Taking the path towards freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Like the people of Israel freed from the bondage of slavery, Christians are called to experience the path toward hope and new life during the Lenten season, Pope Francis said.

Through his passion, death and resurrection, Jesus "has opened up for us a way that leads to a full, eternal and blessed life," the pope said at his weekly general audience March 1, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

"Lent lives within this dynamic: Christ precedes us with his exodus and we cross the desert, thanks to him and behind him," he said. On a warm and sunny morning, the pope held his audience in St. Peter's Square.

Arriving in the popemobile, he immediately spotted a group of children and signaled several of them to come aboard for a ride. One by one, the three girls and one boy climbed into the popemobile and warmly embraced the pope.

In his main audience talk, the pope said that while Lent is a time of "penance and even mortification," it is also "a time of hope" for Christians awaiting Christ's resurrection to "renew our baptismal identity."

It's time to renew your subscription

The annual subscription campaign for the North Country Catholic begins this weekend. During the coming year, a primary focus of the NCC will be an examination of how the diocese is meeting diocesan priorities as the church in the North Country continue to realize its Diocesan Pastoral Vision: "Find Your Home in Christ: Renew Faith, Nurture Hope, Discover Love."

This week's paper includes a report about the parishes in Plattsburgh as they work together to "build parishes with living stones," one of the three diocesan priorities.

FULL STORY, PAGES 4 & 6

New principal at Augustinian

Mary Ann Margrey, vice-principal since 1980, to become principal at Carthage Catholic school

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

FROM ASHES TO EASTER

The journey through Lent

VOCATION SELFIE

School Photo
In what is becoming a tradition, associate vocation director Father Thomas Higman gathers children around him for a "selfie" at the conclusion of his presentations on vocations at diocesan Catholic schools. Above he is shown taking a cell phone photo with students at Holy Family School in Malone Feb. 28.

THANKS TO PATRONS: Subscribers give extra support to the NCC... pages 8-9
Yes, we’re preaching to the choir!

My dad loved to tease me after reading my annual “don’t forget to renew your subscription” column this time of year, noting rightly that I was preaching to the choir. But, as a member of various choirs for decades, I know that a little preaching doesn’t hurt one bit.

On Sunday, when the 2017 NCC campaign begins, we can look back on 70 years of telling the story of the Catholic faith in northern New York, its people, parishes, presentations and programs. And we can look ahead with anticipation; there are so many stories that are yet to be told.

We will also chronicle our progress in “living the vision,” how we are meeting priorities and goals of our “Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled” diocesan pastoral vision. It’s definitely an important year to be a subscriber. But don’t just take my word for it.

As you are deciding whether to renew or not, give a gift subscription of not, become a patron or not, please take a minute to read the article “The power of the word” on page 10 of this week’s paper.

Greg Erlandson, director of Catholic News Service, who spent many years as publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, makes a powerful case for supporting the Catholic press.

Among other points, he suggests that Catholic media including television, radio, digital and print publications may best address the need to form lay Catholics to accept the leadership roles they will increasingly need to take in the church.

But still, one may wonder, in an age of instant news on the Internet, is there still a place for a diocesan newspaper?

Bishop LaValley answers emphatically: “Absolutely,” he writes. “The North Country Catholic continues to be the most efficient and effective way for me to communicate with Catholics in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. During these challenging times, it is more important than ever that families welcome into their homes a Catholic perspective on the news of the day.”

“We welcome the NCC into your home,” the bishop says. What a great idea.

FATHER MUECH SAYS...

Daily readings provide Lenten retreat

The Scripture readings for the daily Masses during Lent are the very same every year. The Sunday Scriptures do change each year but not the reading at the daily Masses. I think of these Scriptures at the daily Masses as old friends. They are an important part of my Lenten program each year.

Here is a good example of what I mean. The Scriptures for the Masses during the first week of Lent are like the material for a powerful retreat. They give us a splendid message for meditation and inspiration.

• On Monday, the first reading is from the Book of Leviticus, the third Book of the Torah. This reading describes the giving of the commandments by God to Moses. These commandments are a very basic foundation of our Christian faith as it was for the Hebrew people. In direct contrast, the Gospel reading from Matthew describes Jesus’ presentation of the work of mercy.

He does this in his parable of the final judgment. In this, Jesus says God will welcome the good into the Kingdom because they did something good for the needy, for the hungry, for the thirsty, for the stranger, for the naked, for the ill, for those in prison. Jesus goes on to identify himself with those we help – “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

• On Tuesday, the Gospel story is about the time when the apostles ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus teaches them – and also us – the Lord’s Prayer. This prayer is one of Jesus’ great gifts to us. These sacred words are ours, part of our lives since our youngest years ready to be prayed whenever we need them. I think of numerous times when I needed a prayer, when I wanted to invite others to prayer. It might be a time when I was counseling someone or it might have been at a hospital bed of someone who was dying and I wanted a family to join me in prayer. I knew they were ready with me with the Lord’s Prayer. It is such a powerful prayer: we praise the Father, and we make a promise to be a forgiving people for we are forgiven by our God.

• On Wednesday, in the first reading, we hear the story of Jonah. It is the second part of the Jonah story not the first part that is about the big fish. God sends Jonah to Nineveh to announce to the people that they must do penance or face destruction.

Jonah preaches one day and they all respond to his message and do penance and are saved. Jesus mentions this Jonah story in a talk to his people; he seeks their response to change their lives and follow him. Jesus reminds them that Jonah changed the Ninevites and now they have Jesus, someone much greater than Jonah. We also have Jesus to guide and lead us when we remain open to the Lord.

• On Thursday, we hear the familiar words of Our Lord. Our God is always open to our pleas when we come with a loving and open heart – “Ask and it will be given you – seek and you will find – knock and the door will be opened to you.”

• On Friday, we are presented with a section of the Sermon on the Mount that we heard just a few Sundays ago at Mass. Jesus reminds us that we must not be literal about the commandments. He mentions the Fifth Commandment, thou shalt not kill, which means much more, especially anger and any form of violence. Anger has destroyed many relationships and has made people very unlikeable and nasty. Anger turns them away from the following of Our Savior. Anger must be healed and transformed.

So, I am certain of how powerful just one week of Scripture readings at Mass during Lent is. This first week of Lent becomes a retreat, a time to place ourselves in a truly Lenten Spirit with readings that leads us and guides us on our Lenten journey.

