‘God dreams big’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God is right by the side of each person on earth, seeing each individual’s pain and wanting to bring hope and joy, Pope Francis said.

“He calls us by name and tells us, ‘Rise up, stop weeping, because I have come to free you,’” the pope said May 17 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope continued his series of talks on Christian hope by looking at the Gospel of John’s account of St. Mary Magdalene visiting Jesus’ tomb.

Mary Magdalene was the first to go to the tomb after his burial, the pope said, pointing out that the same love and loyalty can be seen today in the many women who head to the cemetery, visiting their dearly departed for years, showing how not even death can break the bonds of love.

In Mary Magdalene’s case, however, she experienced not only the sadness of Christ’s death, but also the discovery that his body had disappeared, Pope Francis said.

AT THE YOUTH RALLY

Five girls from St. Mary’s Parish in Ticonderoga are shown with keynote speaker Paul Kim at the 2017 Youth Rally held May 7 at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. From left are Aurelia Leerkes, Riley Abare, Kathryn Moran, Paul J. Kim, Raelyn King and Bayleigh Clark. See page four and five for full coverage.

Bishop names new vicar

Father Christopher Carrara to replace Father James Seymour as episcopal vicar for pastoral personnel

ORDINATION SET FOR SATURDAY

Bishop LaValley will ordained Deacon Michael J. Jablonski to the priesthood Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

A native of the Diocese of Albany, Deacon Jablonski has been studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus Ohio.

He was ordained a deacon May 28, 2016 at St. John’s Church in Plattsburgh and has served as a deacon in Columbus, Ohio, for the past year.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

JOURNEY OF FAITH: Deacon candidate reflects on his vocation... pages 8-9
Compelling reasons to say thanks!

This week's NCC includes a feature that's rare in the pages of this diocesan newspaper: a centerfold filled with the story of just one person.

As my writers know, I'm pretty strict about an 800-word limit for articles in the paper. This week I broke my own rules.

The Journey of Faith story of Tom Yousey of Lowville was originally submitted for the NCC's Called to Holiness vocation issue, published last week.

Yousey, who is scheduled to be ordained a permanent deacon in the fall, answered all the questions I sent to him and also included a talk he had given in his parish during Lent.

I started reading his story and couldn't stop.

If any readers wondered why last week's vocation issue didn't include personal reflections from a deacon, this is the reason. I decided to save Yousey's compelling story — from his first encounter with a bishop (as a Methodist teenager) to his upcoming encounter with a bishop in ordination — for an issue with a little more space.

There still wasn't room to print every story he shared (you'll have to ask him yourself about his efforts to avoid kissing that first bishop's ring) but what you'll read should give every Catholic hope.

Yousey's journey of faith is unique of course, but, in so many ways it is typical of the men who will be ordained this year as priest and deacons, and of the scores who will be commissioned for service as lay ministers in their parishes.

The depth of faith, the commitment to prayer and service, the courage to reach beyond the safety of their family circles: this is what we'd find in the faith stories of each and every one of them.

How blessed we are to have Tom Yousey, Deacon Michael Jablonski and every future deacon and priest in our midst.

And, how blessed we will be to have newly commissioned lay ministers. We know that the gifts they will bring to the Church will be a further witness to God's abiding love for our diocese.

Life in the Church in the North Country may not be perfect; the list of pastoral concerns is extensive but there is so much for which we can be thankful.

This Saturday, our diocese will welcome Deacon Jablonski as our newest priest.

At the end of June, we'll see new lay ministers and, in October, some brand new deacons. So far, 2017 is giving us plenty of reasons to say thanks!

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

Ever grateful for my life as a priest

Editor's note: This column is reprinted from a May 27, 2015, issue of the North Country Catholic at the request of Father Muench who is recovering from appendicitis.

My anniversary of my ordination as a priest is during this month of May. Actually, I know that many priests were ordained during the month of May. The seminary schedule each year ends classes in the spring so, for most dioceses, this means ordination follows in May or June.

I do remember most of the details of the day of my ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. I suspect that most of you remember the events of your wedding day. I also remember the various emotions that hit me that day — even after all of these years.

I — like many other priests — prepared for ordination day with a week of retreat. Over many years in the seminary, I had read a great deal about the priesthood of Jesus Christ. I had heard many priests talk about their lives as a priest and I had meditated often on the Gospels and discovered Jesus' message to his apostles.

That final retreat became a time to consider a life time of dedication as a Catholic priest.

The ordination ceremony was a celebration for me, for all of my classmates that day and for the Church.

That celebration would continue with my First Mass that I celebrated at my own home parish, Holy Cross Church in Dewitt.

There were so many details that occupied me and there were so many people, family and friends, who occupied my attention.

So, there I was — facing a lifetime decision with all sorts of other things going on.

Sometimes I am asked if I ever thought on that day of my ordination that I should decide not to go on, to raise my hand and say this is not for me, I am out of here.

Thinking back all these years, I don't think I thought of anything other than "I was ready." I truly longed to be a priest and couldn't wait for the moment when the Bishop's hands touched my head.

Now I must admit that there were certainly times over the years that I thought I had had enough, that I wasn't doing very well and I really should not continue in this ministry.

However, the Lord was good to me and the Holy Spirit continued to enliven my life and priesthood with strength, with peaceful help and with confidence that this is where God wanted me to be.

So, I look back with gratitude. The Lord has blessed my life with unique opportunities to use the gifts that are mine. I know only too well, that it was the Lord's action in my life.

I have had the privilege of offering the Holy Mass many times. I am constantly reminded by the Lord of the sacredness of the Holy Eucharist; there is something very sacred at those moments when I am at the altar.

I have come to recognize Jesus' great love in giving us, his people, this Blessed Eucharist. I understand his desire to be present in our lives in such a wonderful way with his people. And, I have seen his love for me, allowing me to celebrate this Eucharist often and to minister to his people in so many wonderful ways.

So, another anniversary, another time to realize that another year has gone by in my journey as a priest. I suppose that I really could tell you of a few assignments over the years. I can remember so many of the people I was privileged to work with, to help, to know I remember all those many families I was allowed to be part of and from whom I learned so much about life.

As I get older, my gratitude grows and I must admit, my hopes do also. I have hopes that there will be a few more opportunities left for me to help and to accomplish something to make my life better and my world a better place.

I thank Jesus for the gift of these opportunities to bring his message and love to his people. Thank you, Lord, for guiding me and guarding me and leading me.
Dcn. Jablonski to be ordained a priest Saturday

OGDENSBURG - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the priestly ordination of Deacon Michael J. Jablonski Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral.

