Hearts open to surprises

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christian faith is a grace and can be perceived only in the hearts of those willing to be surprised by the joy of the Resurrection, Pope Francis said.

“A closed heart, a rationalistic heart” is incapable of understanding the Christian message which has God’s love - manifested in Christ’s victory over death -- at its center, the pope said at his weekly general audience April 19. “How beautiful it is to think that Christianity is essentially this: It is not so much our search for God -- a search that is, truthfully, somewhat shaky -- but rather God’s search for us,” the pope said.

The pope, bundled up in a white overcoat due to the unusually chilly and windy weather, entered a packed St. Peter’s Square in his popemobile. Immediately, he invited two girls and a boy, dressed in their altar server robes, to board the vehicle and ride with him around the square.

Pope Francis also took a moment to greet an elderly woman who, overcome with emotion, cried and stretched out her arms to embrace the pope. He stooped over, warmly embracing the woman and gently caressing her face before making the sign of the cross over her forehead.

Parish hospitality workshop set

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will host Sheri Wohlfert of the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute for a day-long parish hospitality workshop June 3 at SUNY Potsdam.

“The goal of the workshop, “Entertaining Angels,” is to train parish staff, commissioned lay ministers, parish volunteers and regular parishioners to create a welcoming environment in parishes.

“Hospitality is the first step to evangelization,” said Marika Donders, director of New Evangelization for the diocese who is organizing the program.

‘BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’

PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE
Bishop Terry R. LaValley signs Victoria Gagnon with chrism oil as she is welcomed into the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg. See page 12 for more photos of Easter and Holy Week.

What is sacred music?

Music director of St. Cyril’s in Alexandria Bay takes part in conference at the Vatican

ARCHBISHOP SHEEN: Churches urged to celebrate Mass on his birthday...
Happy anniversary, Bishop

It's hard to believe that seven years ago this week, we were making final preparations for Bishop LaValley's installation as our 14th bishop. On April 30, 2010, then Father LaValley was ordained and installed in a cathedral crammed with well-wishing worshippers. On April 30 of this year he will be carrying out one of his most important bishop responsibilities: presiding at a confirmation for young people in Ticonderoga and Schroon Lake.

Mary Lou Killian

After losing three bishops in quick succession, it's been a blessing to settle in with a beloved ordinary for year after year of liturgical seasons. Over the past couple of weeks, Bishop LaValley has shared his faith-filled wisdom at the Chrism Mass, on Easter Sunday and at the Divine Mercy Healing Mass.

In May, he will have the chance to spend time with the deacons and priests at their annual convocations and he will travel back and forth across our expansive diocese to confirm hundreds of young people in their faith.

The merry month of May will end on a note of immeasurable joy as Bishop LaValley ordains Deacon Michael Jablonski as a priest.

It's been a great comfort to know that we can count on the leadership of a man who has walked with us as we confront the challenges of the Catholic Church of the North Country in the 21st century.

During the last three years of Bishop LaValley's tenure we have followed a framework designed to maximize pastoral care in the face of a dwindling number of priests.

Together we have been pursuing a pastoral vision to create a culture of vocation, strengthen faith formation in family life and build parishes with living stones.

We know we're just getting started. We don't have time for any seven year itches! We can only pray that we will have Bishop LaValley in our midst for the next seven years and at least seven years after that.

Happy anniversary, Bishop!

Easter homily: three stories in one

Today, I would like to share with you how I developed my homily for Easter Sunday, our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

I had decided that the first part of my homily would be about Baptism since Easter is a Baptismal Feast. Each year, the catechumens preparing to enter the Catholic Church are baptized at the Easter Vigil.

In addition, at each of the Masses on Easter Sunday, we all celebrate the anniversary of our own Baptism by renewing our Baptismal Promises, the proclamation of our belief in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and our rejection of all that is evil.

I must admit that I didn’t decide on the introduction to this part of the homily until Easter Sunday morning. I got up early on Sunday to attend the Ecumenical Sunrise Service here in town. I even went to the pancake breakfast at the Presbyterian Church.

When I got back home, I still had plenty of time before my Mass so I flipped on the television. I stumbled on the old movie station and they were showing the movie, “Godspell.” Remember that one? “Godspell” came out in 1973 and was a rather modern mystery play following the Gospel’s story of Jesus was set in New York City.

