‘Redemption is free’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Mass isn't a paid arrangement for salvation but rather the commemoration of Christ's sacrifice of his life, given freely to all, Pope Francis said.

Christians can make a silent prayer during Mass or donate money to offer a Mass for a loved one who is in need or passed away, but should never feel obliged to make a payment, the pope said at his weekly audience at the Vatican March 7.

"Nothing! Understood? Nothing! You do not pay for the Mass! The Mass is Christ's sacrifice, which is free. Redemption is free," he said.

"If you want to make an offering, do it. But you do not pay for it! This is important to understand!" he said.

Pope Francis held the audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall due to forecasts of rain. The Vatican also opened St. Peter's Basilica to accommodate the overflow, with giant screens set up so the people could follow the audience.

Report of special funds in the diocese

Michael J. Tooley, diocesan fiscal officer, presents the annual Special Funds report in this week's North Country Catholic.

Special funds are monies that the diocese holds for specific purposes - disability insurance, mission projects, priests' retirement, lay employees retirement and unemployment insurance.

The report also includes an accounting of the Diocesan Trust Fund along with messages about the annual report from Mr. Tooley and Bishop LaValley.

FULL STORY, PAGES 7-12

Option for the poor, vulnerable

Lenten series on Catholic social teaching, “Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace,” continues

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

CREATING A TREE OF KINDNESS

During Catholic School Week, the students of Seton Academy of Plattsburgh, including Azik Helmer, Elizabeth Burnham, and Dana LaValley, shown above, began to create a "kindness tree." They children looked at pictures showing kind acts, read accounts of people showing kindness, and added leaves to the tree showing what they did to show kindness. This project is continuing throughout Lent as the students are challenged to perform three acts of kindness each day.

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

TO BE SAINTS

Cleared for canonization

Pope Francis has cleared the way for the canonizations of Blessed Paul VI, above, and Oscar Romero.

FULL STORY, PAGE 13
EDITOR’S NOTE

Expertise, generosity = vibrant church!

Twice each year, in the pages of the North Country Catholic, we have the opportunity to witness the incredible work accomplished by our diocesan fiscal office. Each November, we print the annual financial report and then, in March, the report of special funds is released.

That means that, this week, the paper is filled with charts and figures that seem like a foreign language to non-numbers people like me. But, of course, these reports are critical for a church community which depends on money to carry out so much of our mission.

While we may pine to “live on love,” we still need dollars to keep the lights on and give alms to the poor, not to mention to provide just wages and benefits to employees and care for the priests and religious who give their lives to care for us.

As part of this week’s report Bishop LaValley expresses his gratitude to “Michael J. Tooley, our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, and his dedicated staff for the competent manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended.”

Because of the expertise of Mr. Tooley as well as Peggy Garrison, Karen Ruddy, Heather Ladouceur, Cindy Granger and Kim Snover, (who, believe me, keep track of every last penny!) our diocese can accomplish its goals with a firm financial foundation.

With guidance from the Diocesan Finance Council and the Investment Advisory Committee, they have helped us to maintain services which build up the faith of our people in good financial times and during those years when balancing the budget is a bit of a challenge.

Bishop LaValley also noted that the diocese is “blessed with so many faith-filled persons whose generous hearts make ours a vibrant church.”

We can all be grateful that this generosity, combined with the talent of our financial staff, means that we are able to take care of clergy, religious, lay employees, buildings, spiritual, educational programs and retirees (!) in the North Country and then reach out to our friends in places like Mollendo and Latakia.

I’d say “vibrant” is a perfect word.

FATHER MUECHEN SAYS

Our foundation for living as Christians

Today, let us talk about the commandments.

On the Third Sunday of Lent, the First Reading of the Mass from the Book of Exodus is the presentation of the commandments. These are the commandments that Moses received from God on Mount Sinai.

I must tell you that recently someone asked me whether we still follow the Ten Commandments. Well, of course. However, I want to consider the positive side of the commandments today. When people think of the commandments they usually think of all the stuff that I am not supposed to do. I want to challenge you to realize that we should realize that there is a positive side to the commandments. These commandments give us the Lord’s way of life.

On the positive side, the commandments remind us what we should not do to become a better person and what should be eliminated from our lives. This is an important part of our Christian way of life.

However, there is a positive side. The commandments give us a positive foundation for living like a Christian. So, today, I would like to share with you a look at the positive side of the commandments.

The first three of our commandments challenge us to establish a good relationship with God. So, can you say today, do you have a good relationship with God? Is God truly a part of your life, in church and in every other part of life at home, at school, at work? Are you open to hearing God’s messages and guidance? Do you allow God to truly be part of your life?

When I have a good friendship with Jesus, I should respect his name. I should have a deep reverence toward the name of my Lord in my prayers and in my discussions. There are so many opportunities when I should carefully bring the name of Jesus in my life.

Then there is making holy and special the day of the Lord each Sunday. I remember so well when I was a child how Sunday was truly a family day. We gathered each Sunday – one Sunday at my grandfather’s home with the German side of the family and on the next with all the Irish relatives at my Aunt Kate’s. Those were very special times.

In addition, each Sunday as we gathered at Mass we were reminded that our parish was also a family – our family. Honoring our father and mother is also a family matter. The commandment challenges us to give special attention and honor to our parents. This commandment reminds us of something I have thought about and prayed over recently.