A native of Johnsville, N.Y. in Montgomery County, Deacon Jablonski was born Feb. 26, 1981, the son of Joseph and Rachel Jablonski. He grew up on the family dairy farm.

He graduated from high school in 1999 from Oppenheim-Ephraim Central School and earned an associate's degree in social sciences from Herkimer County Community College, a bachelor's degree in history from Utica College of Syracuse University and a master's degree in education from the Francis Drake University of Steubenville, Ohio before beginning studies for the priesthood.

He graduated this month from the Pontifical College Josephinum with a master's of divinity degree.

Bishop LaValley ordained Deacon Jablonski to the diaconate May 28, 2016 at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh. He has served as a deacon at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, from August 2016 to April of this year.

His first assignment as a priest will be as parochial vicar of the Church of the Sacred Heart and St. Lawrence and to St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Massena, effective June 21.

Fr. Carrara is named vicar for pastoral personnel

Bishop LaValley has announced that Father James W. Seymour will step away from his position of Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel this Fall. Father Seymour has held this position for the past 12 years.

"I am most grateful to Father Seymour for his competent and loving service as Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel," said Bishop LaValley. "Father Jay wants to return to full time parish ministry, which is understandable since he is a pastor at heart."

The bishop announced that Father Christopher C. Carrara, pastor in Lowville will become Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel this Fall.

In making the announcement Bishop LaValley said, "Father Carrara is an experienced and wise pastor who has the skills to handle the important and diverse responsibilities of this position. I am grateful for his willingness to accept this challenging ministry."

The change will not become effective until later this Fall, after a transition period that will enable Father Carrara to work with Father Seymour to learn the position.

"Father Seymour and Father Carrara will work together in the coming months to give Father Carrara the opportunity to learn the position and benefit from the wisdom and experience of Father Jay," said Bishop LaValley.

"This position entails a variety of duties and responsibilities and there is much to learn," he said.

"No matter what assignment Father Jay Seymour holds, he will always be an effective, loving pastor of souls and a strong, positive influence in our diocese," said Bishop LaValley.

"I know he will prepare Father Carrara well for this position so that he can continue the top notch leadership and service we received from Father Jay," he said.
Diocesan Youth Rally held May 7 at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown

‘You Were Meant to Live For More’

By Kelly Donnelly
Diocesan director of youth ministry

WATERTOWN — Young people from across the diocese gathered at Immaculate Heart Central School May 7 for the annual Youth Rally.

The theme for the day was “You Were Meant to Live for More,” and the youth in attendance shared in a day of prayer and fellowship, and left the day inspired to live for more.

The moving keynote presenter, Paul J. Kim, gave an excellent presentation. His balance of humor, personal testimony, beatboxing (and getting some youth volunteers to participate in beatboxing), and a beautiful guided meditation was truly inspirational.

The day continued with a break for lunch and an opportunity for the youth to visit the interactive park, exhibits, and take part in Adoration and confession.

A variety of exhibitors were present with materials and information for the youth. There were also activities taking place during this time, such as 3-D 4-Square and string art.

In the afternoon, participants were able to attend two workshops, including sessions on prayer, vocations, caring for creation, Theology of the Body, helping peers in crisis, and a question and answer with Paul Kim.

The day concluded with small group discussions and prayer, and Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley.

Kathryn Moran, of Ticonderoga, said, “What I liked about the Youth Rally was the speaker who talked all about God and how He’s always there. Another thing I liked about the youth rally were all the fun activities.”

Shacoria Jackson, from Gouverneur stated, “I don’t normally talk about my religion, but I think this youth rally was the best one I’ve been to yet. It really made me look at life differently, open my heart fully to the Lord, and learn that I’m meant to live for more.”

From start to finish, youth enjoyed the day and were able to come together with peers from across the diocese to grow in the faith.

A card of thanks for the Youth Rally

Dear Bishop LaValley, Kelly Donnelly and the Youth Rally Committee,

We at St. Mary’s school in Ticonderoga would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with the Youth Rally on May 6. What a wonderful chance for St. Mary’s students to connect with other students from across the diocese and to hear such a dynamic speaker as Paul J. Kim. He had the students beatboxing, laughing, thinking and praying all within one presentation. His message of building a relationship with Christ by opening the door and letting him in was so relevant for all ages, including the chaperones!

We know a program such as this takes a lot of work and we’d like to thank all those involved: Bishop LaValley and the Diocese of Ogdensburg for providing the funds to have programs such as this Rally, Kelly Donnelly and the planning committee including Michelle Watkins, Sharon Turner, Jen Campbell, Lisa Parsons, and Seth Conklin, for organizing this event and Lisa Parsons for the use of the High school and the beautifully set up altar for our Mass, and for all of the people that helped and worked at the stands, during lunch and behind the scenes.

Seeing the reaction of my 6th graders and hearing their comments afterward, I can tell you your efforts paid off.

We already can’t wait until next year!

Sister Suanne Johnson, SSJ

Here are some of their reactions in their own words:

At the Youth Rally, there was this guy named Paul J. Kim and he was really funny. He was serious too, whenever he started talking about God. I learned at Mass that when Bishop LaValley was younger he went to castles and one castle he went to had a throne. He said he wanted to sit on the throne so he sneaked under the rope and sat on the throne but later he got in trouble. I thought it was funny that he sneaked into a castle to sit on a throne!

Camryn Parrish

I learned at the Youth Rally how to make the string finger rosary. Now I’m going to make a bunch of finger rosaries at home.

Skylar Barber

What I learned at the Youth Rally is that sheep will only listen to a farmer’s voice. This relates to Jesus in a way because we don’t want to follow a stranger’s voice.

Bayleigh Clark

A guy named Paul J. Kim talked to us at the beginning of the Youth Rally. He did beatboxing, talked about his faith, why faith is good and how some people just don’t care and why, for instance, people get bullied. He was also making fun of the girls when they are getting ready to cry and they wave their hand in front of their face. He also said he used to go to church for the girls and donuts. He was hilarious. Overall the Youth Rally was amazing!

Riley Abare

One thing that I learned at the Youth Rally is what God wants us to do which is, while we grow up, God starts telling us what he wants us to be.

Kennedy McKeown

When we went to the Youth Rally, I learned about vocations and how to pray for my vocation. I also learned that there are different ways to pray from Paul J. Kim. At the end of his session he did a prayer that everyone could actually see God on the mountain and it was like a story. I really loved it.