The movie begins with a John the Baptist character leading ten young individuals who are ready to follow him. Then comes a Baptismal scene. They dance toward a large fountain set over a large basin filled with water. They all jump right into the water and they dance around and jump around in the water, splashing each other and seemingly filled with joy and happiness. John the Baptist pushes them under the water in a sort of Baptism.

The whole scene becomes a happy party. I realized that the scene added something wonderful to the whole message of Baptism.

I decided to use this “Godspell” scene to introduce the homily on resurrection and this section on Baptism. I wanted the people to realize the joy and happiness of Baptism. Even our renewal of our Baptism should be a time of joy and happiness. In the sacrament of Baptism, we are chosen by our God, chosen to be the very ones who can make our world a better place, chosen because God realizes that we have something special about us.

The Lord leads us in Baptism to a new life, to be born again, to have a new spirit to make the world alive in the Lord Jesus, our Savior. It is such a sacred moment, like those young people frolicking in the water.

Then I planned to go on to the Resurrection of Jesus. We are a resurrected people and one day we will find new life just as Jesus did.

One more thing – let me share a bit with you on how I came up with my conclusion. During the week or so before Easter I watched C-span, you know that channel that has the speeches and stuff like that. I never watch C-span but I came upon this program that caught my attention. It was a talk given by Sonia Sotomayor, the Supreme Court Justice, to the law students at Stanford University. She was terrific and grabbed my attention rather quickly. This justice has such a bright personality. I found the talk interesting because she added so much background to the life of a Supreme Court Justice.

In her talk, Judge Sotomayor mentioned the last two questions she asks herself each day. The other question was “Did I learn something new today?” She explained that a day without learning at least one thing was a lost opportunity.

The other question was “Did I give of myself for someone else today?” She saw this as an important effort as part of life – everyday. It doesn’t have to be something spectacular. Actually, it could be something rather simple and ordinary, but meaningful because I did it for someone else. So as my conclusion I shared with the people the two questions of Justice Sotomayor – after explaining how impressed I was with her and her talk.

And I must admit I have personally taken up the habit of asking myself these two questions also.
Parish hospitality workshop to be held June 3

POTSDAM—The Diocese of Ogdensburg will host Sheri Wohlfert of the Catholic Hospitality Training Institute for a day-long parish hospitality workshop June 3 at SUNY Potsdam.

The goal of the workshop, “Entertaining Angels,” is to train parish staff, commissioned lay ministers, parish volunteers and regular parishioners to create a welcoming environment in parishes.

“So often, people visiting or looking to join a parish are made to feel like outsiders who are unwelcome rather than our brothers and sisters in Christ,” said Marika Donders, diocesan director of the New Evangelization.

“We have all heard stories of people who went to a parish and no one said hello or inquired who they were,” she said.

“Worse yet, it is not unheard of that when visitors come to our parish, and they sit in ‘our’ pew, we sigh and or even feel annoyed and angry with them,” she said.

“We have all heard stories of individuals who have called or visited a parish office only to made to feel like they have interrupted the secretary or been treated like they were in a government office because they hadn’t filled out the parish registration form,” she said.

“The opposite is also true,” Donders continued. “We have all visited parishes where we were welcomed, made to feel special or simply were made to feel at home.

“A hospitable community doesn’t ‘just happen,’” she said. “Hospitality takes effort and intentionality and work.

“It isn’t just the responsibility of a select few on a hospitality committee. It requires each and every one of us and we can all do better.

“Hospitality is the first step to evangelization,” the evangelization director said.

“Come and learn what makes a good parish a great welcoming parish so that your parish can become a center of evangelization and Christian formation.’

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 in the Potsdam Student Union Multipurpose Room, 44 Pierepont Ave.

The cost is $35 per person for lunch and materials.

Registration may be made through www.rcdony.org/hospitality. Further information is available on that website or from Donders at mdonders@rcdony.org.

Memorial Mass set for Fr. Lamore

BRUSHTON — A Memorial Mass for Father Victor E. Lamore, who died March 30 in Arizona, will be held May 19 at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the Mass with priests of the diocese concelebrating. Father Raymond J. Moreau, pastor of St. Mary’s, will deliver the homily.

Father Lamore will be buried in Bing Inlet, Ontario, Canada, his native home. He was born in Bing Inlet on July 12, 1941 to Edward T. Lamore and Eva A. Béland.

The priest served as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg from the time of his ordination May 3, 1980 until he retired and moved to El Mirage, Arizona in 2015. He was assigned to parishes throughout the diocese before beginning 14 years of service as a prison chaplain at Arizona Correctional Facility in Ray Brook, Franklin Correctional Facility in Malone and Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora.