One of the things I learned well when I was with Susan and Paul, my nephew, at the birth of their second child. I learned that there was pain – the mother’s pain at child birth.

It profoundly dawned on me that my own mother suffered pain to bring me into this world. She suffered to get me started on the way of all these years. I honor her now with great gratitude for accepting this pain for me.

For now, just one more example. Our world is rather concerned about the fifth commandment these days – Thou Shalt Not Kill. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus expands on this commandment by reminding us that the commandment speaks also against anger and the terrible things that anger can cause when it takes over our lives.

I am thinking now of all the repercussions of all the recent killings – the school massacres. I believe this commandment demands that we make our respect for life very clear in our lives. It is for us to be ready and to be Christian enough to speak out, to make it clear that we want to change and that we can change so that these things never are allowed to happen again.

Our respect for life means so much for us – our respect for life for all – the born and the unborn. We must continue to speak out; we want the world to know what we believe.

There is more, of course. We must respect our bodies, we must respect the possessions of others, we must respect the truth. I encourage you when you examine your life at confession – never forget the demands of the positive side of the commandments.
Bishop names new diocesan staff members

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has appointed three new members of the diocesan staff.
- St. Joseph Sister Bernadette Collins has been named Episcopal Delegate for Religious, effective March 1. Sister Bernadette will also continue to serve as half-time pastoral associate at St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg. Sister Bernadette succeeds Atomenent Sister Ellen Donahue, who served as episcopal delegate for religious for ten years before her retirement in 2017.
- Deacon Thomas Yousey, deacon assistant at St. Peter's Church in Lowville, is the new director of the Office for Ecumenism for the diocese. Deacon Yousey succeeds Father Daniel Chapin, who held that position for ten years until his retirement.
- Deacon Richard Burns, deacon assistant at St. Mary’s Church in Potsdam, is the new Campus Ministry Coordinator for the diocese. He succeeds Father Timothy Canaan, diocesan campus ministry director since 2007.

Catholic Charities receives grant to help flood victims

PLATTSBURGH - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has recently received a $10,000 grant from Catholic Charities USA to assist the victims of flooding in Clinton County. The flooding that occurred in January has affected over 130 families; 70 families have been permanently displaced because of the damage the Underwood Estates Trailer Park.

Deacon Patrick Donahue, diocesan director for Catholic Charities, announced the partnership with Catholic Charities USA. He noted that, in addition to the funding, he was grateful “for the technical assistance provided by Catholic Charities USA and their willingness to serve as a resource to not only Catholic Charities but also the various agencies that have partnered and shared resources and expertise on behalf of those most affected by the flooding”.

Deacon Donahue recently toured the site with Kim Burgo of Catholic Charities USA; along with Deacon Mark Bennett of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, dean of Clinton Deanery; and John Redden, Commissioner of Clinton County Social Services;

The Catholic Charities director has also participated in planning efforts and the work of the Clinton and Essex County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) which include disaster management, social services, Legal Aid, and Housing Authorities.

Further information is available from Deacon Donahue at (315) 393-2255 or email: ccdirector@wad-hams.edu.

Church leaders recently toured flooded areas in Clinton County. Catholic Charities USA has provided a $10,000 grant to assist victims. From left are Kim Burgo, Senior Disaster Director, Catholic Charities USA; Deacon Mark Bennett, St. Peter’s Parish, Plattsburgh; John Redden, Clinton County Commissioner of Social Services; Deacon Patrick Donahue, diocesan director of Catholic Charities and Msgr. Dennis Duprey, dean of Clinton Deanery.

Job Opening

Communications Director

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Communications Director.

The Communications Director assists the Bishop in advancing the mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg through strategic communications and media relations using print, audio, video and digital media.

The Communications Director, as Newspaper Editor, directs and implements the North Country Catholic’s mission, editorial content, news operations, product development, and business affairs. The Communication Director oversees and coordinates the digital media currently in use by the Diocese and devises a strategic plan to expand the use of digital media in the distribution of a unified message.

Applicants should be a practicing Catholic with the ability to demonstrate a vision of the newspaper’s mission. The applicant must have a mastery of journalism, grammar, communication skills and general news operation. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in communications or related field. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:
Human Resources Office
Diocese of Ogdensburg
P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.
Deadline for application is March 29, 2018.
**Option for the poor and vulnerable**

By Kelly Donnelly  
Diocesan director, youth ministry

How are the most vulnerable members of society faring? This question, though simple in concept, begins to illuminate the complex reality of the poor and vulnerable, as well as the reality of what we, as Catholics, are called to do. It is easy, especially from a place of comfort, to compare ourselves to those who have more, to convince ourselves that we give and do “enough” for the needy in our community and in our world. Am I willing to truly open my eyes to the poverty that so many face? It is easier to avert my eyes from the poverty, and to instead focus on my own desires. Yet, we know that we are called to love the poor and vulnerable as Christ.

In The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis writes, “God’s word teaches that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us: ‘As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me’ (Mt 25:40). The way we treat others has a transcendent dimension: ‘The measure you give will be the measure you get’ (Mt 7:2). It corresponds to the mercy which God has shown us: ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and it will be given to you... For the measure you give will be the measure you get back’ (Lk 6:36-38). What these passages make clear is the absolute priority of ‘going forth from ourselves toward our brothers and sisters’ as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm and as the clearest sign for discerning spiritual growth in response to God’s completely free gift.’