Each of the weeks of Lent will show us the way if we carefully read and study the Scriptures that are presented to us. This is the path to conversion.
On a journey of faith

Bishop Terry R. LaValley’s homily for the Rite of Election March 5 at St. Mary’s Cathedral

Father Brendan was telling me about a group of students from his seminary who made their way to the Holy Land for a twelve-day sojourn. By chance, their visit overlapped with the Muslim holy season of Ramadan, a period of intense fasting and prayer.

If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great again - no matter how loudly we shout that popular political slogan!

What struck these Catholic pilgrims was this: they knew it was Ramadan practically from the moment that they stepped off the plane. It was in the way the people moved, spoke, and related to one another; it was evident in their business dealings and their family affairs. Ramadan could be seen and visually experienced, almost tasted.

When I heard about their impressed account of this phenomenon, I wondered: were someone from, say, Saudi Arabia, to travel to the largely Christian North Country during our penitential season of Lent, would he or she notice anything, in particular? Would Lent be in our movements, our gestures? Would he or she know, just from watching us, that anything of religious significance was underway? If the answers to these questions are “no,” we’ve got a problem.

In many ways, these modern times of the 21st century, we have made a compromise with Christianity. We will allow our faith to exist, as long as it doesn’t show up publicly, as long as it remains ensconced in the privacy of our minds and feelings. In accepting this compromise, we Christians have gutted our faith, rendering it invisible, irrelevant and have cleared the way for the blandly secularized society that surrounds us.

We need a change of heart in our society today. The great French statesman Alexis de Tocqueville admired America greatly. He was convinced that America held the secret for all governments of the future. And so, in the mid 1800’s he traveled to America to learn the secret of her genius and greatness.

The French statesman wrote: “I sought for the genius and greatness of America...in her fertile fields and boundless forests—and it was not there. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and matchless Constitution—and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power.”

He said that America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great again—no matter how loudly we shout that popular political slogan!

If there is one message that our nation needs to hear and take to heart right now, it is the message of de Tocqueville. The first step in heeding the message is to begin with ourselves. Lent is a season when Jesus invites us to search our hearts and rediscover the secret of our greatness. It’s a season when Jesus graces us to a new resolve and new determination to become the kind of persons our Father in heaven created us to be.

We must not be content with being mediocre. In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis wrote that we “must refuse to settle for mediocrity.” When we settle for being average, we are just as close to the bottom as we are to the top.

This Lent we are challenged to respond to the Lord’s call to become holier. Therein lies our greatness. Therein lies the important Christian witness we must give to our neighbor. Therein lies the hope for our children and the generations that follow.

If we, as Catholic Christians, continue to just roll over and continue our disinterest, evil will prevail and we will become irrelevant.

Augustinian Academy announces new principal

CARTHAGE - Father Donald Robinson and the Education Council of Carthage Augustinian Academy have announced that Mary Ann Margrey will become principal of Augustinian Academy in the 2017 -2018 school year.

Mrs. Margrey joined the faculty of Augustinian in the fall of 1978 and has been the school’s vice-principal since 1980. Following the death of St. Joseph Sister John Mary Brockway, Mrs. Margrey served as interim school principal from January to June 2005. She currently serves as vice-principal, level coordinator for grades 5-8, homeroom teacher grade 8 and teacher of math for grades 5-8.

In addition, she serves as coordinator for the school’s Math League and Science Olympiad Team. Mrs. Margrey also is a member of the Jeff-Lewis Teacher Center, the Diocesan Curriculum Board and of the Diocesan Curriculum committee.

She is secretary of Augustinian Academy’s Education Council, a member of St. James Parish Council and St. James Ave Maria Circle. For over 20 years Mrs. Margrey has been a math teacher on the summer school faculty of Carthage Central School.

Mrs. Margrey was awarded the Diocese of Ogdensburg Teacher of the Year Award in 1999 and a local Super Teacher Award in 2006. In 2009 Mary Ann Margrey received national recognition at the National Catholic Education Association Meeting in Anaheim, California when along with eleven other Catholic School teachers from around the country she was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award.

When asked to give her philosophy of Catholic education in 2009, Mrs. Margrey said, “A Catholic education should be rooted in the teachings and traditions of the Church. It should help to foster a desire to continue lifelong growth as Catholics by inspiring students to live as good Christ-like models for others. “It is essential to teach the whole child – in mind, body and spirit – while recognizing the dignity and uniqueness of each student,” she said.
PHOTOS BY SHAWN RYAN

As part of the diocesan planning process the three parishes of Plattsburgh, Our Lady of Victory, left, St. Peter’s and St. John the Baptist will join to form one parish. A steering committee has been established, with representatives from each parish, to decide the best way to make it happen.

Planning in Plattsburgh

Pastors, parishioners working together to create one vibrant parish

By Shawn Ryan
Staff writer

PLATTSBURGH - There has not been a single year in the past 2,000 that the Catholic Church has not undergone some sort of change.

This past fall, parishioners of the three parishes within the city of Plattsburgh were told that change was coming to their doorstep.

Since at least 1987, under the direction of then Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has begun to prepare for the decline in number of priests that is affecting nearly every diocese in the country.

As part of the most recent iteration of that evolving plan, Bishop Terry LaValley announced in August that Saint John the Baptist, Saint Peter’s and Our Lady of Victory will consolidate, as they are weaned down to one full time pastor, one full time parochial vicar, and one part time parochial vicar.

"Parishes, even dioceses, have come into and out of existence throughout the history of the Church," said Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey, pastor of St. Peter’s. "The great thing about our Church, is that it’s always come out of periods of change stronger."

Steering committee

In November Msgr. Duprey was chosen to chair the steering committee which will help decide how that consolidation will take place. The committee is comprised of consists of three members from each parish, along with Msgr. Duprey and Father William G. Reamer, pastor of Our Lady of Victory and Father Timothy G. Canaan, pastor of St. John’s.

"It’s a foregone conclusion," said Mike Murray, a trustee at St. John’s and a member of the steering committee. "With fewer and fewer priests it’s pretty cut and dry."

Murray was quick to praise the way Bishop LaValley and the three Plattsburgh pastors are conducting the planning process.

