in Motion

Jesus said, “I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.”

Then He will answer them, Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to 1 of the Least of these, you did it not to me.”

And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:43-45)

Bishop LaValley’s Christmas message in the Dec 21st North Country Catholic invited us “to see His Face in our sisters and brothers who we so often neglect”...

...to make room in our hearts for our hurting neighbors and family members.

Being a disabled shut-in, I am aware of feeling alone and abandoned, a useless member of the Body of Christ, like an appendix.

Yes, the Year of Mercy is over, but the need for love and mercy abounds all around.

Here’s a New Year Resolution for 2017:

• Have you ever visited someone in a nursing home, hospital, a sick person or someone who is shut-in/homebound? Won’t you please make a visit and you will visit Jesus in His distressing disguise.

CHRIS LAROSE MEV POTSADAM
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**Pope: Vocations require prayers, open doors, big hearts, busy hands**

By Carol Gatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - While God is the one calling people to a vocation, clergy and religious have to cooperate by being inspirational role models, keeping their doors open and giving restless young people constructive things to do, Pope Francis said.

Praying for vocations and holding meetings to discuss effective strategies are key, he said, but if those things are done “without making sure that the doors are open, it’s useless.”

The pope made his remarks near the end of a Jan. 3-5 conference on pastoral ministry for vocations, sponsored by the Italian bishops’ conference national office for vocations.

Setting aside his prepared text, the pope told his audience he wanted to talk to them about the conference theme of the divine command -- “Get up!”

The pope recalled how Peter heard this call while he was sleeping, chained in prison awaiting trial. An angel freed him and led him up with a snarl, “Get up quickly” and “Put on your cloak and follow me.” The angel freed him and led him safely to an alley, but then left him there alone, a bit confused at first, but then excited and eager to find his friends.

Unfortunately, the pope said, when Peter got to the home where his friends were praying fervently for him, the door was shut and the servant didn’t think to open it right away when she heard him calling.

How often does this happen today, the pope wondered, with so many people praying for vocations and for the Lord to tell people to rise up and be free, but then when those people go out to seek what they are looking for, they find a closed door.

This happens when a priest has very limited or inconvenient hours for receiving the public or for hearing confessions or when the parish has a very unfriendly secretary who “scared the people away. The door is open, but the secretaries show their teeth” like a snarl.

“You have vocations, being welcoming is necessary. It’s in a home that you welcome people, he said.

The pope said he knows how tiring, frustrating or difficult it can be to do outreach with today’s young people.

He said when he was young, he and his friends were happy to go to parish-organized meetings where they just sat around and talked about a particular topic, then went out after to watch a game at the stadium or do some charity work. “We were easygoing” and didn’t need so much activity like young people today crave.

To foster vocations, he said, “you need to make young people walk,” do something, go on a journey and accompany them -- “an apostleship of walking” and working because it will be while they are helping and interacting that they will feel part of the church and then start going to confession and Communion -- not the other way around, he said.

Priests also have to “be nailed to the chair” when they listen to young people who come to see them for guidance or answers. They have to be patient and make the person feel they have all the time in the world to listen, offering very brief comments like “a seed that will do its work from the inside.”

Young people may have dreamy, crazy ideas or really tough questions or cause trouble with their “shenanigans,” but that’s because they are young, “thanks be to God,” and eventually they will get their act together with time, the pope said.

The pope urged the priests and religious men and women how important it was they set a good example for young people.

It’s true people are called to a religious vocation by God, he said, but it is also true a majority of those vocations were also prompted by the effective, inspiring witness of the people in their lives.