Aubrey Whitford

At the Youth Rally, I learned that your heart has a door and there is only one handle on the inside so only you can let God in. Paul J. Kim, our keynote speaker, talked about this in his speech. Paul said it is hard to let God in but you work through it.

Raelyn King

When my class went to the Youth Rally, I learned about a quote from St. Catherine of Siena that says, “Be who God meant you to be and you will see the world on fire.” This states if you do what God wants you to do and if you be who God wants you to be, you will be the best you. I also like this quote because it relates to me because I know what I want to be but I don’t know if it is what God wants me to be so I’m going to wait to get my call.

Aurelia Leerkes
A SPECIAL DAY FOR DIOCESAN TEENS MAY 7 IN WATERTOWN

THE YOUTH RALLY!

PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Among the young people who took part in the 2017 diocesan Youth Rally held May 7 at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown were these three from St. James Parish in Carthage. From left are Juliet Tavernier, ninth grade; Katherine Richards, seventh grade; and Gary Clarkson, eighth grade.

Maureen Pierce, Heuvelton, reads from the Scriptures at the Youth Rally Mass.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley spent the day with the young people at the Youth Rally and presided at the closing Mass. Deacon Henry Leader of Gouverneur assisted.

Kelly Donnelly, diocesan director of youth ministry, chats with Megan Stark who volunteers in youth ministry in Malone.

Joey Izzo of Lake Placid and Michelle Watkins of Croghan, both longtime Guggenheim staff members, are pictured at the Youth Rally’s interactive park.

Hope Leader and Gracie Manning came to the Youth Rally from St. James Parish in Gouverneur.
Rosary makers honor Mary

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

This month marks the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s 1917 appearances to three young children in Fatima, Portugal. There the Blessed Mother asked the faithful to do penance in reparation for sin, to pray the Rosary daily, and to promote devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1949, in Louisville Kentucky, Xaverian Brother Sylvan Mattingly responded to those requests by teaching children how to make Rosaries for overseas missions, an effort which grew quickly and became known as Our Lady’s Rosary Makers (olrm.org).

Through their bimonthly newsletter, Our Lady’s Messenger, the apostolate connects members with organizations requesting rosaries—members purchase supplies, make the rosaries, and ship them at their own expense to the destination of their choice.

Our Lady’s Rosary Makers, currently 15,000, thus offer their time, talent, and treasure to send rosaries—important symbols of the faith and aids to prayer—wherever they are needed.

To date, members of this apostolate have distributed more than 200 million rosaries free of charge to missions, prisons, hospitals, religious education programs, and military installations throughout the country and around the world.

Among those involved in this ministry is Linda Jock of Bombay. Who recently completed 300 rosaries destined for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and a mission in South Carolina. A parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls, Mrs. Jock is a member of Our Lady’s Rosary Makers and has created rosaries for over 30 years.

Linda Jock of Bombay holds 300 rosaries she recently completed; they are destined for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland and a mission in South Carolina. A parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls, Mrs. Jock has made rosaries for the last 30 years. An active member of Our Lady’s Rosary Makers, she works tirelessly to share with others her own devotion to the Blessed Mother.

CHWC at Seton

PLATTSBURGH — Registration is still open for the Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) session to be held at Seton Catholic Central School June 25-33.

The week-long service camp is open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2017) and college students.

The mission is to inspire young people to live as disciples of Christ through serving others and to foster the Catholic faith of each participant.

During the week, campers will volunteer at various sites throughout the Plattsburgh area during the day and participate in fun, faith-building programs in the evening. Daily Mass, Adoration, Penance and prayer nourish participants for their work in the community.

Father Bryan Stitt, parochial vicar in Rouses Point and Champlain, will be pastor for the week.

The cost is $375 per person, which includes food, lodging, transportation to the work sites and t-shirts.

Registration may be made through Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786. Additional information about CHWC can be found at www.heartworkcamp.com.

Bishop’s Schedule

May 25 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Patrick’s, St. Anthony’s and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Watertown at St. Patrick’s Church

May 27 – 11 a.m., Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Mr. Michael J. Jablonski at St. Mary’s Cathedral
4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg

May 28 – 12 p.m., 50th Annual St. Mary’s Memorial Day Parade in Champlain

May 29 – 2 p.m., Memorial Day Ceremonies in Inlet

May 30 – 7 p.m., Confirmation for Immaculate Conception, Brownville and St. Andrew’s, Sackets Harbor at Immaculate Conception Church

May 31 – 7 p.m., Confirmation for St. Edmund’s, Ellenburg and St. Bernard’s, Lyon Mountain at St. Edmmond’s Church

Environmental Stewardship

Rising Sea Levels

As the climates of the planet have changed over the past century and a half, many regions have experienced significant warming, especially near the poles. Along with changing weather patterns which influence all forms of life, our actions of burning fossil fuels have contributed greatly to the erosion of the surfaces of most glaciers which has added substantial amounts of fresh water to the oceans.

Coupied with the expansion of water as it warms, sea level has already risen approximately 8 inches over the past 14 decades. Scientists that have monitored this situation have also noted that the rate at which the oceans are rising is accelerating at an alarming pace, as estimates range from an increase of 2 to 6 feet over the next 8 decades.

This means that a baby born in 2017 could witness the vanishing of the present day coastline across the planet, unless some drastic action is taken to curtail carbon emissions.

40% of the population of our nation is located in areas along the coast and would be at risk of being devastated by flooding by the turn of the next century. Scientists that study climate and weather have also noted that as the oceans warm, they are better able to fuel more intense coastal storms which bring tidal surges that can further exacerbate the problem of shoreline flooding.

The Holy Father has urged Catholics to adopt a more simple lifestyle. While this has many spiritual benefits, it also can reduce an individual’s carbon footprint and help limit the many problems of climate change. Driving smaller, more fuel efficient cars limits our consumption of oil, and the pollution that these vehicles emit to the atmosphere.

Turn down the thermostat in winter, especially at night, and during the day if no one is at home, and insure that your home is as well insulated as it can be.

Even your selection of food can have an impact on your carbon footprint. Purchasing local products from the store saves in transportation costs and reducing the role of meat in your diet can also help limit carbon emissions to the atmosphere.

Also, pray that our leaders recognize this problem, and will strive to develop global solutions.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920 , ext. 1340

Rest in Peace

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


May 26 – Rev. Thomas J. Kelleher, 1889; Rev. Steven H. Gratta, 2012


May 30 – Rev. J. Heliodore Valois, 1952

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions.