From the start, parishioners have been asked to weigh in on proposed changes, and the planning has been going on in an open and transparent manner.

Msgr. Duprey and Murray agree that one of the most challenging considerations of the process involves the use of the facilities. Careful thought is being given to which church properties are the most viable, and which may have to be shuttered.

"Oftentimes we don’t reflect the communities we’re in," Msgr. Duprey said. "Sometimes we keep churches in existence just for old times. We have to look at what do we have, and where do we go from here."

But in a city where rivalries from the two formerly thriving Catholic high schools (which merged to form Seton Catholic in 1989) still exist, change is not always appreciated.

"There are going to be a lot of unhappy people when it happens," said Murray, a proud graduate of the former St. John’s Academy.

"None of us want this to happen," he said. "We want to keep our own parishes and priests. But, we also want to keep a strong Catholic presence in the area."

Living Stones plans

That is exactly what the Diocese, under the direction of the Living Stones Planning Committee, hopes to do.

The Living Stones Committee was created in 2014 as a part of the pastoral vision of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The LSPC developed a plan, with strategies for implementation, that intends to:

a) Strengthen church vibrancy, including but not limited to realignment and restructuring of parishes;
b) Activate greater participation of the laity in leadership roles; and

c) Assess the parish demographics in relation to economic and spiritual resources available in each parish and those of neighboring parishes.

Over the next 10 to 18 months, parishes in every Deanery in the Diocese will be touched by some sort of change or consolidation.

This fact both Msgr. Duprey and Murray agree, is a call for parishioners to step up, and step into lay ministry as never before.

"Ministry itself isn’t about a building," Msgr. Duprey said, "but about people and God."

As many throughout the Diocese look on, the parishes of Plattsburgh are well on their way down the road that will lead us through that change, and on to a stronger presence in Plattsburgh’s Catholic community.
Classes to begin in September in Lake Placid, Canton and Carthage

Formation for Ministry announces new sites

By Deacon Patrick Donahue
Program Coordinator, Formation for Ministry

As changes continue in our parishes throughout the diocese, the need for well-trained commissioned lay ministers has perhaps never been greater.

The official kick off of the next program cycle for the Diocese of Ogdensburg’s Formation for Ministry program began March 1.

The two-year program will begin in September with classes at the following sites: St Mary’s in Canton, St Agnes in Lake Placid and St James in Carthage. Application materials have been distributed to all parishes in the diocese and are available on our diocesan web site at www.rcdony.org/formation.

With the more recent decline in the number of priests and religious providing ministry in the diocese, the need for commissioned lay ministers has steadily increased.

The Formation for Ministry program is a two-year commitment that requires all candidates to complete coursework in theology, ministry and spirituality as well as complete six workshops and two annual retreats during the course of the program.

Candidates who successfully complete the next Formation for Ministry program will be commissioned in June 2019.

The Formation for Ministry program is adding an online component for the next cycle through a partnership with the STEP program at the University of Notre Dame.

More recently the diocese’s “envisioning process has placed a special emphasis on “building parishes with living stones.”

Bishop LaValley believes that commissioned lay ministers are important contributors to this initiative as lay Catholics answer the call to a more active ministry role in the life and the mission of the church.

The bishop said, “By virtue of our baptism, each of us has the responsibility of proclaiming what our God has done for us... The Church is so enriched through the ministry that our commissioned lay ministers offer to their local parishes.”

The Formation for Ministry program has a rich legacy in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, and was initiated by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana in 1990. Since that time nearly 1200 laypersons have discerned their call to ministry and completed the program.

The two-year program includes eight courses of study in Church, Sacraments, Christology, Moral Theology, Social Justice, Spirituality and Scripture are also required courses.

Areas of ministry include Catechetical ministry, Parish Outreach ministry, Liturgical and Youth Ministry. All candidates will receive training and supervision in parish ministry during their participation in the program.

All Formation for Ministry classes are held weekly, and in the evening at selected sites.

Those interested in applying for the program should first meet with their pastors. Application forms are available in all parishes.

Bishop LaValley said, “This is an excellent means of gaining personal knowledge of our faith and of preparing to participate more fully in the faith life of the parish family. We must, no matter our age, learn more about our faith. Let us pray that more women and men will step forward and enjoy learning about the richness of our Catholic faith and commit to fuller participation in their parish through their enrollment in the Formation for Ministry Program.”

Further information about the Formation for Ministry Program is available from Deacon Patrick J. Donahue, Program Director at: 315-393-2920 Ext. 1412, or by email: pdonahue@rcdony.org. The website is: www.rcdony.org/formation.
Is there still a place for a diocesan newspaper? Bishop says: absolutely!

By Bishop Terry LaValley

When Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart, the fifth bishop of our diocese, launched the North Country Catholic in 1946, he understood the important role that newspapers played in the lives of Americans at that time. Everyone listened to their radios and pored over newspapers to learn about what was happening in the world.

It would be another decade before families brought televisions into their homes and no one could have predicted the lies brought televisions into their homes played in the lives of Americans at that time. During these challenging times, it is more important than ever that we continue to realize our Diocesan Pastoral Vision: “Find Your Home in Christ. Renew Faith, Nurture Hope. Discover Love.”

This weekend, the annual North Country Catholic subscription campaign begins in all our parishes. I ask that every Catholic family subscribe to the paper. Those who read the North Country Catholic enjoy timely and relevant articles on prayer, scripture, Church and religious news that are featured every week.

If you are a current subscriber to our diocesan newspaper, please renew your subscription in this week's campaign. Why not consider obtaining a subscription as a gift for a family member? I invite those who don't currently subscribe to consider how important it is today to be an informed Catholic Christian and allow our diocesan newspaper to be a vehicle to help you and your families grow in faith.

I hope that you accept my invitation to welcome the North Country Catholic into your home.
A celebration of life and faith

By Deacon Anthony Pastizzo
Deacon assistant, St. Mary’s Cathedral

(Excerpts from homily for funeral Mass for Deacon David Wells held Feb. 17 at St Mary’s Cathedral)

A little over three years ago David and I along with the rest of our “Deacon Class” stood here at this Cathedral and were ordained into the permanent diaconate. Those of us who are married were accompanied by our wives. Some may not realize married deacons do not become deacons without the written permission and witness of their wives. So Dorothy stood here with Deacon David as he committed himself to a life of service in our Church. Dorothy loved and supported Deacon David, and as all of us who are married may know, cared for David with that special love, that only a woman can give.