In the Church’s rich history, we have countless examples of individuals who lived out this call to serve the least among us. Among these, one of the most stirring contemporary examples is Saint Mother Teresa. Her sacrifices and devotion to the poorest of the poor serve as a powerful testament. After being approached by a woman who wanted to join Mother Teresa in her ministry in Calcutta, St. Mother Teresa famously said, “Find your own Calcutta.” This short phrase is a reminder for each one of us that we have simple opportunities every day to serve the poor and vulnerable. Who are the poor? The poor in my workplace, neighborhood, community, state, country, world?

This concern for the poor must be approached in a multi-faceted manner. So often we think of caring for the poor and vulnerable in terms of donating money and material goods to organizations serving those in need. This is a necessary and important component of caring for the poor and vulnerable of our society, yet it is incomplete in and of itself. If we are truly creating an “option” for the poor and vulnerable, we have a duty to look at more than alleviating the immediate suffering. How do my economic choices, my voting habits, and my interpersonal relationships impact the poor and vulnerable?

This Lent, let us embrace the many opportunities we are given each day to grow in our own humanity by caring for the poor and vulnerable, recognizing and affirming their dignity.

This season of Lent is an opportune time to truly assess how my life impacts the lives of the poorest, most vulnerable members of society. “The obligation to provide justice for all means that the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of the nation.” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Economic Justice for All, no. 86) If the poor have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of our nation, then we need to begin by being more mindful of the poor and vulnerable. Rather than glorifying materialism, celebrities, or our own comforts, we are called to focus on the forgotten. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines said, “I grow in my own humanity when I encounter the person of the poor.”

This Lent, let us embrace the many opportunities we are given each day to grow in our own humanity by caring for the poor and vulnerable, recognizing and affirming their dignity.
Keynote speaker for April 14 family life conference shares insights on marriage

Embracing the Catholic vision of marriage

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff Writer

Our national marriage problems are no secret: fewer people get married, and fewer people stay married. The Church, though, calls us to see marriage as God intends it - as a lifelong path to wholeness, happiness, and holiness.

Dr. Gregory Popcak and his wife Lisa will connect therapeutic insights to this Catholic vision at the April 14th conference, “Marriage: God Calls, We Respond.”

Part two of an NCC interview with Dr. Popcak follows:

NCC: Your Pastoral Solutions Institute, founded in 1999, very successfully integrates insights from theology and psychology - which are often seen as incompatible. What motivated this approach?

DR. POPCAK: There is certainly a strong connection. Both theology and psychology seek to describe the person’s quest for meaning, transcendence, and fulfillment. They come at it from different angles, but the questions and goals are similar. My goal from the beginning was really to understand what God is calling each of us to become - and what are the tools, techniques, and exercises we can use to cooperate with his grace and become that person. Our approach is to really integrate Catholic spirituality into our clinical work.

NCC: The Pastoral Solutions Institute exclusively uses tele-counseling. How does this work, and why did you choose to go in this direction?

DR. POPCAK: From 1991 until 1999, my practice was entirely face-to-face counseling. When my book, For Better, For Ever, was published, we were flooded with requests for referrals from all around the country. People were looking for faithful Catholic counseling, and I had nowhere to send them.

I decided to try to help a few of them over the phone; within six months we were exclusively tele-counseling. Today our eight full-time therapists offer help in both Spanish and English, with clients world-wide.

Our clients, as well as dozens of studies, show that “behavioral tele-health” is as effective as face-to-face therapy.

NCC: The Pastoral Solutions Institute has had great success in strengthening marriages. What should couples in search of counseling look for?

DR. POPCAK: It’s important for couples to know that you must go to the right kind of therapist: a marriage-friendly therapist, trained in marriage therapy, who has gotten supervision in marriage therapy and actually believes in marriage. This is very different from a therapist who also “does marriage therapy.” Research shows a 95% success rate for couples working with a therapist who believes in marriage, versus a 30% success rate for other sorts of therapists.

NCC: After three decades working with people on their marital/family problems, what is your takeaway? Is there a common denominator in troubled marriages?

DR. POPCAK: There are certainly common issues that almost every marital difficulty falls into. First, we all tend to love our comfort zones more than we love our spouses. We all want to love our mates the way we want to love them and have them be happy with that. We don’t like to grow and stretch. Even when our spouse says, “I need x-y-z from you,” we stare and say, “I just don’t know what you want from me.”

The second thing is poor self-regulation: we are so fixated on how our partner is treating us that we forget to take our own emotional temperatures. That lack of ability to deliberately step back from an offense and say, “How do I mindfully respond to this?” is a big factor in tension in marriage.

Another big marital issue in research right now is the discovery that lack of “caretaking” is much more significant than communication rules. That is, if you follow all the rules of good communication, but don’t affirm, encourage, and show affection to your partner, you will still have problems.

Caretaking provides better rapport in a relationship because these actions let the other person know that they really matter, and that their agenda is important: “Look, what I want is really important, but I want you to get what you want too.”

These habits of caretaking go a long way toward ‘greasing the wheels’ in a relationship.