Upcoming sessions:
June 5 – 5 p.m., St. Mary’s School, Ticonderoga.

May 24, 2017
SUPPORT
THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL
STRENGTHENING the CHURCH AT HOME

COLLECTION TO BE HELD MAY 27 AND 28, 2017
From a Methodist upbringing to a Catholic marriage to RCIA to the diaconate

On a journey of faith

LOWVILLE—Thomas Yousey has worn many hats in his life—husband, father, teacher, mayor, foundation director and chaplain.

In October, he expects to add another when Bishop Terry R. LaValley ordains the St. Peter’s parishioner for service as a deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

In a talk for an ecumenical Lenten service for the women of Lowville this past April, Yousey shared the story of his journey to ordination.

Bishop’s message for a Methodist

Yousey opened his talk with a description of his encounter with the Bishop Thomas Donnellan in 1966 when, as a Methodist and high school senior, he played the timpani (kettle-drums) for a centennial celebration at St. Peter’s.

At the end of the Mass, Yousey said, “the bishop said something to me that sent me to prayer for the next few days: ‘You played that Mass so well; your sense of the music and the other musicians is unique for one in high school.

When the plaster started falling on our heads from the rolling sound of the drums, I had a thought: God has called you to ministry.” Yousey continued his story here:

A life with Linda

After high school, God placed Linda Erhardt in my path. Together we began a journey that lasted 44 years.

We discovered that we were two different people driven by three passions that were exactly the same: we cared deeply about children, particularly the children that our society seemed to “put aside.” Also, we cared deeply about family life (later to discover the beauty, strength and power of a life lived fully built from a sacramental marriage and God’s love.) And, we cared deeply about living a life guided by Christ’s example.

Our passions overwhelmed our differences so that after 44 years, they did not seem to matter. From the beginning of the relationship, I worshipped with Linda at her church, the Newman Center, Potsdam, while continuing to follow the teachings of my church, the Methodist Church.

We were married on June 13, 1970 at St. Peter’s Church, Utica. The priest, Father Lorenz, at the only meeting that we had with him before the ceremony, made two points to us that stayed with us for the next 44 years: “You are obviously two faithful people; now the work begins to make that faith one, together. And, “Remember, you are now entering into an intrafaith marriage, not interfaith. Keep Christ at the center of your marriage as each of your churches keeps Him at the center of their church lives.”

On my wedding day, Father Lorenz invited me to receive Holy Communion with Linda (yes, my “First Holy communion in 2004 was technically not my first time receiving the Eucharist) to begin our faith journey together.

That evening as we said our evening prayers together for the first time, I remember thanking God for his presence with us particularly at that moment in the wedding ceremony. I had experienced the power of the sacrament, knowing nothing about the teaching of the Church.

Hearing a whisper

For the next 34 years, the call to the ministry left my “radar screen” until Father Tim Soucy whispered in my ear... or did it?

My life as a husband, dad, educator and community leader became my ministry. I stopped attending my protestant church when my two children became significantly involved with Linda in the St. Peter’s parish community. By that time, Linda and I had become involved in Christian Family Movement and had accepted the Leader Couple role for our Pre-Canana team after about 10 years being members of the team.

It originally started with the team inviting us to participate because they needed a “token Protestant” in an intrafaith couple on the team. They asked us to talk about our faith and the “challenges” of living a “double-faith” life. We reframed that talk, like Father Lorenz had for us, describing how we lived an intrafaith life centered on Christ and how the “challenges” seemed to turn into “joys”.

Linda and I had been a part of a Marriage Enrichment Group for 30 years and we began to lead retreats. We also offered marriage enrichment programs in churches, literally all denominations.

Linda was the planner! I was the voice! Together we shared what we had learned studying our own relationship for 25+ years.

We shared what we wished we had learned sooner in our relationship. We urged couples to talk and to pray together. We emphasized how a Christ-centered family travels on a clearer, more loving path.

We shared with many different Catholic communities from Saranac Lake to Watertown and from Syracuse to Utica. Throughout it all, I began to question Linda on Catholic teaching. If I was going to be the voice, I needed to understand it better. It became clear to her, to us, that we had some learning to do—she just could not answer all my questions.

Throughout this time, I sensed the presence of Christ in our school life, our family life, and our family-teaching life. All of that nurtured my faith, but, to be honest, that faith still felt empty and alone.

Why Catholic?

Finally, after 30+ years of marriage, the opportunity came to truly begin to understand: Why Catholic? Linda and I committed to a Why Catholic group. Father Tim participated with us and three other couples in that group. He participated; he did not teach (except when we pressed him and the pressing often came from me).

God graced me through that Why Catholic group over three years in two ways: I began (only began) to sense the power of Catholic liturgy for bringing to me and renewing in me the presence of God in my life. And, I experienced the power of a small faith community building up the faith of the entire community while nurturing each individual’s faith.
Journey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I felt invited and welcomed like I truly belonged! In the last year of Why Catholic, a Jesuit from Philadelphia came to St. Peter’s to lead a Lenten Retreat speaking on the theme: the Mass.

Nothing has prepared me more for the diaconate than 44+ years growing into a ‘relationship of faith’ with my wife Linda.

My revelations that evening: Christ has been here all this while I sat with my wife and children and never opened my mind, heart and soul to invite Him in AND The Word of God is speaking to me throughout the Mass and I have never heard it AND what else have I been missing?

Linda’s work kept her away from the next two evening sessions. I moved my work aside; there was no place I needed to be more than there at that Lenten Retreat. By the end of the third evening, I heard His call to come into full communion with my Catholic brothers and sisters.

Faith journey of RCIA

Linda had never, even subtly, urged me to convert. But when I told what had happened, she beamed with joy. Immediately she asked to serve as my sponsor, of course. She attended each and every RCIA session with me for 14 months. I felt like I was starting over on an entirely new faith journey and like we were really traveling the same road in faith together for the first time.

Bea Ocompo led the RCIA team that prepared me for Holy Communion and Confirmation. At first, she spent considerable time after class helping me to truly understand the teachings of the church.

She discovered that, with my strong scripture background from Methodist and Mennonite Sunday Schools, we could explore the scriptures together, coming to a greater understanding.

Bea was not subtle; she often pointed out to me that, maybe, I should consider ministry, the diaconate.

For the last three years of her life, I served Bea, in the nursing home, as her extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, prayer companion, health care proxy, and power of attorney. I began to really think that God was calling me through Bea to the diaconate.