And to attest the fact husbands and wives become one, Dorothy accompanied and shared in many of Deacon David’s ministries, especially to the infirm, and lonely.

God has taught us of the goodness of all creation, and in a special way the sacredness of all human life, teaching us we are created in God’s own image. Human life then, possesses a dignity, rooted in who we are.

When we gather together for a celebration of life and faith, we all begin to focus on the depth of our being. We are emotionally and psychologically stirred.

When those most near and dear to us begin to fail and die, life can lose some of its flavor. We may even get caught up in the “would have,” “should have,” or “could have.” But what is important now is we loved him, and he loved us.

Life is holy, deserving of respect and reverence. Life is the foundation of all other goods: friendship, love, prayer and all the many ways we serve God and neighbor. Deacon David Wells, knew and understood this.

I reflected on the readings Deacon David’s family chose for this celebration of David’s life and I noticed how they connect with love, life, dying, rising, and hope.

In our first reading from Wisdom we hear, “For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time,” “nor can it be measured in terms of years.”

Rather, understanding passes for gray hair,

in Paul’s letter to the Romans, “What will separate us from the love of Christ?” “Anguish, distress, or persecution, or famine or nakedness, or peril of the sword?”

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

Paul is emphasizing God’s desire to embrace us. Paul outlines all the terrors Christians face on earth. None of these can separate us from God in Christ, he assures us. Through Christ we will find God nothing but gracious and merciful, kind and compassionate, seeking only to fulfill our lives.

Over the years Deacon David had other titles, to name a few, sailor, soldier, police officer, caregiver, nurse, husband, father, grandfather, coach, school bus driver, 4th degree knight, our brother. Through all of the good times and bad he remained gracious, kind, compassionate, and I believe his life was fulfilled.

I know I can speak for my brother deacons, studying for the diaconate was a joy, for and with David. We will all remember his kind, warm, compassionate and loving ways. Again a reflection of Him who loved us.

In our Gospel we heard that the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. “Amen, amen unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies it produces much fruit.”

I can only imagine how the disciples felt hearing this. They were probably waiting to witness another miracle but instead Jesus is speaking in a parable, about farming! They don’t know what he means, and maybe we don’t either.

However like a teacher teaching a child he explains a grain of wheat has to die, and even I can see it is the only way we are going to get amber waves of grain.

This is true for you and I, and Jesus has taught us the implications of our lives. Now it is Jesus’ hour that has come; he is the son of man who will be glorified. He is the grain of wheat that must fall to the ground and die in order to bear much fruit.

Sacred scripture teaches us that death marks the transformation to new and eternal life in the kingdom of God. This belief does not deny the reality of death, or its suffering and separation. Yet life is changed not ended.

This is true for you and I, and Jesus has taught us the implications of our lives. Now it is Jesus’ hour that has come; he is the son of man who will be glorified. He is the grain of wheat that must fall to the ground and die in order to bear much fruit.

Sacred scripture teaches us that death marks the transformation to new and eternal life in the kingdom of God. This belief does not deny the reality of death, or its suffering and separation. Yet life is changed not ended. Our belief is rooted in the transforming experience of the resurrection of Jesus, and we trust in God’s loving faithfulness. And God’s kingdom on earth exists wherever God’s will is at work wherever people are faithful to the command that we love one another as God first loved us.

Certainly the Kingdom of God was present on earth when we focus on the life of Deacon David Wells, and his family.

Today we commend Deacon David Wells into God’s loving hands, we will pray for David, his family, and friends, and reflecting on last Sunday’s reading from St. Paul, with this we need only trust. St. Paul assured us “eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

Deacon Anthony Pastizzo, left, delivered the homily at the funeral for his classmate and friend Deacon David Wells Feb. 17 at St. Mary’s Cathedral. In his homily Deacon Pastizzo reflected on the role of the deacon and the deacon’s wife in the life of a parish. The two men, along with 10 others including, Deacon Brian Neureuther and Deacon Paul White, also pictured, were ordained permanent deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Oct. 5, 2013.
The North Country Catholic is grateful for the financial support it receives from its extraordinary patrons, sustaining patrons, special patrons and patrons. We take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge those people who supported the mission of the Catholic Press in 2016 with a gift of $250, $100, $50 or $35. Thank you for the continued generosity.

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The power of the word

Says Catholic media may be remedy for the three greatest challenges church faces

By Matthew Gambino
Catholic News Service

WINNEWOOD, PA. (CNS) -- Catholic news media might be the remedy for three of the greatest challenges facing the church in the United States today, according to a leading Catholic journalist who spoke Jan. 30 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in suburban Philadelphia.

Greg Erlandson, director and editor-in-chief of Catholic News Service, delivered the Cardinal John Foley Lecture for about 50 attendees at the seminary, including Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

CNS was founded by the U.S. bishops in 1920. The international news service is based in Washington, with offices at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' headquarters.

In his talk, Erlandson offered context to his talk titled "The Power of the Word: Catholic News Media and Spiritual Formation" by describing three crises in the church today.

"My conversations with Catholics around the country suggest that they are unaware ... of the challenges we face now and will face 'in extremis' in the near future," Erlandson said.

First, an aging priesthood faces a "demographic cliff" that in coming years will not have enough active priests to sustain parish life in the United States as it is structured today.

"Each year an average of about 400 new priests are ordained nationwide, while an average of 1,500 retire or die," Erlandson said.

He also cited the decline in sacramental marriage as well as baptism and the reception of other sacraments, driven largely by divorce and remarriage outside the church. Lastly, Erlandson described the dearth of Catholic faith formation for children and especially of adults. Citing a statistic that only 15 percent of Catholic school-age children attend a Catholic school and despite valiant efforts of volunteer religious educators in parish programs, "nearly everyone agrees that many Catholic parents are too distracted, undereducated in the faith or broken to assume their role as 'primary educators' of their children," he said.

Putting it bluntly, Erlandson said two generations of parents "have been educated primarily in, at best, 40-minute class sessions for 20 or so weeks a year from first through eighth grades or until confirmation, whichever comes first. Too many of them are, in terms of their religious IQ, children inhabiting adult bodies."