Keynote speaker for April 14 family life conference shares insights on marriage

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These habits of caretaking go a long way toward ‘greasing the wheels’ in a relationship.
Thank you, Fathers
The week of Feb. 11, I was lector at our Church.
I read and re-read the scripture reading of Leviticus and Corinthians and I could not understand exactly what the meaning of the Bible Verses was.
I put my workbook away and picked up the North Country Catholic. I turned to Monsignor Paul Whitmore’s article titled “Living the call to always show mercy.”
He explained it wonderfully, to always show mercy to one another and to emulate Jesus Christ. Jesus reached out his hand to a leprous man and healed him. Imagine, without hesitation.
As this Lenten season begins, I hope I can start my Lenten journey with love and mercy.
My priest said in his sermon on that Sunday we need to hug each other more often. I went home and gave my husband a big hug.
Thank you, Father Whitmore! Thank you, Father Robinson!

SARAH DREWES
ST. MARY’S CHURCH, COPENHAGEN

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Bishop’s Schedule
March 14 – 11 a.m., Priest Personnel Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
March 15 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
March 17 – 11 a.m., Mass for St. Joseph’s Day followed by lunch at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown
March 18 – 9:30 a.m., Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg
March 19 – 7 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Brushton for the Parish Lenten Mission
March 20 – 7 p.m., Mass at St. Augustine’s Church in North Bangor for the Parish Lenten Mission
March 21 – 7 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Brushton for the Parish Lenten Mission

Rest in Peace
This week marks the anniversary of the deaths of the following clergymen who have served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg
March 16 – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994
March 18 – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

Environmental Stewardship
Catholic social teaching
As we continue through this Lenten Season, Bishop LaValley invited us to deepen our understanding of the seven themes of Catholic social teachings through weekly articles in the North Country Catholic.
As we know, these teachings, rooted in the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church, are the fruit of applying the Gospel to contemporary world situations.
Dating back to 1891 with the publication of Rerum Novarum that addressed the plight of the worker during the Industrial Revolution, we witness the unfolding of these principles throughout human history.
The most recent social encyclical, Laudato Sì: Care for Our Common Home, incorporates a number of the seven themes of Catholic social teachings, including preferential attention to the poor and environmental stewardship.
Pope Francis sees the cries of the poor and the current cries of the earth not as separate issues but as one integrally connected.
An example of how the destruction of God’s creation affects and causes harm to the human family is the people of the Fiji Islands that is particularly exposed to the effects of the change in climate temperatures.
As a group of low-lying islands, it is vulnerable to the rising seas that bring salt water into farm lands disrupting agriculture. Higher seas and storm surges also bring floods, and families find themselves pushed out of their homes.
Because of these vulnerabilities the entire Fijian village of Vunidogoloa has already been relocated. The nation is bracing for further mass movement, and has created a legal designation of “climate refugee” to accommodate the expected wave of internal migrants. Despite the uncertainty they face, the people of Fiji have opened their arms to neighbors who are at even greater risk.
Consider what it would feel like to lose your home and be forced to leave your country.
Let us pray for all climate refugees and consider one way of lowering your ecological footprint this week as a concrete way to reach out in solidarity to others.
Dear Friends in Christ:

I am pleased to introduce the attached Report of Special Funds for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017. As this report is presented to you, we complete our accounting of all the funds entrusted to the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. The monies highlighted in this report are those set aside for special purposes and investments. Your personal sacrifice and generous support provides the needed resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Good News and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the North Country.

I wish to thank Michael J. Tooley, our Diocesan Fiscal Officer, and his dedicated staff for the competent manner in which they safeguard all the financial resources that have been entrusted to our Diocese, ensuring that they are used for the purposes intended. I am also most grateful to the members of the Diocesan Finance Council and Investment Advisory Committee who meet regularly and offer their expert counsel and prudential judgment in service to this local Church.

Indeed, all the members of our faith family are to be congratulated. The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed with so many faith-filled persons whose generous hearts make ours a vibrant Church. I continue to ask the Blessed Mother to bring your cares and that of your loved ones to the bosom of her Son, Jesus. Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is pleased to present in the North Country Catholic the Report of Special Funds for the year ended June 30, 2017, along with comparisons to prior years. Special Funds are funds that the diocese holds for special purposes, such as Disability Insurance, Property and Liability Insurance, Missionary Projects, Priests Retirement, Lay Employees Retirement and Unemployment Insurance. Also included in Special Funds are funds that belong to diocesan institutions which have been forwarded to the diocese for investment, such as the Diocesan Trust Fund and the Deposit & Loan Fund. All Special Funds statements for 2016-17 presented herein have been extracted from the audited financial report that was published in the November 29, 2017 issue of the North Country Catholic.

DIOCESAN TRUST FUND

As of June 30, 2017, the Diocesan Trust Fund had principal assets with a cost of $27,014,382 and a market value of $29,016,659. The investment’s portfolio had a rate of return of 12% in 2016-17. In the first six months of 2017-18, the Diocesan Trust Fund had a rate of return of 6.8%, and its market value is $30,646,084 as of December 31, 2017. The diocese paid dividend distributions from the Fund in the amount of $750,000 during the fiscal year, a rate of return of 2.58% on investments in the Fund.