Formation for Ministry

During this time at the invitation of St. Peter’s pastor Father Chris Carrara, I started Formation for Ministry. I thought I was hearing God’s call and he suggested that Formation provided the perfect opportunity for discernment.

He strongly urged me to see this as a time for prayer and reflection, taking full advantage of the program.

What an experience! Formation required undertaking a new ministry. At the same time, our hospice chaplain requested that a co-chaplain be recruited. I heard this immediately because I sat on the board when his request was announced. When I heard it, I heard God’s call. My reaction: “Who me? Am I ready for this?”

I made an appointment with Father Carrara. I asked if he thought I was ready for this ministry. His response, “Just be the faithful person that you are and let God do the rest.” So I did.

I transitioned directly from Formation for Ministry to Formation for the Diaconate, along with three other men who had walked the Formation journey with me. By that point, I truly valued them as brothers walking this journey together.

A relationship of faith

At the same time, Linda was diagnosed with MDS, a blood disorder. The only cure: a bone marrow transplant.

Linda audited almost every Formation class with me (it was a long drive from Lowville to Ogdensburg and she “enjoyed” riding along).

Formation, together, helped us to finally build a “relationship of faith” as Father Lorenz had advised us. That “relationship of faith” lives on with God’s grace, even though Linda died on April 28, 2014 after a year-long fight with the final five months confined in isolation (with me) at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York City.

I had come to know the strength and power of faith through the Christ-led, Christ-fed people I met through hospice. Through Linda’s suffering and death, we experienced the same in a most powerful way.

Linda’s final days

After listening to the medical team and prayerfully seeking the help of God, we, my son, daughter and I, decided to end active treatment for Linda on Good Friday, 2014. Linda lived for another eight days peacefully on palliative care and with the love and support of a faithful, loving Dominican priest.

On the Monday after Easter, the parish across the street planned to end Mass with Benediction and Adoration. Father Jordan, the faith-filled priest who prayed with Linda each day for eight days, was standing by the door of the church as I rushed out before Benediction to be with Linda. His comment to me, “Christ is with Linda; we both know that. Should you be spending some time with him in thanksgiving for his grace and mercy?”

I experienced, that day, the grace of God that comes from the quiet of Adoration like I had never before or again. This was another discerning experience for a diaconal candidate right in the middle of pain and suffering.

The diaconate program had begun while Linda and I were in New York City. The instructor for my coursework at Wadhams supported me by allowing me to complete the course without attending the classes (with the help of another candidate’s wife who took notes for me). I had never met most of the men in the class until they appeared at Linda’s funeral. What a powerful statement of love, Christian love!

Faith-filled, humbling experience

The journey of “relationship faith” with Linda prepared me for the diaconate. Christ calls us to one body in faith; Linda and I learned what that means together with His guidance and the guidance of the ministers of the church. Nothing has prepared me more for the diaconate than 44+ years growing into a “relationship of faith” with her.

As I near the end of the Deacon Formation program, I often take just a few seconds away from my studies to sit back and smile at myself. What a faith-filled, humbling, challenging experience it has been and continues to be.

Faith-filled? I walk with God almost every moment of every day and night like I never did before.

Humbling? More than at any other time in my life, I matter to me less and less. The people around me and away from me matter more and more.

Challenging? After six years of formation, I still question if I am ready.

However, I find myself confidently fearful after living Father Chris Cararra’s advice, “Just be the faithful person that you are and let Christ do the rest.”
FACES OF FAITH

Fifteen children from Sacred Heart Church in Chazy received their First Holy Eucharist April 30. They also participated in the May Crowning. Pictured with Father Ted Crosby, pastor, and Noreen Barcomb, director of religious education, are, from left, Seraphina Pearo, Logan Clukey, Linzy Pheneuf, Allison Bochart, Jack Bell, Stephanie Barriere, Sophia Lynch, Marin Juneau, Paige Dumars, Luke Basso, Landon Duprey, Camilo Rodriguez, Zachary West, Sequoia McClesney and Jack McAuliffe.

On May 7 at Immaculate Conception Church, Brownville, Father J. Michael Gaffney blessed a statue of St. Jude donated by James and Lisa Montrois in honor and memory of their daughter Karen Montrois. Karen passed away Nov. 16, 2015 at the age of 49, suffering from cholangiocarcinoma, a bile duct cancer.

A “Tupper Triad” hike brought priests and discerners together for bit of prayerful fraternity. Pictured on Mt. Arab are Father Philip Allen, Lukas Gruber, Father Justin Thomas, a Herald of the Good News priest; Father Howard Venette, and John Ojuok.

The Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay celebrated First Communion May 7 with 11 children at St. Patrick’s Church. From left are Quin Helm, Jenna Decosse, Jamie Lynn Helm, Madision McComb, Payton Parmeter, Kelly Vanier, Paul Dwyer, Ashton Paine, and Jacob Decosse. First Communion teachers for the parish are Mr. and Mrs. Crawford.
Search for common ground will be key to the pope's meeting with the president

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Despite a few pointed comments in the past and fundamental differences on issues such as immigration, economic policy, military spending and climate change, sparks are not expected to fly May 24 when Pope Francis welcomes U.S. President Donald Trump to the Vatican.

The two will have a private conversation, with interpreters present, and while anything is possible, protocol dictates that the joint statement issued after the meeting will describe it as "cordial."

Going into the meeting, Pope Francis made it clear he hoped it would be.

"On Pope Francis' flight back to Rome from Portugal May 13, a reporter asked him, 'What are you expecting from a meeting with a head of state who seems to think and act in a way contrary to your own?'

"The pope replied, 'I never make a judgment about people without hearing them first. It is something I feel I should not do. When we speak to each other, things will come out. I will say what he thinks; he will say what I think; we have never, ever, wanted to make a judgment without hearing the person."

"Pope Francis said he would look first for areas of agreement and shared principles - his basic recipe for creating a 'culture of encounter.'"

"There are always doors that are not closed," the pope said about his meeting with Trump. "We have to find doors that are at least a little open in order to go in and speak about things we have in common and go forward. Step by step."

"The key, he said, is 'respect for the other, saying what we think, but with respect, walking together. Someone sees things in a certain way; say so, be honest in what each of us thinks.'"

"Honesty, even if not completely diplomatic, characterized a couple of pointed remarks Pope Francis and then-presidential candidate Trump made in reference to the other's positions."

"Flying in February 2016 to Rome from Mexico, where he had just paid homage to people who have lost their lives trying to cross into the United States, Pope Francis was asked about candidate Trump's promise to build a wall the entire length of the border."