It has been said that Catholics today are the best educated in the history of the church, but "in this country, this applies to their MDs and their MBAs, not religious education," Erlandson said.

If Catholic families are the building blocks of parishes that are stressed by a gap in clergy resources, then a "parish- and family-centered religious education system" is sorely needed, he said. "At this point the greatest strategic need facing the church may be in the area of adult faith formation and education."

Erlandson suggested Catholic media including television, radio, digital and print publications may best address the need to form lay Catholics to accept the leadership roles they will increasingly need to take in the church.

Catholic news and commentary can inform Catholics on the issues of the day by "helping them to see reality through Catholic eyes," Erlandson said, adding the church "needs a voice to tell the stories that are not being told, or not being told well, and it needs a voice to mobilize Catholics."

Secular media might not present issues such as the Health and Human Services contraceptive mandate, healthcare reform, immigration reform or the Christian diaspora in the Middle East with the Catholic perspective that offers not propaganda but the truth of the Gospel.

"The regular appearance of a Catholic publication with news, analysis, columns and features in a virtual or actual mailbox does more to help form more adult Catholics than any other method or tool," Erlandson said.

Catholic news media's stories of ordinary people striving in extraordinary ways for holiness have the power "to show what God asks of us, what the church teaches, can be lived out in the real world," he said. "It is being done. And the lesson is that we can do it too."

Just as secular media are experiencing seismic changes in their business model and even in their quality, the Catholic press is also under great stress "but it remains a vital and valuable tool in service to the church," Erlandson said.

"It needs the resources to flourish and to fulfill its role to inform, to form and to inspire, particularly at this time when other institutions of the church, especially the parish, are facing equally daunting challenges and are in need of a well-formed laity."

And while he pointed out "print is not dead" and delivering a publication into homes remains "the ultimate push technology," he also acknowledged social media, video, print and digital all are tools the church can use to preach the Gospel "and to reach modern men and women effectively."
WASHINGTON (CNS) - There is no getting around fasting during Lent.
Not only is it one of the three pillars of spiritual practice along with prayer and almsgiving, but it also bookends the period of preparation for Easter.
Fasting and abstinence is required of adult Catholics, ages 18-59, at the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and at its end on Good Friday. This means eating only one full meal and two small meals that equal one meal as well as no snacks in between meals and no meat.
Creighton University’s Online Ministries program, “Praying Lent 2017,” says the purpose of fasting is to “experience the effects of not eating. It also serves to be a penance or a sacrifice for the purpose of strengthening us.”
"When we get hungry, we have a heightened sense of awareness," it adds, noting that the practice helps people to clarify their thoughts. "It is purifying and prepares us to pray more deeply," the resource from Jesuit-run Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, points out.
In addition to the two days of fasting, Catholics 14 and older are obligated to abstain from eating meat during Fridays in Lent.
The Friday practice is a sacrifice meant "to help Catholics make much bigger sacrifices," the Creighton resource says, pointing out that not eating meat doesn't give someone permission to eat a fancy fish meal. And for vegetarians, it could mean abstaining from a favorite meal.
Fasting, which has deep roots in many religious traditions, is meant to draw participants into deeper prayer and also link them with those in need.
For Christians, the tradition has roots in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his disciples how they should look when they are fasting -- not gloomy, not neglecting their appearance and with their faces washed so they do not appear to be fasting.
"Jesus says when we fast, not if," said Father John Ricardo, pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Plymouth, Michigan.
He said the key to fasting is to attach an intention to the practice "rather than seeing it as a flexing of our self-discipline muscles." It makes the practice "not about me but someone else," he told Catholic News Service March 1.
"Fasting is heavy artillery," he added because the person doing it is denying themselves something and trusting that God will use it.
Although fasting is technically not eating food, giving something up can also be a form of fasting.
Msgr. Charles Murphy, author of the 2010 book: "The Spirituality of Fasting: Rediscovering a Christian Practice" said there are two forms of fasting -- total and partial. A total fast is eating nothing and drinking nothing for a designated period of time where a partial fast involves giving up certain things for a specific period of time.
Partial fasting is a popular part of Lent where people choose to give up something such as soda, candy, beer, television or more increasingly, social media. "They won’t give up texting. That would be like giving up breathing," he added.
This age group, and Catholics at large, could take a small step toward a phone fast by following the initiative of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, which urged Catholics to not use their phones on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday this year "as a way to reflect on God and the meaning of the Easter season."
Climbing a mountain with Jesus & his disciples

During these six weeks of Lent, we’re on a spiritual journey, hoping to be better persons by Easter.

Before Lent, we spent some weeks with Jesus on the Mount of the Beatitudes. Today, we climb a mountain with Jesus and His disciples...a very special mountain traditionally called Mt. Tabor. How God loved mountains!

Remember, it was on Mt. Sinai that God had treated Moses like a friend, and had given him the ten commandments. Before that, he had tested Abraham’s faith on Mt. Moria, as he was preparing to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Today’s first reading is about God’s call to Abraham to found a great dynasty of believers.

Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

The story, in our second reading this week, Timothy reminds us that Jesus, by his death and resurrection, has saved us and has “called us to a holy life...according to His own design.”

But back to Mt. Tabor. Here, Peter, James and John, will catch a glimpse of the glory of God. As they approach the summit, the three suddenly notice a change in the garments Jesus is wearing. From a dusty brown and gray of a carpenter’s garb, they become a dazzling white. The disciples then see two famous figures appear. They recognize Moses the Lawgiver, and Elijah the Prophet.

They are both discussing something with Jesus. Perhaps they were talking about his coming Passion. Peter is so overjoyed that he proposes that they stay here on this blessed spot.

Peter himself with build them tents! Then suddenly a cloud comes between them and the sun, and a Voice thunders out, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!”. No more talk of tents!

In fear the disciples fall to the ground. Jesus calms them, and tells them not to be afraid.

The glory has faded, and they proceed down the mountain. Jesus warns them to keep quiet about all this until after His Resurrection. They proceed on their journey...a journey that will end on Mt. Calvary.

What does all this mean for us on our spiritual journey? As the Church has taught for centuries in both the Western and Eastern Church, this event points to our own “transfiguration” and to the glorification of all of nature that surrounds us!