Father. Lamore is survived by three of his five siblings and their spouses, Viola Godin (Ronald), Judith Stafford (Garth) and Reggie Lamore (Karen) as well as nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren.

(An obituary and reflection on the life and ministry of Father Lamore were published April 5.)
Local music director takes part in international conference at the Vatican

What is sacred music?

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

A folk music group called the Highwaymen, a quintet from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, recorded an African slave song in 1961 entitled "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore." It was a hit.

Being present to play or direct the choir at Mass is not a concert, it is not a performance. It is not about the money or the gig; it is about bringing the Word of God to the people through music.

Rebecca Rose, music director, St. Cyril’s in Alexandria Bay

The first time I heard it sung by a folk choir during Mass something just did not ring true with me. My musical Church training came under the direction of a Dominican Sister in Queens, New York. Our school choir of 50 children was drilled in Gregorian Chant and Latin hymns. At Mass we sang the Gloria, the Creed, the Mass parts and various hymns all in four-part harmony: all in Latin.

The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council opened the door, at least as interpreted by some, to varied forms of music at Mass: “other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony (ed. simultaneously combining a number of parts, each forming an individual melody and harmonizing with each other), are by no means excluded from liturgical celebrations, so long as they accord with the spirit of the liturgical action.” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy).

That “so long as” limitation was widely interpreted by pastors and music directors.

With Mass now celebrated in the vernacular (English) came a deluge of new hymns and settings for the principal Mass parts. In the folk music era it was only reasonable some folk songs would find their way into the Mass...

Michael, Row the Boat Ashore, Kumbaya, My Lord and others on the same music board with Kyrie Eleison and Agnus Dei.

Things were perceived, not just in the United States, to be getting a tad out of control. In 1967 the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship issued Musicam Sacram, an Instruction on Music in the Liturgy.

It was an attempt to bring order to the varied interpretations of the Council Degree. Sacred music is understood (to be) that which, being created for the celebration of divine worship, is endowed with a certain holy sincerity of form.

The document also offered this: “One cannot find anything more religious and more joyful in sacred celebrations than a whole congregation expressing its faith and devotion in song. Therefore the active participation of the whole people, which is shown in singing, is to be carefully promoted.”

So how were pastors and music director supposed to keep the music at Mass relevant and current so people would participate but keep the music sacred?

Now 50 years after the publication of Musicam Sacram the Church is revisiting the question, “what is sacred music?”

In early March The Congregation for Catholic Education and the Pontifical Council for Culture convened an international conference in Rome on the theme: Music and the Church: cult and culture fifty years after Musicam Sacram.

Rebecca “Becky” Rose, Musical Director of St. Cyril Church in Alexandria Bay attended the conference.

“I am a Catholic who is musically trained,” Mrs. Rose said. “Being present to play or direct the choir at Mass on Saturday and Sunday is not a concert, it is not a performance. It is not about the money or the gig; it is about bringing the Word of God to the people through music.

Indeed one of the impressions Rose took from her time at the conference is the notion that too many musical directors in our parishes today are not liturgically prepared. They are fine musicians; singers and instrumentalists, but they do not understand the Mass.

“Sacred music must be an expression of God’s Word,” she said. “Singing the Word of God opens our minds and spirit.

“The choir, the cantor are instruments of piety and prayer,” she said. “It is their job to animate the assembly, to fuel the faithful to pray and participate in the liturgy.”

Conference participants were presented numerous papers during the conference laying out the issues that exist today.

Coinciding with the conference and the anniversary of Musicam Sacram, 200 musicians, pastors and scholars published a declaration Cantate Domino canticum novum (Psalm 96: Sing to the Lord a new song).

In it the authors call on the Church to:

• reaffirm the musical heritage of the Roman rite: Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony;
• give children an exposure to the beauty of true musical art;
• promote the professional training of lay church musicians;
• insist on high standards for music in cathedrals and basilicas;
• encourage every parish to offer at least one fully sung Mass every Sunday;
• provide musical training for the clergy to enable them to sing their part of the liturgy; and
• educate liturgists in the musical tradition of the Church.

Becky Rose referred to the “call to action” during our interview. Referring to her notes she quoted one presenter:

“Music is the choreography that accompanies creation. All human beings can sing,” said Cardinal Gian-franco Ravasi an Italian prelate who currently serves as President of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Rose agrees and adds, “When everyone is singing at Mass there is a bond; it is a glue that binds our community together.”