DEPOSIT & LOAN FUND

The Deposit & Loan Fund had an increase in net assets in 2016-17, bringing its net asset balance to $5,501,928. The interest rate to depositors is 3%, and the interest rate on loans is 4%. In the first six months of 2017-18, the Deposit & Loan Fund net assets increased by $454,197. Net assets of the Fund are the source of financing the consultant and administrative costs of the diocese’s Capital Campaign. As of June 30, 2017, total deposits in the Fund, including diocesan central office monies, totaled $34,789,010, and the balance of loan principal due the Fund amounted to $2,658,204.

PROTECTED SELF-INSURANCE PROGRAM

Revenue exceeded expenses in the Protected Self-Insurance Program by $826,426 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The program remains financially sound, as it has reserves for claims in the amount of $2,178,593, and net assets of $1,807,175 as of June 30, 2017. The Note Receivable of $2,970,140 is monies forwarded to the program by excess insurance carriers to cover claims submitted by St. Mary’s Church in Champlain for their fire loss in 2014-15. Claims Payable of $2,943,179 is related to this loss.

LAY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT FUND

The Lay Employees’ Retirement Fund had an increase in net assets of $1,293,204 during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, bringing its total net assets to $26,734,778. The investment’s portfolio had a rate of return of 11.8% in 2016-17. During the first six months of fiscal year 2017-18 fund investments saw a rate of return of 7%, bringing its market value to $28,470,891. The Fund’s July 1, 2017 actuarial valuation determined the Fund remains underfunded, seeing a decline from 77% to 73% in its funded status. The Plan is well funded as it relates to covering obligations to current retirees (14% funded). During 2016-17 the committee that administers this Plan evaluated options for future retirement benefits to lay employees, and after deliberation the committee recommended, and Bishop LaValley approved, continuing a defined benefit plan for lay employees. In doing so, the funding formula changes effective July 1, 2018 to employer contributions of 10% of payroll, as compared to the current 9% contribution rate. Also, the diocese contributed $500,000 of its net assets to the Plan in December 2017.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The Unemployment Insurance Fund had an increase in net assets of $110,214 for the year ended June 30, 2017, with the increase a result of low claims experience for the second consecutive year. The financial health of the program resulted in reduction in premium for participants in 2017-18, and further reduction is expected in 2018-19. $300,000 of the Fund’s net assets were transferred to the Lay Employees’ Retirement Plan in December 2017.

MISSIONARY PROJECTS FUND

The Missionary Projects Fund had an increase in net assets in the amount of $16,800 for the year ended June 30, 2017, bringing its net assets as of that date to $142,249. The Diocese of Ogdensburg continues to provide monthly financial support to its former mission in Mollendo, Peru, as well as other missions in the world as deemed appropriate by Bishop LaValley. Moneys are given to support the U.S. Bishops’ annual appeal for Latin America. Additionally, with Bishop LaValley’s approval, financial support is given from the Fund to urgent need collections taken at times of global emergency/crisis.

DISABILITY INSURANCE FUND

The Disability Insurance Fund had a surplus for the year ended June 30, 2017 in the amount of $38,916. Claims paid in 2016-17 were $16,582 higher than in 2015-16. Net assets of this Fund as of June 30, 2017, are $202,751.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FUND

The net assets of the Priests Retirement Fund increased by $610,631 in the year ended June 30, 2017. The Fund had gains on investments in the amount of $1,121,902 in the fiscal year, a gain of $804,200 was budgeted. Support from Christmas collections was $235,380, as compared to $281,879 the prior year, as the diocese maintained a contribution of 75% of parish Christmas collections to support the Fund. It is not unusual to have lower contribution to this Fund in the Christmas collection when Christmas falls on Sunday as it did in 2017, as parishes also conduct their weekend collection for parish support. Modest ad hoc pension increases were approved for retired priests in each of the past two fiscal years.

The Diocesan Fiscal Office is available to answer any questions that may arise following review of the Report of Special Funds. Please feel free to call the Diocesan Fiscal Office at (315) 393-9290, ext. 1210, email at mtooley@rcdony.org or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.
**Diocesan Trust Fund Principal**  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opening Balance</th>
<th>Net Deposits</th>
<th>Net Realized Gain on Sales</th>
<th>Fees [Custody/Management]</th>
<th>Transfers to Pay Dividends</th>
<th>Net Adjustments</th>
<th>Closing Balance (Book)</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$15,057,881.67</td>
<td>$20,047,750.93</td>
<td>(1,867,354.95)</td>
<td>(10,009,816.58)</td>
<td>4,218,646.69</td>
<td>$27,427,007.76</td>
<td>$27,440,514.05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.*  
**Assets June 30, 2015 at NBT Bank, Dimensional Fund Advisors & The Investment Fund for Foundations.**

**NBT BANK INVESTMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
<th>% Yield (Book)</th>
<th>% Yield (Market)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonds &amp; U.S. Government Agencies &amp; Bond Funds</td>
<td>$9,863,620.27</td>
<td>$9,870,023.25</td>
<td>2.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equities &amp; Equity Funds</td>
<td>10,032,347.60</td>
<td>11,472,588.61</td>
<td>0.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate and Real Estate Trusts</td>
<td>475,945.39</td>
<td>640,948.54</td>
<td>3.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Market</td>
<td>396,220.69</td>
<td>396,220.69</td>
<td>0.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20,788,133.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,276,781.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.65%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bond Funds</th>
<th>Equity Funds</th>
<th><strong>TOTAL CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,843,936.62</td>
<td>$3,414,638.57</td>
<td><strong>$5,258,575.19</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,627,545.65</td>
<td>$3,867,697.81</td>
<td><strong>$5,595,243.46</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.95%</td>
<td>1.18%</td>
<td>1.01%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$626,000.00</td>
<td>$634,767.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$341,673.00</td>
<td>$406,867.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INVESTMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$27,416,432.14</td>
<td>$29,016,659.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Deposit & Loan Fund**  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
**July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017**  