As he taught a lesson in patience and hope to Peter, James, and John, so he teaches us to listen to all of Jesus’ teaching, and follow it as closely as we can.

We have the advantage of knowing and believing in the Resurrection.

As Timothy tells us today, “Beloved: bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.” For us, it’s a gradual day-by-day process that should bring us closer and closer to Jesus.

Winter: a time to ‘wait upon the Lord’

This time of year can be really difficult for our sense of optimism and maintenance of a generally good mood. We are eagerly waiting for our clocks to move ahead, for warmth to once again tease us with its presence, and Lent defines the church calendar, which, with surprising accuracy, seems to mark the 40 days until Spring weather arrives.

We must continue to “wait upon the Lord.” And this waiting doesn’t always look the best for us. Many people suffer from seasonal depression and this can be a very challenging crossing to bear. It is a true test of patience to live with very low energy, to not sleep well for long periods of time, to lose interest in your favorite things, to lose your appetite, and all for no particular reason.

What is worse is feeling like you are not yourself for months on end, struggling greatly to live your normal life all year round. Seasonal depression is in fact very depressing. But it is a suffering that can bring us so close to the heart of Jesus.

The Agony in the Garden is a very difficult moment for us to understand. Christ begs his father to relieve him of the unspeakable torture and suffering he is about to endure, all while obediently following his will, regardless of what the Father decides to do with his son.

Christ is in agony because he is carrying the weight of our sins, looking forward to a gruesome death that will be brought on by those who He is trying to save.

Christ ultimately “dies” to his own will when he says to his father “Not my will, but yours be done,” accepting the death he so greatly feared.

It is either a time of year when we retreat and complain, or a time when we ask the Lord to be with us, deeply and intimately.

This is the greatest example of “waiting upon the Lord” in the history of civilization. It is also only the beginning of the story, as we all know.

While the next 24 hours allowed for the horrendous torturing and death of our Savior, only a few days later, he did the impossible and rose from the dead.

Christ trusted in his Father and God’s will was ultimately accomplished through his son.

In our own small sufferings, we can do the same. We can either see the winter months as a time where we will just bury our noses in senseless Netflix series, sleeping unnecessarily long hours, and being generally miserable because of the lack of UV light or we can see January, February, and March as sort of a three-month expression of the Easter Triduum.

It is either a time of year when we retreat and complain, or a time when we ask the Lord to be with us, deeply and intimately, to ask him to bring his light into our crushing personal darkness, and to allow him to be with us as we bear our cross. In offering up our prayer to the Father, we too can follow the great obedience of Christ in the garden and continually allow God’s mighty work to be done through us.

And if we wait faithfully upon the Lord, then there is no question that our suffering will not only help others in the end, but will in fact be the way of our salvation.

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MARCH 12

Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Genesis 12:1-4a
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

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Just as Jesus will shine in heaven for all eternity, so we who are faithful to the sharing in the Passion of Jesus, will also shine in glory with Him for all eternity!

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A VOICE OF FAITH

Winter: a time to ‘wait upon the Lord’

By Andrew Lauria
Contribution writer

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OUR READERS WRITE

Idea for Lent

At Thousand Islands Council 350, Knights of Columbus meeting last night, we welcomed two guest speakers from Samaritan Summit Village, Sandi Baril and Barb Morrow.

They gave a brief presentation about Summit, what it’s all about and how it operates. They then had a questions and answers session. Now you might wonder why I am sharing this with you.

Our local council has three members currently staying there along with numerous other friends and neighbors from our area. We (Council 350) are discussing how we can spend some time with those who have served our council and area faithfully for many years on a rotating basis.

So, I’m sharing this so maybe instead of you (my fellow readers) giving something up this Lenten season. You might consider going out and sharing a little bit of your time with your friends, neighbors who might be at Summit or any other housing for the aged or sick. I have already been up to Summit and will be going back again. A short visit from you can make a huge difference in their day.

May your Lenten journey bring you inspiration, passion and peace.

GK DAN HAYCOCK

CLAYTON
One of the few other bright spots in Chiron’s bleak existence is his friendship with schoolmate Kevin (Jaden Piner) who proves much more accepting of Chiron than the lad’s other peers.

Reaching his teens, Chiron (now Ashton Sanders) falls for Kevin (now Jharrel Jerome). Although Kevin boasts (apparently truthfully) of his prowess with women, he willingly participates in a single sexual act with Chiron. But circumstances soon set them cruelly at odds with each other.

Once grown -- and now played by Trevante Rhodes -- Chiron has himself become a pusher with a grim personality, Black. He lives an isolated and shady life opening up emotional possibilities for him.

The relationship at the heart of the film is dealt better in a thoughtful way, with spiritual affinity far outweighing eroticism and fidelity leading to sexual release. Yet the physical expression of the bond is presented as acceptable, making it impossible to endorse ‘Moonlight’ for any age group.

In fact, the temptation to let sympathy blur moral borders is all the more potent here because immensely likable, terribly downtrodden Chiron has the audience rooting for him all the way. So, too, does compassionate Kevin. Yet commiseration needs to be clear-eyed where ethical truths, especially those taught both by Scripture and tradition, are at stake.

The film contains tacit endorsement of homosexual acts, mature themes, including narcotics use and prostitution, a graphic heterosexual and a semi-graphic same-sex encounter, several mild oaths, frequent rough and crude language and some vulgar sex talk.

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

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Considered as an exploration of the African-American experience in contemporary society, writer-director Barry Jenkins powerfully understated drama “Moonlight” (A24) makes a compelling statement.

The Oscar goes to:
2017 Academy Award winner for Best Picture

As the film chronicles three stages in the life of an inner-city Miami youth, however, aspects of its main character’s personal story raise complications for viewers of faith.

As a bullied and withdrawn 10-year-old, burdened with a crack-addicted mother (Naomie Harris), Chiron (Alex Hibbert), derisively nicknamed Little, comes under the surprisingly positive influence of local drug dealer Juan (Mahershala Ali). Juan’s gentle girlfriend, Teresa (Janelle Monae), becomes a more predictable mentor, taking on the role of a second mom.
The North County Catholic welcomes contributions to “Around the Diocese.” Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
North County Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7926;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

**ADIRONDACK**

**RUMMAGE SALE**
Lake Placid — Rummage Sale to be held to benefit St. Agnes School.
Date: March 25
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes School
Features: Donations may be dropped off during school hours.
Contact: Kathleen Murphy at 518-523-3771.