At least two more sessions are scheduled in Rome to celebrate the anniversary of the Sacred Music document. Becky Rose hopes to attend. The dialogue and ultimate report of the conference “will be big” she said as it helps to direct the future of the Church’s new songs to the Lord.
Gabriel Project volunteers from St. Lawrence/St. Patrick’s Parishes, in North Lawrence and Brasher Falls, recently held their Spring Clothing Exchange where 20+ families were outfitted with new & gently used clothes. These families had full access to the Gabriel Room where they could also choose strollers, high chairs and “pack & play” cribs. The Confirmation students offer great assistance in the set-up and service of the day’s events. In the calendar year of 2016, this Gabriel Project helped more than 75 families with cribs, diapers, wipes and clothing. Gabriel Project Angels include, pictured above left, are Nancy Harris-Hammill, Kathy Kirschner, Claire LaShomb, Annemarie Adams, Lisa Sweeney, Sharon Burl, Donna Steenberg (coordinator), Denise Trim, Adele Finazzo, Elaine Poquette and Judy Austin. Confirmation students/helpers, pictured above right are Lacey Law, Kayle McCarthy, Chantelle McCarthy, Judy Austin (Faith Formation Confirmation Instructor), Matt Smith, John Snyder, Evan Smith. Missing from photo: Carter Murtaugh, Gage Earle, Macaleb Earle & Hope Kilcollins.

Located in Saranac Lake, NY

Camp Guggenheim
Diocese of Ogdensburg

Hike. Swim. Praise.

What’s a typical week at Camp Guggenheim like? There’s Swimming, Hiking, Kayaking, Daily Liturgies, Canoeing, Rappelling, a Weekly Dance, Arts & Crafts, Campfires, and so much more!

Need more info?
Call the Office of Youth 315-393-2920 ext. 1411
or visit us online www.rcdony.org/camp

2017 Schedule
12-15 Year Olds:
Week 1: July 2-7
Week 2: July 9-14
Week 3: July 16-21
Week 4: July 23-28
Week 5: July 30-August 4

16-18 Year Olds:
Week 6: August 6-11

Camp Fees:
$300/wk
Youth Rally to feature widely known speaker

WATERTOWN - The annual diocese Youth Rally will be held on May 6 at Immaculate Heart Central School. The theme for the day is “You were meant to live for more.” This full-day event is open to students in grades 6-12 and will feature keynote speaker Paul J. Kim, an interactive park, workshops, and Mass with Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

About the keynoter
With more than a decade of speaking to youth and performing original music, Paul J. Kim has earned an international reputation as a dynamic motivational speaker with a highly entertaining, yet life-changing message. According to a testimonial on his website, “Paul’s ability to connect with any audience, while witnessing to Christ’s redeeming love, is a rare gift.” He has been a featured speaker on EWTN’s Life on the Rock and at the Steubenville Youth Conferences.

Aside from his speaking ability, Paul’s employs his musical talent – in beatboxing (vocal drumming), harmonies, and lyrics – to share his message of faith. He has released two music albums entitled “The World Sings” & “Run Fly Fall” (available now on iTunes & Amazon).

To register
The cost for the Youth Rally is $30 per youth. 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/rally.

Further information is available from Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director, at kdonnelly@rcdony.org

Vocation society seeks members
D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society), a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the diocese is seeking new members.

D.O.V.S meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage. Further information is available from Connie at 315-265-2762 or Cathy at the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920.

Welcome Spring!
Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

**Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal**

☐ Inside Diocese $27 ☐ Outside Diocese $30
I want to be a Patron: ☐ $35D ☐ $50D ☐ $100D ☐ $250
☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal ☐ Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ___ Zip ______________________
Parish ____________________________________________________________

Bishop’s Schedule
April 27 – 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. John the Baptist & Immaculate Conception, Keeseville, St. Augustine’s, Peru, Holy Name & St. Matthew’s, Ausable Forks at St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville

April 28 – 11 a.m., Priest Advisory Committee Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
6 p.m., Knights of Columbus Brasher Falls Council #2176 Priests Appreciation Dinner at the Shamrock Club in Brasher Falls

April 29 – 10:30 a.m., Council of Deacons Meeting in the Brzana Hall at St. Mary’s Cathedral 4 p.m., Confirmation for St. Alexander’s & St. Joseph’s, Morrisville, Church of the Assumption, Redford, St. Joseph’s, Dannemora at St. Alexander’s Church, Morrisonville