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Excess (Deficit) - Income Minus Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2016</td>
<td>$74,480.85</td>
<td>$775,906.54</td>
<td>$63,230.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$11,472,588.61</td>
<td>$14,957.09</td>
<td>$104,487.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$5,297.33</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$5,297.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,142,252.99</strong></td>
<td><strong>$731,989.29</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,410,263.70</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPERDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Income on Notes Receivable</th>
<th>Investment Income</th>
<th>Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2016</td>
<td>$74,480.85</td>
<td>$775,906.54</td>
<td>$448,222.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$11,472,588.61</td>
<td>$14,957.09</td>
<td>$104,487.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$5,297.33</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$5,297.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,188,753.23</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,619,846.67</strong></td>
<td><strong>$562,906.56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Excess (Deficit) - Income Minus Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2016</td>
<td>$63,230.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$104,487.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$5,297.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$953,499.76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BALANCE SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities and Fund Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2017</td>
<td><strong>$4,039,417.67</strong></td>
<td>$34,524,777.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$1,087,281.85</td>
<td>$1,664,925.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$52,397.33</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$118,934.44</td>
<td>$108,034.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$2,658,208.68</td>
<td>$3,208,305.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$488,162.00</td>
<td>$707,386.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$36,284,053.18</td>
<td>$58,324,183.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$661,340.21</td>
<td>$620,735.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$600,000.00</td>
<td>$600,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$674,611.00</td>
<td>$674,611.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,039,417.67</strong></td>
<td>$34,524,777.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Liabilities and Fund Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2017</td>
<td>$34,789,010.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$105,476.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$5,501,920.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,039,417.67</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program - Claim Payment and Reserve Experience
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
As of June 30, 2017

Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2017

BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>$600,173.53</td>
<td>$915,515.13</td>
<td>$902,877.32</td>
<td>$961,937.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>4,742.56</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>4,959.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes Receivable</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>2,640,869.35</td>
<td>2,970,140.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>132,478.16 (50,474.62)</td>
<td>101,719.56</td>
<td>182,951.07</td>
<td>182,951.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Insurance</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>11,986.00</td>
<td>11,986.00</td>
<td>11,986.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due From Operating Fund</td>
<td>2,692,988.03</td>
<td>2,309,289.44</td>
<td>2,031,153.83</td>
<td>2,357,225.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPIC Member Share</td>
<td>207,164.00</td>
<td>243,134.00</td>
<td>245,370.00</td>
<td>297,499.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock in NCRG</td>
<td>132,247.84</td>
<td>133,247.84</td>
<td>132,247.84</td>
<td>132,247.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$4,129,763.14</td>
<td>$3,643,744.70</td>
<td>$6,071,043.90</td>
<td>$6,928,946.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Premiums</td>
<td>$1,680,823.46</td>
<td>$1,703,004.51</td>
<td>$1,781,428.45</td>
<td>$1,921,466.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) On investments (Net)</td>
<td>158,473.71 (8,688.48)</td>
<td>10,421.81</td>
<td>111,189.46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>30,002.93</td>
<td>23,725.88</td>
<td>24,506.59</td>
<td>24,871.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>$1,871,121.09</td>
<td>$1,718,121.99</td>
<td>$1,795,513.26</td>
<td>$1,960,027.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXPERTISE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds</td>
<td>$877,727.44</td>
<td>$914,611.89</td>
<td>$929,238.40</td>
<td>$902,125.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>10,297.70</td>
<td>5,955.52</td>
<td>7,815.02</td>
<td>6,303.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallagher Bassett Service Fee</td>
<td>2,475.00</td>
<td>24,622.00</td>
<td>24,330.00</td>
<td>22,814.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment in Reserves</td>
<td>885,331.36</td>
<td>400,325.18</td>
<td>(298,886.52)</td>
<td>(347,580.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-funded Claims</td>
<td>434,351.81</td>
<td>722,212.81</td>
<td>702,437.79</td>
<td>594,268.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Payable</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unearned Insurance Premium</td>
<td>$900,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve For Claims</td>
<td>2,146,721.30</td>
<td>2,550,414.48</td>
<td>2,526,142.86</td>
<td>2,178,593.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds</td>
<td>140,443.17</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>250,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charge on Reserves</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>$2,187,260.95</td>
<td>$2,620,590.52</td>
<td>$1,200,467.87</td>
<td>$1,133,961.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES

$118,457.87 ($885,406.38) ($112,554.41) ($92,426.91)
### Diocesan Lay Employees’ Retirement Fund

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIocese OF Ogdensburg**

**BALANCE SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Account</td>
<td>$25,453.34</td>
<td>$30,078.46</td>
<td>$14,734.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruals Receivable</td>
<td>$11,894.09</td>
<td>$10,848.29</td>
<td>$17,765.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>$235,136.97</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Investments</td>
<td>$27,095,207.56</td>
<td>$26,043,449.71</td>
<td>$22,923,320.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ASSETS**