**CLINTON**

**FISH FRY DINNER**
AuSable Forks - Knights of Columbus Council #2301 of AuSable Forks will hold fish-fry dinners.
Date: March 10, 31
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Holy Name Parish Center Gym
Cost: $10 per person; under 12, $6
Features: All profits go to Seaton Catholic's “40 Days of Hope” project.
Contact: Jack Diroll, (518) 578-0360.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**
Plattsburgh — Spaghetti dinner is set
Date: March 18
Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Seton Academy
Cost: Adults, $8; children under 12, $5
Features: All profits go to Seton Catholic's “40 Days of Hope” project.
Contact: Call the Rectory for details: 518-297-3761.

**UNLOCKING MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE**
Rouses Point — Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible to be held during Lent.
Date: Thursday of Lent
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Patrick's Parish
Features: Eight-part study with Jeff Cavins. With DVD presentations and small group discussions questions, the program helps uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the “big picture” of the Bible and understand what it is all about.
Contact: Call the Rectory for details: 518-297-3761.

**CATHOLICISM-PIVOTAL PLAYERS**
Rouses Point - Fr. Stitt will be hosting a video series on Sundays of Lent.
Date: March 5 to April 9
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Champlain Catholic Men's Club
Features: The videos are from Bishop Robert Barron's new program, CATHOLICISM. The Pivotal Players, a multi-part film series that illuminates a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization. Bishop Barron was the keynote speaker at the Lake Placid “Inspire” event last fall, and is now on a new journey to unlock the truth behind the Catholic Church’s most influential people, including St. Francis of Assisi, Michelangelo, and St. Catherine of Siena. Refreshments will be served.

**PARISH FISH FRY**
Chazy — Sacred Heart will have its Annual Fish Fry.
Date: March 24
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 6-12, $5; All take-outs, $10

**K OF FISH FRY DINNERS**
Au Sable Forks - Knights of Columbus Council #2301 of Au Sable Forks will hold fish-fry dinners.
Date: March 10 and 31
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Place: Holy Name Parish Center Gym
Cost: $10 adults; Children under 12, $6

**BREAKFAST SET**
Lyons Mountain — St. Bernard's-St. Edmund's Parishes to have a Buffet Style breakfast.
Date: March 19
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion
Cost: Adults, $8; Children 6-12, $5 and under, $3
Features: Proceeds to benefit both parishes. 50/50 tickets will be available.
Contact: For more information please call 593-2052 or 594-3907.

**K OF C PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
Plattsburgh — K of C to have a pancake breakfast.
Date: March 12
Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Our Lady of Victory Parish Center
Cost: Adults; $8; Seniors, $7; Children 6 to 12, $5; under 5, $4
Features: 50/50 chances available.

**CLIMATIC AMBASSADOR**
Plattsburgh — The Diocese of Ogdensburg and St. Peter's Church to present Climate Ambassador Dr. Gerry Gacioch.
Date: April 2
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church
Features: Presentation to focus on Pope Francis' encyclical on Environmental Stewardship entitled Laudato Si, Care of our Common Home, plus why Catholics should care about our environment.
Contact: Denise Tetrault at spchurch-gerg@roadrunner.com; 315-369-3554;

**WATER, NUTRITION, HEALTH**
Watertown — Special presentation to be held that will focus on water as a key nutrient for human health, an essential for all life, and the challenges in maintaining this resource.
Date: March 26
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Center
Contact: Space is limited; to reserve a place call 315-782-3460.

**LEONARD ADORATION**
Plattsburgh — St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Mondays and Tuesdays.
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Features: Concludes on Tuesday of Holy Week with Benediction at 7 p.m.

**DAY OF DISCERNMENT**
Old Forge — Discerning men are invited to consider the call to the priesthood.
Dates: March 26; April 9 and 23; May 7 & 21
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Bartholomew's Rectory
Contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.tbstards@roadrunner.com; 315-369-3554;

**HAMILTON-HERKIMER**

**LEWIS**

**LENTEN THURSDAYS**
Lowville — Lenten Eucharistic Adoration to be held.
Date: March 9, 16, 23, 30
Time: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**ACIES CEREMONY**
Ogdensburg — Legion of Mary Acies Ceremony to be held.
Date: March 19
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Deacon Winter Chapel
Features: Exposition and Benediction as well as an Individual and Collective Consecration to Mary. Refreshments will be served in the Brzana Hall following.

**K OF C BRUNCH**
Norfolk — Brunch to be held sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
Date: March 12
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $8; children, $4; under 3, Free
Features: Family of $4, $20; every additional person add $3, Omelets, $3 extra.

**ESSEX**

**LENTEN JOURNEY**
Olmstedville — Lenten Journey on Beginning Apologetics to be held.
Date: March 8
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph's Parish House
Features: A light meal will be served.

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER**
Elizabethtown — St. Elizabeth's Parish is planning its annual St. Patrick's Dinner.
Date: March 12
Time: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, $12; Children under 12, $5

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**
Watertown — Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.
Schedule: Beginning Good Friday April 14 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin by praying in the Chaplet in Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.; Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 23 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, invocation and a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be specially blessed.
Contact: call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

**CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE**
Thank you to the NCC

The Pontifical Mission Societies consist of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Association, the Society of St. Peter Apostle and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. The Pontifical Mission Societies’ primary initiative is the promotion of a universal missionary spirit, of prayer and sacrifice that we are called upon through our baptism. Additionally, this Diocese promotes a special project called “The Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.”

Four of the five components mentioned are local fundraising efforts of the Church where the Mission lands and Missionaries alike directly benefit from the prayers and resources of people like you and me, who live, work and raise families in the North Country. The promotion of our appeals, campaigns, and efforts would be almost impossible were it not for the support and prayers for children in developing nations.

Through the years, the Mission office is so grateful for the support and acknowledge the efforts of the children in Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs participate in the Missionary Childhood Association programs for on-going support and prayers for children in developing nations. Throughout the years, the North Country Catholic has always been there to aid in our mission’s goal of promoting education and awareness.

Additionally, the NCC each Fall showcases our financial statement for the year prior. They are a gateway for us to show our gratitude to each of you.