April 30 – 3 p.m., Confirmation for St. Mary’s, Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes, Schroon Lake at St. Mary’s Church in Ticonderoga

May 2 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Andre Bessette Parish at Notre Dame Church in Malone

May 3-4 - Deacon Convocation at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid

Environmental Stewardship
How does your garden grow? (part 2)
Last week some suggestions were shared on how to make eco-friendly garden choices that recognize that the earth is an interdependent ecosystem and the garden we plant is part of that community. Here are other possibilities to work with nature in a way that benefits the human community and the natural world as well.

Consider bordering your property with wildflowers. The Adirondack Museum sports a sign that says, “No Mow Zone Enjoy the Wildflowers.” To purchase wildflower seeds for our planting zone, check out www.wwervermontwildflowerfarm.com. Their packets contain only the seeds that grow in the region that you can designate when you order. They also provide directions on how to prepare and cultivate a wildflower garden.

When one looks at a field of wildflowers, it is a reminder that God is truly the Master Gardener. Converting your yard and gardens using the principles of naturalizing may seem like an overwhelming task, but remember the old inchworm adage, “Inch by Inch Life’s a Cinch…Yard by Yard it’s Awful Hard.” So, start in a small area and gradually expand by planting native plants and using other naturalizing practices. Your efforts will reflect the harmony of Creation that the Catechism teaches, “God wills the interdependence of creatures. The sun and the moon, the cedar and the little flower, the eagle and the sparrow…their countless diversities tell us that no creature is self-sufficient.”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 340)

If you are interested in learning more, there are many websites and books dealing with this topic such as Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy. In addition, several agencies, such as the Adirondack Park Agency, provide listings of native species. The Cornell Extension Service also provides many suggestions for eco-friendly gardening.

May your garden reflect the harmony of God’s creation!

Submitted by member of the Faith and Ecology Group
Pope Benedict celebrates birthday with Bavarian guests, beer
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- A bit of Bavaria, including German beer and pretzels, came to the Vatican to help celebrate retired Pope Benedict XVI’s 90th birthday. “Thank you for bringing Bavaria here,” he told his guests, commenting on the beauty of gathering together under a blue Roman sky with white clouds — colors that “recall the white and blue flag of Bavaria” — and how “it’s always the same sky” no matter where one finds oneself in the world. The Bavarian-born pope’s birthday fell on Easter Sunday, April 16, so a small informal party was held April 17 outside his residence, the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican gardens. Pope Francis visited his predecessor April 12, before the start of the Easter Triduum, to offer him birthday greetings. A German delegation was present, led by the minister president of Bavaria, Horst Seehofer, and including a group of men dressed in the traditional uniforms of the “Schutzen” with their dark green wool hats decorated with feathers, pins and sprigs of greenery.

How the church determines a true Marian apparition
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When it comes to Marian apparitions, the Catholic Church takes a prudent approach that focuses more on the message than the miracle. Supernatural phenomena, like the alleged miracle of the sun in Fatima, Portugal, nearly 100 years ago, are not the primary factors in determining an apparition is worthy of belief. In that particular case, the bishop of Leiria — where Fatima is located — deemed the apparitions, but not the miracle of the sun, were worthy of belief. His ruling came in 1930, more than a dozen years after Mary’s final apparition to Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto. More than 1,500 visions of Mary have been reported around the world, but in the past century, fewer than 20 cases have received church approval as worthy of belief. The Vatican’s “Norms regarding the manner of proceedings in the discernment of presumed apparitions or revelations” were approved by Pope Paul VI in 1978. An official English translation was released in 2011. Like with Fatima, responsibility for determining an apparition’s veracity lies with the local bishop, according to the norms established by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The pilgrimage will mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church. A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9. Francisco and Jacinta’s cause for canonization was stalled for decades due to a debate on whether non-martyred children have the capacity to understand heroic virtues at a young age. However, in 1979, St. John Paul II allowed their cause to proceed; he declared them venerable in 1989 and beatified them in 2000. The children’s cousin entered the Carmelites. Sister Lucia died in 2005 at the age of 97. The diocesan phase of her sainthood cause concluded in February and now is under study at the Vatican.

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will declare the sainthood of Blessed Jacinta Marto and Blessed Francisco Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Mary in Fatima, Portugal, during his visit to the site of the apparitions May 13.