"A person who thinks only of building walls, wherever it may be, and not of building bridges, is not Christian," the pope said. He added that he would not tell anyone how to vote and that he would "have to see if he said these things, and thus I will give him the benefit of the doubt."

"Trump responded by saying that the Mexican government had given Pope Francis only "one side of the story" and was "using the pope as a pawn."

"Also, he said, "for a religious leader to question a person's faith is disgraceful. I am proud to be a Christian and as president I will not allow Christianity to be consistently attacked and weakened, unlike what is happening now."

"Efforts to protect freedom of conscience for employers and health-care workers and the need to defend religious freedom are likely to be a starting point for finding common ground."

"A discussion about religious persecution could open the door to Pope Francis restating his conviction of the moral obligation to welcome strangers, especially those fleeing persecution, terrorism, war and abject poverty."

"Protecting the unborn is another common concern and would provide an opening for Trump to talk about his Supreme Court nominee and his steps to halt funding of abortions overseas. It also would give Pope Francis an opening to talk about the protection of all life - especially the weakest - with health care, education, job opportunities and a clean environment where people can thrive."
Finding strength after Jesus’ Ascension

This past Thursday, we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord in heaven. Up to that time, the Apostles were gradually getting used to their fleeting glimpses of the Risen Christ, appearing here and there so dramatically.

They never knew when he would appear next with new commands to preach the Good News everywhere.

Now, he suddenly ascends into the air before their eyes, and is lost to sight in the clouds. Being admonished by an Angel to focus now on the mission Jesus had given them, they went back to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to pray and prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit. They were even more frightened now, for it was one thing to label themselves followers of the Christ when he was not too far away. It was quite another to think of facing the Jewish leaders without the Christ’s earthly presence.

Wisely, they kept near his mother, Mary, in those nine days of waiting.

They must have remembered what Jesus had said to them: “If you really love me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father.” In other words, I have a better way to remain with you. I will live in you and in the Church through my Spirit.

And did they remember his wonderful farewell address in that same upper room just a few weeks before at that strange, sacred meal the night before He died?

Did they now understand the reason for his institution of the Eucharist, that He might remain with them always?

They also knew that to be followers of Jesus would involve much suffering.

Just a few weeks ago on May 13th, Pope Francis flew to Fatima to celebrate one hundred years since Mary first appeared to Lucy, Francis, and Jacinta to urge them to pray every day for peace.

She urged them to offer their own sufferings to Jesus in reparation for the sins of the world. Finally, she told them to recite her rosary every day.

Through Mary’s intercession, we all have hope of receiving God’s infinite mercy.

Her message is so desperately needed today.

Like the Apostles, we need to prepare ourselves this week for a renewal of all those gifts we received at our Confirmation. We must not act as though he were present.

He is present. His being present in the Spirit is far more powerful than his earthly presence would have been.

We must go simply and deliberately into our souls daily - into the core of our being - and there listen to Him in silence.

Strengthened by His grace, and assisted by Mary, we can courageously live a life of witness for peace throughout the world.

Wishes for my first-born child

By Kathleen M. Gallagher

This summer my oldest son will be getting married. I am thrilled for him, and for his fiancé, a bright young woman who is as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside.

For months I have been pondering the perfect wedding gift.

If I could give them any gift in the whole wide world, anything at all, what would I give them?

I have come to this conclusion: I would give them a life just like the one my husband and I have been blessed to live.

Our 30 years of married life have been marked by days that were better and days that were worse; days that were richer and days that were poorer; days in sickness and days in good health - just like the vows we had foretold.

And I wouldn't wish it any other way.

Marriage is a process; it is not an immediate step into "happily ever after." There are twists and turns and stages. Sometimes the better and the worse come very close together. Two years after we were married, Joe and I signed the papers to purchase our first house. We were so elated I don't think our feet were touching the ground.

The very next day Joe lost his job and I miscarried our first baby. I did not think we could sink any lower.

The only reason we were able to pick ourselves up and start again is because God is the And itation of our relationship, the glue that ties our bond and makes us whole.

His love and His grace saw us through. Just a few short years later our second baby was born into this world - Joey - fruit of our love and our ultimate joy, the clearest reflection of God.

I pray that Joey and his bride will be blessed with the gift of children, little ones who will spill their Cheerios all over the pews at Sunday Mass, who will challenge their parents every waking moment of their teenage years, and who will grow into kind, generous, honest human beings just like their mom and dad.

And once the married couple find themselves in an empty nest, I hope they will fill it with new adventures, fresh additions, a deeper sense of connectedness and mature love.

I wish I could tie a ribbon around the simple things in life to give to them on their wedding day. I want them to

- burst with pride when their child graduates from kindergarten;
- exhale with relief when they pay off their mortgage;
- fortify each other when they hold hands and pray the “Our Father”;
- laugh...at the dog, at the world, at each other, at themselves;
- appreciate when their spouse cleans out the closet, even if they make a mess of it;
- talk through their disagreements and forgive each other;
- not sweat the small stuff; and
- know that they were destined for each other, not for anyone else -- called by God to the beautiful vocation of married life.

I do not wish them esteemed positions, a prestigious address or an unlimited bank account. I wish them a lifetime to have and to hold, a lifetime of love and faithfulness to each other and to the Lord.
There’s a kernel of goodness at the heart of the mother-daughter comedy “Snatched” (Fox) . But the minority of grown viewers for whom the film is acceptable will have to wade through a veritable cesspool of bad taste to approach it.

That’s a pity, because this fast-moving feature is occasionally amusing and marks a welcome return to the big screen for Goldie Hawn as Linda, an overprotective but sensible and loving mom.

Linda never condones the lewd antics of her estranged daughter, Emily (Amy Schumer). Instead she labors patiently for Emily’s redemption from evil and selfishness.

That’s no easy goal to achieve, and their relationship is put to a further test when Emily persuades her mother to join her on a getaway to Ecuador.

Emily intended to go with her rocker boyfriend, Michael (Randall Park), but he dumps her on the eve of their departure. With a non-refundable vacation package, and no friends willing to go, Emily takes pity on her mother.

Linda is a free spirit and homebody, caring for her cats and her agoraphobic son, Jeffrey (Ike Barinholtz). Afraid of her own shadow, she’s an unlikely candidate for a South American adventure. “Help me put the ‘fun’ in ‘nonrefundable,”’ Emily pleads. So off they go to a fancy resort on the edge of the Ecuadorian jungle.