$27,368,819.96

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal &amp; Agency Obligations</td>
<td>$26,085,378.43</td>
<td>$23,208,377.43</td>
<td>$23,208,377.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimesiional Fund Advisors - Emerging Beneficial</td>
<td>$263,747.75</td>
<td>$263,747.75</td>
<td>$263,747.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

$27,368,819.96

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 -</th>
<th>July 1, 2015 -</th>
<th>Sept. 1, 2017 -</th>
<th>Sept. 1, 1997 -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Account</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
<td>$23,122,203.04</td>
<td>$24,305,239.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)</td>
<td>$2,786,870.71</td>
<td>$685,870.71</td>
<td>$17,916,122.11</td>
<td>$20,715,702.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$2,083,330.07</td>
<td>$2,086,163.56</td>
<td>$23,122,203.04</td>
<td>$24,305,239.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ADDITIONS**

$2,083,330.07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 -</th>
<th>July 1, 2015 -</th>
<th>Sept. 1, 2017 -</th>
<th>Sept. 1, 1997 -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit Payments</td>
<td>$2,791,015.00</td>
<td>$2,534,946.00</td>
<td>$28,655,354.02</td>
<td>$31,416,369.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Expenses</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
<td>$23,122,203.04</td>
<td>$24,305,239.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
<td>$23,122,203.04</td>
<td>$24,305,239.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REMOVALS**

$1,083,330.07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 -</th>
<th>July 1, 2015 -</th>
<th>Sept. 1, 2017 -</th>
<th>Sept. 1, 1997 -</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net (Additions Minus Deduc tions)</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
<td>$23,122,203.04</td>
<td>$24,305,239.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>Book Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government &amp; Agency Obligations</td>
<td>$2,786,870.71</td>
<td>$685,870.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Obligations</td>
<td>$2,083,330.07</td>
<td>$2,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equities</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manning &amp; Naper Advisors Investment Funds</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Brothers Investment Services - Funds</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund</td>
<td>$1,083,330.07</td>
<td>$1,086,163.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

$27,368,819.96

### Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIocese OF Ogdensburg**

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>July 1, 2016</th>
<th>July 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td>$147,332.09</td>
<td>$117,164.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Premiums</td>
<td>$109,311.94</td>
<td>$117,797.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)</td>
<td>$27,056,267.56</td>
<td>$10,739,917.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$11,266.38</td>
<td>$11,101.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Other Funds</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL INCOME**

$147,332.09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts</th>
<th>July 1, 2016</th>
<th>July 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$14,403.83</td>
<td>$14,403.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Paid</td>
<td>$14,924.22</td>
<td>$14,924.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation</td>
<td>$6,270.00</td>
<td>$6,270.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Administration</td>
<td>$15,925.76</td>
<td>$15,925.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Other Funds</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**

$36,599.59

**EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES**

$101,732.50

$80,566.36
Missionary Projects/Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017

FUND BALANCE - JULY 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</th>
<th>July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$125,449.19</td>
<td>$119,265.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECEIPTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</th>
<th>July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan OPA Collection</td>
<td>$52,079.81</td>
<td>$43,801.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missionary Coop Collection</td>
<td>2,262.07</td>
<td>11,327.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish OPA Donations</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>4,030.61</td>
<td>3,857.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Gifts</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Donations</td>
<td>555.61</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>6,018.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL RECEIPTS: 58,928.10

TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS: $184,377.29

EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</th>
<th>July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>$501.16</td>
<td>$486.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>976.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Grants and Donations</td>
<td>41,602.07</td>
<td>57,357.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 42,128.23

FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</th>
<th>July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$142,249.06</td>
<td>$125,449.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Diocesan Health*/Disability Benefits Program
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017

BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
<th>June 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Money Market Funds</td>
<td>6,372.98</td>
<td>5,915.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in Deposit &amp; Loan Fund</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due From Operating Funds</td>
<td>196,378.43</td>
<td>157,920.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$202,751.41</td>
<td>$163,835.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>June 30, 2017</th>
<th>June 30, 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserve for Claims**</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due To Operating Funds</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>202,751.41</td>
<td>163,835.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>$202,751.41</td>
<td>$163,835.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016</th>
<th>July 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME</td>
<td>$117,552.00</td>
<td>$124,380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premiums</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retiree Drug Subsidy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$117,552.00</td>
<td>$124,380.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016</th>
<th>July 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$46,789.36</td>
<td>$30,126.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Paid</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Fees</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance - Retired Priests</td>
<td>5,038.84</td>
<td>4,861.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Office Administration</td>
<td>20,888.04</td>
<td>25,780.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to Other Programs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$78,636.24</td>
<td>$160,768.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excess (Deficit)** - **Income Minus Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>July 1, 2016</th>
<th>July 1, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess (Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>$38,915.76</td>
<td>$36,388.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Self insured health insurance program was terminated August 31, 1997.
### Priests’ Retirement Fund