The date was announced April 20 during an “ordinary public consistory,” a meeting of the pope, cardinals and prelates that formally ends the sainthood process.

At the same consistory, the pope set Oct. 15 as the date for the canonizations of two priests and two groups of martyrs, including Blessed Cristobal, Blessed Antonio and Blessed Juan — also known as the “Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala” — who were among the first native converts in Mexico. They were killed between 1527 and 1529 for refusing to renounce the faith and return to their people’s ancient traditions.

Pope Francis will preside over the canonization ceremony of the Fatima visionaries during his visit to Fatima May 12-13.

The pilgrimage will mark the 100th anniversary of the Marian apparitions, which began May 13, 1917, when 9-year-old Francisco and 7-year-old Jacinta, along with their cousin Lucia dos Santos, reported seeing the Virgin Mary. The apparitions continued once a month until Oct. 13, 1917, and later were declared worthy of belief by the Catholic Church. A year after the apparitions, both of the Marto children became ill during an influenza epidemic that plagued Europe. Francisco died April 4, 1919, at the age of 10, while Jacinta succumbed to her illness Feb. 20, 1920, at the age of 9. Francisco and Jacinta’s cause for canonization was stalled for decades due to a debate on whether non-martyred children have the capacity to understand heroic virtues at a young age. However, in 1979, St. John Paul II

Plattsburgh Wholesale Homes
We process all VA loans

New or Used Manufactured and Modular Homes
Located on 7109 State Route 9
Exit 39 of the Northway, across from the city beach of Plattsburgh
518-563-1100 • www.pwmh.com
WE ARE OPEN ON SUNDAYS 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
YOUR BEST DEAL CAN BE FOUND ON SUNDAY!!
Special: 28x48 used Double. Excellent Condition. $49,900 Delivery and Setup, no tax.
Stories open our eyes.... heal our hurts

The Sundays and weekdays after Easter provide some of the most exciting stories to be found in the New Testament.

They tell us how the unexpected appearances of Jesus after His Resurrection changed the doubts and fears of the apostles into rock-like faith in him.

After Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came in power upon that same building in which Jesus had changed bread and wine into His body and blood, those same apostles were transfigured.

Without hesitation, they courageously spent the rest of their lives even to martyrdom, fulfilling the Mission Jesus had given them.

This Sunday’s first reading is from a sermon of Peter’s given on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit had come upon him.

No longer was Peter afraid to identify himself publicly as a follower.

Now, he raises his voice fearlessly before a vast crowd to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He skillfully connects the prophecies of the Old Testament with the teaching and deeds of Jesus to convince his hearers He is indeed the Son of God. We are told that, because of Peter’s preaching, over three thousand were baptized that day!

As Jesus had transformed the apostles, so will He change the hearts of all who believe.

In the second reading from a letter of St. Peter, we have a sample of the catechesis of the early Church. Peter urges all who believe that they are now a part of Christ, redeemed by His Precious Blood to conduct themselves with joy and courage.

In the Gospel, we hear a dramatic story. It is about Jesus, who in the guise of a stranger, joins two very discouraged disciples traveling to the little village of Emmaus.

Without a clue as to what the events of the past few days really mean, they narrate the facts to the Stranger.

After listening patiently, He says to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the Prophets spoke. Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?”

Then he opens their hearts and minds to understand. Finally, he enters an Inn to have a meal with them. Astonished, they recognize Him in the breaking of bread (the Eucharist), even as He vanishes from their sight.

Now full of joy, they run back to Jerusalem to tell the others. Through these stories today, we can have our own eyes opened and our own hurts healed. May these days after Easter help to strengthen our faith and hope as it did the Apostles.

Showing support for... affordable education

This is the fourth in a series of articles on issues of Catholic social teaching as explained by the New York State Catholic Conference. The conference was founded to translate Catholic teachings into action in the public policy arena.

These teachings, which are centered on the innate dignity of every human person made in the image and likeness of God, form the basis of the Conference’s legislative agenda.

This week’s issue is “Support the Education Affordability Act to help families, wherever their children attend school.”

Background

The Catholic Conference advocates for legislation that would establish tax credits to support increased individual and corporate donations to scholarship granting organizations, as well as to the public school sector; personal tax credits for families’ education expenses, including tuition; and teacher tax credits for their out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies.