Linda is content to sit by the pool and read her book. But Emily seeks romance, and soon hooks up with handsome stranger James (Tom Bateman). This Mr. Wrong lures Emily and Linda into the jungle with the promise of waterfalls and rainbows. It’s a setup, and mother and daughter are kidnapped and held for ransom by the treacherous Morgano (Oscar Jaenada).

“Snatched” wastes no time with the perils of these Paulines, piling on the slapstick (and vulgarity) as they escape into the bush. Help comes from a mysterious guide named Roger (Christopher Meloni), and fellow resort guests Ruth (Wanda Sykes) and Barb (Joan Cusack).

As directed by Jonathan Levine (“50/50”), from a screenplay by Katie Dipompolo, “Snatched” is a slapdash, cliche-ridden send-up of exploitation movies. It’s only redeemable feature is a message about a mother’s unconditional love and the enduring family bond, which manages to shine through a very dirty exterior - as indicated by the warnings below.

The film contains brief nudity, persistent sexual humor and innuendo and pervasive rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is L - limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

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

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R - restricted.

For a New or Used Car
Mort Backus & Sons
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899

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!

Gary, Miles, Anastasia, Dennis

An Evening with Towne Meeting
A Benefit Concert for the North Country Mission of Hope

Sunday, June 4, 2017
St. Augustine’s Church, Peru NY
7:00 PM

Admission by Donation
More information - contact: (518) 225-1902
www.townemeeting.com
www.ncmissionofhope.org
Proceeds will be used to support recent ecological projects of the Mission of Hope.
Sponsored by: NC Mission of Hope & Towne Meeting
**Clinton**

**Garage Sale**

Plattsburgh — Annual Seton Garage sale to be held.

- **Date:** June 3 and 4
- **Place:** Seton

**Features:** Special Drop off after Mass on May 28. Other drop offs are scheduled for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for the 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 and 2:30 p.m. to 5. For the final two weeks leading up to the garage sale, the storage unit will be open every day. Heavy items will need to be scheduled through setonschoolis-family@gmail.com. We will accept most items with the exception of TVs, computers, printers and mattresses. Please try to price your items.

**Healing Mass**

Ellenburg Center — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will host a healing Mass.

- **Date:** May 27
- **Time:** 11 a.m.
- **Features:** Communal Anointing during Mass and the option of private prayer after Mass. Lunch will follow.

**Contact:** Reservations necessary, please call 518-594-3253

---

**Franklin**

**Secular Franciscan Order**

Plattsburgh — The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the month.

- **Time:** 2 p.m.
- **Place:** St. John's Holy Family Chapel

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Ellenburg Center — Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- **Place:** St. John’s “Holy Family” Adoration Chapel, downstairs
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

---

**Saturday Devotion**

St. Regis Falls — First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held

- **Time:** after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass
- **Place:** St. Ann’s Church

---

**Holiday for Vocations**

Watertown — Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.

- **Time:** 3 p.m. to 6
- **Place:** St. Anthony’s Church

---

**Spaghetti Supper**

Watertown — St. Anthony’s Church Altar Rosary Society to have spaghetti dinner.

- **Date:** May 25
- **Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers
- **Place:** Mrs. Sechi Hall
- **Cost:** Adults, $8; Children, $4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $5.75 each

---

**Golf Tournament**

Watertown — 4th Annual HIC Memorial Golf Tournament to be held.

- **Date:** May 25
- **Time:** 9 a.m.
- **Place:** Ives Hill Country Club
- **Cost:** $400 per team; 4 person Captain and Crew, Food and Prizes

**Contact:** Ives Hill Country Club Pro Shop 315-775-4653 or Bobby Fox 315-523-1073 Please Make Check Payable to IHC Booster Club. For more information: [http://www.ihcschool.org/athletics/hc-memorial-golf-tournament](http://www.ihcschool.org/athletics/hc-memorial-golf-tournament)

---

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Malone — St. Andre’s Parish is holding its GIGANTIC Annual Garage Sale.

- **Date:** June 7 - June 19 (Closed Sundays)
- **Hours:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Place:** Notre Dame Church parking lot

**Features:** Furniture, household goods, tools, baby items, toys, books, bedding, miscellaneous. New items daily.

---

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Watertown — Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- **Place:** St. John’s “Holy Family” Adoration Chapel, downstairs
- **Time:** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

---

**Holy Hour for Vocations**

Watertown — Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.

- **Time:** 3 p.m. to 6
- **Place:** St. Anthony’s Church

---

**Weekly Eucharistic Adoration**

Sackets Harbor — St. Andrew’s has scheduled weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

- **Time:** 5 p.m. to 6

---

**Annual Healing Mass**

Clayton — St. Mary’s Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service to be held.

- **Date:** June 10
- **Time:** 11 a.m.
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Church

**Features:** The Celebrants will be Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Christopher Looby. During Mass the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered and immediately following Mass will be prayer teams, to pray for individual needs. A social time will take place in the Parish Center. The Tetrault family will be available to share stories about their grandfather, Antoine.

**Contact:** St. Mary’s Parish Office at 315-686-3398 or visit the website www.stmarysclayton.org

---

**Ministry Fair**

Clayton — The Parishes of St. Mary’s and St. John’s to hold a Ministry Fair.

- **Date:** June 4 after the 9 a.m. Mass
- **Place:** St. Mary’s Parish Center

**Features:** Learn about the many ministries active in our parishes. Speak with parishioners about their ministries. (Others, with the hopes of promoting ministries in their home parishes, are also invited.)

**Contact:** For more information, contact the parish office at 315-686-3398.

---

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

Houseville — Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June.

- **Date:** June 4
- **Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church

**Schedule:** At 2:25 p.m. viewing the 4th DVD entitled “Faustina and the Spread of Divine Mercy” from the series entitled; Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. At 3:00 p.m. the program includes: Vespers, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

---

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Lowville — Eucharistic Adoration set

- **Date:** May 18
- **Time:** 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Place:** St. Peter’s Church

**Features:** Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction.

---

**Spring Retreat**

Morristown — A spring retreat is set

Scheduled: May 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 or May 27, 9:30 a.m. to May 28 at 4 p.m.

**Place:** Cedarhaven, located along the St. Lawrence River

**Cost:** Saturday only, $25 (includes lunch) or both days, $85 (includes overnight and all meals)

**Features:** The theme is “Planting the Seeds of Compassion” facilitated by St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald.

**Contact:** Call: 315-212-6592 or email sbethsjs@gmail.com by May 24.

---

**Rosary Prayer Service**

Gouverneur — St. James Church is holding a Rosary Prayer Service.