The Mission office is so grateful for the support and publicity the NCC gives us each issue. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith proudly joins the North Country Catholic on the path of making both the Diocese and the World a better place through the promotion of prayer and personal sacrifices the Missions encourage each day.

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

www.rcdony.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Brasher Falls — Arnold W. Leggue, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Canton — Linda Joan Boisse; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at Lawrence Funeral Home & Cremation Services; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Canton — Myrna A. Jordan, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Annette Ann (Decosse) Trombley, 87; Funeral Services March 4, 2017 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

Gouverneur — Dianne M. Calvani, 56; Funeral Services March 3, 2017 at St. James Church.

Gouverneur — Jake Thomas Ferrick, 8; Funeral Services March 4, 2017 at St. James Church.

Harrsville — Martin R. Luther, Sr., 89; Funeral Services March 1, 2017 at the Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in Harrsville Community Cemetery.

Lowville — Richard Thomas Graves, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at the Iseneker Funeral Home Inc.

Lyon Mountain — Elizabeth “Betty” J. (Palmer) Rissetto, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at St. Bernard’s Church.

Malone — Letty N. (Benney) Andrews, 90; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in Old Cedar Grove Cemetery, Chaumont.

Malone — David W. Jandreau, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 24, 2017 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine’s Cemetery, North Bangor.

Malone — Clayton H. Muller, Jr., 73; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at the Brusdesnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena — Paul Robert Calnon, 64; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville — Walter L. Wood, 72; Funeral Services March 4, 2017 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Dana R. Dintaman, 76; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Nancy K. (LaRocque) Gar­rant, 65; Funeral Services March 3, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh — Donna (McMillan) Os­borne, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Dannemora.

Plattsburgh — Geraldine Mary (Race­ette) Ryan, 81; Funeral Services March 2, 2017 at St. John’s Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Ralph P. Howard, 78; Funeral Services March 5, 2017 at St. Bernard’s Church.

Saranac Lake — Walsh "Murph" D. Moody, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2017 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in Mt. View Cemetery.

Watertown — Joseph N. Rizzo, 80; Funeral Services March 3, 2017 at St. Anthony’s Church.

Watertown — Kathleen A. Schneider, 70; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2017 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.
Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

LENTEN ADORATION
Massena - LENTEN Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held.
Date: Beginning March 3 every Mon. and Fri during Lent
Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Church family room

Eucharistic Adoration
Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's parish offers a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction.
Time: Thursdays, immediately following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 a.m.
Place: St. Mary's

ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY
Heuvelton - St. Raphael's Food Pantry will be open every Friday.
Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Place: Parish Center
Contact: Father O'Brien at 315-393-2920 or 315-344-2383.

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT
Potsdam - Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.
Dates: April 2 and 23, May 5
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Rectory
Features: Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.
Contact: Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Stephen Rocker, pastor@rccny.org, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoouj@twcnyrr.com

RETOUR

DIACON FORMATION INFORMATION
The Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg is offering Information Sessions for Pastors and all interested parties.
Schedule: March 27, St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh; March 30, St. Patrick's Church, Watertown; April 3, St. Mary's Church, Massena
Time: Vespers at 5 p.m. then dinner
Contact: Cathy Russell, Vocation Coordinator, crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the Installation of the Ministry of Acolyte Feb. 28 for 16 men preparing for ordination as permanent deacons in October. Front, from left are Brent Charland, St. Andre Bessette Parish, Malone; Bishop LaValley and Nicholas Haas, St. Andre Bessette Parish in Malone; second row, John Felner, St. Brendan's, Keene; Randal Smith, St. Peter's, Plattsburgh; and David Demers, Notre Dame, Ogdensburg; third row, Timothy Foley, St. Bartholomew's, Old Forge; James Crowley, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg; Lawrence Mone, St. James, Gouverneur; and Ron Gingerich, St. Peter's, Lowville; back William O'Brien, St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg; Richard Burns, St. Mary's, Potsdam; Neil Fuller, St. Mary's, Clayton; David Clark, St. John's, Plattsburgh; Thomas Yousey, St. Peter's, Lowville; and Phillip Regan, St. Andrews, Norwood.

ACOlytes ARE INSTALLED

Immaculate Heart Central School
Watertown, New York
Is seeking applicants for the position of ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
For the School Year 2017-18

Applicants should:
• Possess a Master’s Degree in Education and/or Education Administration and Supervision;
• Be a practicing Catholic;
• Have successful experience(s) in a Catholic school;
• Give evidence of administrative leadership skills in the areas of Catholic identity, instructional evaluation, management, promotion and maintenance of an effective learning environment and public relations.

A comprehensive salary and benefits package consistent with experience is provided.

To apply, please send cover letter, application, resume, transcripts and letters of recommendation, no later than March 30, 2017 to:

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ,
Superintendent of Schools
100 Elizabeth Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Camp GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION
Registration for 2017 season for Camp Guggenheim is now open through www.rcdony.org/camp.
Features: Weeks one through five are designated for 12-15 year olds, while Week Six is just for 16-18 year olds.
Contact: For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or vlalonde@rcdony.org or visit www.rcdony.org/camp/guggenheim

LENTEN RETREAT FOR YOUTH
Diocesan Youth Council is hosting a peer-led Lenten retreat open to all students in grades 6-12.
Dates: March 25 in Malone; March 26 in Canton
Features: The event is free, but participants must pre-register and bring a bagged lunch.

YOUTH RALLY REGISTRATION
Watertown – The 2017 diocesan High School Youth rally to be held.
Date: May 6
Place: IHC
Cost: $25 before April 1, $30 after
Features: This full-day event will feature keynote speaker Paul J. Kim, prayer, interactive workshops, games, and Mass presided by Bishop LaValley. Each group attending needs to have one Virtus-trained and background-checked adult for each eight students. Youth leaders can register themselves and youth at www.rcdony.org/youthrally
Contact: Kelly at kdonnelly@rcdony.org

COLLEGE WOMEN’S DAY RETREAT
Long Lake - A retreat day for college women is set
Date: March 11
Contact: Amanda at aconkin@stlawu.edu or conkina@can­ton.edu for information or to register.

DOVS MEMBERS SOUGHT
D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese is seeking new members. DOVS meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage.
Date: Next meeting is March 15
Contact: Call Connie at 315-265-2762 or the Vocations Office at 315-393-2920