Messages

• Families who choose a Catholic school for their children shoulder a dual burden of paying taxes to support children in public schools while paying tuition to support their own children’s education.
• Low- and middle-income families continue to be denied access to the same quality schools for their children as are available to more affluent families. Until some form of financial assistance is provided directly to these families, their children will continue to be denied equal educational and economic opportunity.
• The Education Affordability Act proposal would encourage increased business and individual donations to scholarship organizations and to the public school sector; provide a personal income tax credit directly to families for their tuition expenses; and a personal income tax credit for teachers to offset out-of-pocket expenses for classroom supplies.
• The Education Affordability Act would help support the education of all children regardless of where they attend school and would help to continue to save taxpayers billions of dollars every year by helping give parents the opportunity to enroll their children in religious and independent schools.

• Similar programs have been enacted in 26 states and the District of Columbia with great success for both the public and non-public school sectors. Some of these programs date back 30 years.
• Tuition Assistance Programs have long-existed at the college level but there is no such program for parents struggling with tuition at the elementary and secondary level.
• Several U.S. Supreme Court decisions have upheld the constitutionality of a variety of school choice initiatives, including education tax credits.

Order your 2017 Diocesan Directory

The Official 2017 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at www.northcountrycatholic.org or call our office at 315-608-7556 to order yours today!

$15.00 each

Support And Pray For Vocations

Make Your Voice Heard

Visit nycatholic.org
Sign up for Catholic Action Network
ARCHBISHOP SHEEN, who is a saint and who spread the Gospel to the world, was also a saint who knew and greatly admired people and their hard-earned pensions.

In 1950, when he was bishop of Peoria, Archbishop Sheen was known and greatly admired by the people of the Diocese of Peoria. Archbishop Sheen was a saint who knew and greatly admired people and their hard-earned pensions.

As the aspiring thieves get tips from experienced criminal Albert Gardner (Arkin), Albert finds romance with Annie (Ann-Margret), a checkout lady at his local grocery store. The prematurely immature nature of their relationship becomes a source of admiration and envy for Joe and Willie.

The film contains a frivolous treatment of crime, including drug use, a couple of brief premarital bedroom scenes, a scatological sight gag, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, some vulgar sexual references, a single instance of rough language and considerable crude and crass talk.

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.
CATHOLIC RADIO GUEST
Lake Placid — Catholic Radio 98.3 FM will feature an interview with Frederick Marks, a Lake Placid summer resident, about his new book “Confessions of a Catholic Street Evangelist.”
Schedule: April 29 at 7:30 p.m. and April 30 at 1:30 p.m.
Features: Dr. Marks will be the guest on the Dr. Maura Show, hosted by Maura Fehlner who, with her husband John, owns the Catholic Radio station.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Lake Placid — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.
Dates: May 2 and May 9
Time: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Features: Both mornings are required.
Contact: Training Program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. Contact Jenn Grisi by calling 523-5583 or by e-mail at jgrisi@adkmercy.org.

SPRING SALE
Peru — St. Vincent’s Thrift Store will be having its Annual Spring Sale.
Schedule: April 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and April 29 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY
Plattsburgh — The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan order will meet
Date: May 1
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: St. John’s Holy Family Chapel
Features: Inquiries welcome. Contact Jeff at 315-766-7736 for information.

ERCLMA RETREAT AND WORKSHOP
Plattsburgh — The Eastern Region Clergy Lay Ministries Association (ERCLMA) is sponsoring a Spring Retreat/Workshop.
Date: April 29
Cost: $10
Contact: Register on-line at rcdony.org To locate the registration page, go to “Offices”, then “Formation for Ministry”. On the lower left part of the page is registration link for the Spring Event.

SETON GALA
Plattsburgh — Mark your calendars for the Seton Roaring Twenties Gala.

COLUMBUS DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Morristown — A Columbus Day golf tournament is set for October 9 at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Non-resident cost is $25, with $5 going to the St. Lawrence Fund. For more information, contact Mike Vlait at RPI.

HOPE AND GRACE CONFERENCE
Lake Placid — The St. Lawrence Conference is now open.
Date: November 17-19
Cost: $250
Features: The conference features a keynote speaker, Michael Gaitley, MIC, who will present on the subject of “Audaciously Faithful.”
Contact: Register online at rcdony.org/events.

MINISTRY FAIR
Clayton — The Ministry Fair is scheduled for April 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and April 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Place: Clayton Town Hall
Features: Ministry Fair is open to anyone interested in learning about different ways they can serve in the community.
Contact: Contact the Clayton Chamber of Commerce for more information.