- **Date:** May 28
- **Schedule:** 9:15 a.m. Opening; 9:30 The Joyful Mysteries; 9:50 The Luminous Mysteries; 10:10 The Sorrowful Mysteries; 10:30 The Glorious Mysteries

**Features:** In honor of the 100th Anniversary of The Fatima Apparitions. We will join for prayer, a brief tutorial on Our Lady of Fatima and the May Devotion to Mary. Participants are Welcome any time during this event or for its entirety.

**Contact:** Brandy Parsley 287-7384, 908-299-5831, prirnymgr@aol.com
Vocations: Growing the faith

Growing the faith......

Our own faith journey seems like an ongoing cycle of growth: seeds of faith planted by our parents, nurtured by family and friends, strengthened by the seasons of our lives. At times of trial, we cling close to the Lord’s love and hope. It is that love of God and the Hope that calls us to be servants.

When you are called to serve, there are many benefits, but the most may be the feeling of joy. It is that love of God that calls us to be missionaries in the work of God, just as missionaries do every day.

But it won’t be easy. Easy does not exist for missionaries in much like a missionary does, when they set off on a journey to be missionaries. Being a missionary is one of the ultimate sacrifices one can make. When one thinks about a vocation, many things can come to mind. But if you are thinking about it, it must mean that there has been an inherent desire within you to explore, much like a missionary does, when they set off on a journey to a developing land like Peru or Mongolia to aid, assist and grow the faith.

If others around in your life notice that you may have a vocation, this is also a sign that you may be on a path or a journey, much like a missionary. Through this calling, you can be yourself and not have to hide from your true self. But it won’t be easy. Easy does not exist for missionaries in the developing lands.

Those who are called to a vocation often experience a peace or calm when thinking about their calling. Sometimes a coincidence of factors pushes you towards a vocation that you don’t yet realize. These are just a few of the ways one’s growing the faith of a vocation add up to signs that one is being called to God.

As things become clear, the thoughts of a vocation seem like the right choice. Just as missionaries know in their hearts it is what they must do. As one gives their control over to God, one become free to serve and help and assist in the work of God, just as missionaries do every day.

Being a missionary and growing the seeds of faith through vocations help one to realize that the World is a big place: a place where you can find a sense of belonging to a community for the greater good.

When one can understand and discover what is within, it is then that one finds a vocation. “Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.” Romans 12:11. Never give up and never stop having faith. The faith will grow as you see how God needs you and you need God.

Just as a seed needs soil and the soil needs nourishment like water and sun in order to grow, your vocation will seed the journey of faith.

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

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

---

**OBITUARIES**

Altona — Elizabeth “Jane” (Trudo) Sayah, 79; Funeral Services May 20, 2017 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton — Linda L. Curran, 78; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton — Rose B. (Kelley) Soula, 89; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in East Road Cemetery, Heuvelton.

Chasm Falls — Col. (Ret) Jarold L. “Jerrie” Hutchinson, 82; Funeral Services May 26, 2017 at St. Helen’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Chaumont — Marlow Germain Burt, 81; Memorial Services at All Saints Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, McKeen, PA.

Copenhagen — Norma F. (Kellogg) Young, 78; Funeral Services May 20, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Tyrawley Cemetery, South Rutland.

Edwards — June C. (Moore) Chapin, 83; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Gates Cemetery.

Gabriels — Shirley (Parker) Claremont, 79; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Hattie A. (Cree) Bashaw, 58; Funeral Services May 16, 2017 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid — Saige Marie Borden, 20; Funeral Services May 16, 2017 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid — Donald J. Malone, 91; Funeral Services May 27, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in Pine Lawn National Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Audrey Ann Brown Personius, 87; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery, Malone.

Lake Placid — Elizabeth Claire Coyle, 86; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

Lake Placid — Beverley Anne Bromley Sprague, 79; Funeral Services May 17, 2017 at St. Agnes Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery.


Massena — Henry R. Dobbins, Jr., 58; Funeral Services May 17, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Pine Grove Cemetery II, Norfolk.

Morrisonville — Milton “Mickey” H. Lapham, 86; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood — Ellen A. Claffey, 83; Funeral Services May 15, 2017 at St. Andrew’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Port Henry — Veronica T. (Barcomb) Brassard, 87; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Potsdam — Robert H. Scott, 74; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church.

Rouses Point — Henry C. VanAcker, Jr., 74; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Ticonderoga — Elizabeth “Betty” Bernadette Burleigh, 75; Funeral Services May 19, 2017 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Upper Lake — Jamie Rose Martin, 33; Funeral Services May 17, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Upper Lake — Heather Mae Maroun, 74; Funeral Services May 13, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — Anthony P. Oddi, 86; Funeral Services May 18, 2017 at St. Anthony’s Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Mary T. (Lettiere) Soares, 100; Funeral Services May 20, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

---

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: □ $35 □ $50 □ $100 □ $250

□ New Subscription □ Renewal

□ Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City____ State_ Zip ______

Parish ________________________________

---

Support And Pray For Vocations
### Around

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB**

Massena - The Massena Catholic Community Book Club meets once a month to discuss various works of fiction and non-fiction that have importance to the Catholic Church and relevance in our daily lives.

**ST. RAPHAEL’S FOOD PANTRY**

Heuvelton - St. Raphael’s Food Pantry will be open every Friday.

**EUCHARISTICADORATION**

Massena - St. Mary’s & St. Joseph’s hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**HOSPITALITY WORKSHOP**

Potsdam - The Offices of New Evangelization and Formation for Ministry are sponsoring a practical one day workshop on creating hospitable parishes.

**EUCHARISTICADORATION**

Massena – St. Mary’s Family Room

**GARAGE SALE DAYS**

Raymondville – The Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond will be having a garage sale.

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION**

Massena - Friday Devotions are set featuring Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour for Vocations.

### JESUS LOVES CARBS... AND COLLEGIANS!

**CATHOLIC MEN’S RETREAT**

Saranac Lake - A diocesan Catholic Men’s Retreat is set

**LATIN MISSA CANTATA**

Ogdensburg – Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preach at a Sung Mass, commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Motu Proprio Summorum Pontificum

**PLATTSBURGH WHOLESALE HOMES**

We process all VA loans

Building the North Country for over 45 Years!

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

**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.

**FAMILY GUGGENHEIM**

Saranac Lake – Family Guggenheim registration is now open.

**GO GREEN!**

Receive the VO in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world. Email eward@diogogdenb.org to sign up today.