LEWIS
DIVINE MERCY
Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of May will be held.
Date: May 7
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: At St. Hedwig’s Church
Features: Devotions will be held every month, beginning on May 7. The month of May will be dedicated to St. Joseph.

ST. LAWRENCE
ITALIAN FEST
Gouverneur — St. Joseph School is holding an Italian Festival and school open house.
Date: May 4
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph School
Features: Chefs Joe and Carolyn Pistoletti will prepare a spaghetti dinner, take-out available, also featured will be raffles, games, face painting, and dessert sale.
Prices: Adults, $10; Children under 12 and under, $5; under five, free.

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION
Saranac Lake — Registration for Camp Guggenheim is now open.
Dates: First Week is July 1-7
Cost: $300
Features: Camp Guggenheim is a week-long day camp located on the shores of Lake Placid. Campers will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including swimming, boating, hiking, and arts and crafts.
Contact: For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or vladon@rcdony.org or visit camp website: rcdony.org/camp/guggy
Celebrating new life

(Father George Maroun, former director of the Society for the Propagation and a giant in the Mission World, died last June. In 2004, he wrote this column for the North Country Catholic. Let’s revisit some of his inspirational words.)

The time within the Easter season is truly a time of celebrating “new life” — our new life is Jesus, the Risen Christ. During this Easter season, the Good News we proclaim is that Jesus is risen and his disciples — those who believed — experienced his presence among them. We can observe in all four gospels much similarity in the description of the suffering and death of Jesus. Whereas the stories of the resurrection, the appearance of the Risen Jesus, are unique to the experience of the faith communities that tell the account.

In Chapter 24 of Luke’s Gospel, we see depicted the very human role of the apostles. First they recount what happened on the road to Emmaus and how they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Yet when Jesus appears in their midst there is panic and fright, because they believed they are seeing a ghost. Jesus proves his presence to them by saying, “Look at my hands and feet; it is really I.” Even after touching him, they are still incredulous. Jesus reminds them of the words he had spoken earlier concerning his death and resurrection. He challenges them to believe that the living Christ, present before them, will empower them to actively witness to others.

As we walk in faith we, too, experience Jesus. Often we are frightened and disturbed; yet because of a faith community, we come to believe and experience the “new life” that comes out of suffering and even death. A woman suffering from cancer struggled with the many aspects of her illness. In her final days, she had become a person of deep peace. There was never a miracle of healing but there was a miracle of “new life.” Many people would visit her and, touched by her witness of faith, would leave experiencing their own “new life” in a different way. For those who believe, her suffering made visible the presence of the Risen Christ.

Suffering, weakness, and pain often lead to “new life.” In the Acts of the Apostles, Peter reprimands the people for their ignorance and sin which were responsible for the death of Jesus. At the same time, he proclaims that God brings everything to fulfillment and if we turn to God our sins are wiped away. Peter challenges the people to, “Reform their lives.” Reform means to change — to turn around. This change means to let God into your life and to accept God’s love that is there for you in all human situations.

The Easter season is a time to rejoice in the “new life” that is ours in Jesus. Like the disciples in the gospel, we too will experience Jesus when we are with others in community. Like the disciples, we will not always recognize his presence even when we are touched.

Let us then, once more, open our hearts and our eyes to the mystery — the miracle of “new life” around us. We know of the suffering and death. Now, we are witnesses to the resurrection!
Seven adults entered into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Ticonderoga. In front, from left are Evan Gladding, Michelle Hood, Chauna Molina, Shannon Barber and St. Joseph Sister Suanne Johnson, catechist; middle, Christopher Berror, Hilary Primo and Jada Beaudette; and back, Father Kevin McEwan, pastor.

The middle school students of Augustinian Academy, Carthage, portrayed the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. Pictured are Jaden Thesier, Gary Clarkson, Thomas Kennedy and, kneeling, Harrison Scott and Anna Scott.

Deacon James W. Chaufy and Father Lawrence E. Marullo are ready for the celebration of Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Constableville. Father Marullo and Deacon Chaufy are responsible for four churches: St. Martin’s in Port Leyden, St. John’s in Lyons Falls, St. Mary’s in Constableville and St. Mary’s Nativity in West Leyden.

The Woodcock family of Morristown took part in the Easter Vigil Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church. Chris and Jessica Woodcock are shown with their children, altar servers, Isabelle and Aaron, as well as Cael and Lauren.