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGdensburg**

**July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDITIONS</th>
<th>JULY 1, 2015-JUNE 30, 2016</th>
<th>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,589,808.36</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,200,440.14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADDITIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Christmas Collection</td>
<td>$225,379.54</td>
<td>$219,870.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Assessment</td>
<td>74,076.00</td>
<td>74,076.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection</td>
<td>4,967.00</td>
<td>10,563.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests and Donations</td>
<td>201,259.09</td>
<td>200.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>187,743.31</td>
<td>184,007.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)</td>
<td>1,121,901.51</td>
<td>(361,191.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ADDITIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,825,826.45</strong></td>
<td><strong>160,287.06</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,415,635.84</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,200,440.14</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEDUCTIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to Retired Priests</td>
<td>$865,887.16</td>
<td>$878,910.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Priests Health Insurance</td>
<td>233,028.21</td>
<td>233,087.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Administration</td>
<td>125,986.33</td>
<td>126,040.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,224,901.70</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,220,085.17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,200,440.14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FORTY-NINE YEAR SUMMARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1968-2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADDITIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of Christmas Collection</td>
<td>$8,067,404.88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Assessment</td>
<td>1,487,279.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection</td>
<td>454,599.44</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequests and Donations</td>
<td>3,000,124.45</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>6,913,003.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Realized &amp; Unrealized Gains on Investments</td>
<td>11,233,333.38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Insurance Fund Grant</td>
<td>90,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Account Interest</td>
<td>119,838.70</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Account Grant</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ADDITIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,795,169.30</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEDUCTIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to Retired Priests</td>
<td>$16,992,246.32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired Priests Health Insurance</td>
<td>2,776,671.57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Administration</td>
<td>1,022,010.27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21,785,238.16</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,200,440.14</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priests’ Retirement Fund Assets

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGdensburg**

**July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Book Value</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank</td>
<td>$2,181,661.60</td>
<td>$2,181,661.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>$8,127.07</td>
<td>$8,127.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due to Operating Fund</td>
<td>(1,753,777.68)</td>
<td>(1,753,777.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Receivable</td>
<td>10,632.46</td>
<td>10,632.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocks</td>
<td>3,370,101.25</td>
<td>3,829,519.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds and U.S. Government Obligations</td>
<td>2,358,207.04</td>
<td>2,353,927.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manning &amp; Napier Funds</td>
<td>2,517,003.45</td>
<td>2,597,600.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Brothers Investment Services</td>
<td>2,263,768.28</td>
<td>2,451,399.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund</td>
<td>142,364.00</td>
<td>169,528.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities</td>
<td>364,795.00</td>
<td>314,821.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS - JUNE 30, 2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,495,637.47</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,200,440.14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Miracles attributed to Pope Paul VI, Archbishop Romero clear way for canonization**

**Coming soon: thirteen new saints**

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Pope Francis has cleared the way for the canonizations of Blessed Paul VI and Oscar Romero.

At a meeting March 6 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, Pope Francis signed decrees for the causes of 13 men and women — among them a pope, an archbishop, two young laywomen and a number of priests and nuns.

He recognized a miracle attributed to Blessed Paul, who, according to Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, will be declared a saint in late October at the end of the Synod of Bishops on youth and discernment. Blessed Paul, who was born Giovanni Battista Montini, was pope from 1963 to 1978.

Pope Francis also formally signed the decree recognizing the miracle needed to advance the sainthood cause of Archbishop Romero of San Salvador, martyr.

El Salvador’s ambassador to the Holy See, Manuel Roberto Lopez, told Catholic News Service March 7 that the news of the pope’s approval “took us by surprise.”

“They told us before that the process was going well and that all we needed was the approval of the miracle, and it turns out the pope approved it yesterday,” he said.

Lopez told CNS that he was happy that Blessed Oscar Romero’s canonization was imminent and that his holiness was recognized alongside one of his earliest supporters.

“To see that he will be canonized along with (Blessed) Paul VI, who was a great friend of Archbishop Romero and supported his work, is a great blessing,” Lopez said.

The Vatican did not announce a date for Blessed Romero’s canonization.

The pope also recognized the miracles needed for the canonization of: Father Francesco Spinelli of Italy, founder of the Sisters Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament; Father Vincenzo Romano of Italy; and Mother Maria Katharina Kasper, founder of the religious congregation, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

He recognized the miracle needed for the beatification of Maria Felicita Guggiari Echeverria, a Discalced Carmelite from Paraguay whom Pope Francis has upheld as a model for the youth of Paraguay. Affectionately called, “Chiquitunga,” she died from an unexpected illness in 1959 at the age of 34 before she could make her final vows.

The pope also recognized the martyrdom of a 16-year-old laywoman from Slovakia, Anna Kolesarova, who lived from 1928 to 1944 in the eastern town of Pavlovce, was murdered during Slovakia’s occupation by the Soviet army in World War II after refusing sexual favors to a Russian soldier.

In causes just beginning their way toward sainthood, the pope signed decrees recognizing the heroic virtues of Polish Redemptorist Father Bernard Lubinski, who entered the congregation in England and then returned to Poland to re-found the Redemptorists there in the 20th century, and Sandra Sabatini, a young Italian laywoman who was active in helping the poor with the Pope John XXIII Community. She was hit by a car and died in 1984 at the age of 22.

The pope also recognized the heroic virtues of Antonio Pietro Cortinovis of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin (1885-1984) and three Italian women — two who founded religious orders and a laywoman who founded a lay fraternity.
Bishops urge action on conscience protection for health care workers

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The chairmen of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life and religious freedom committees have asked U.S. Catholics to contact members of Congress and urge them to enact the Conscience Protection Act as part of the funding bill for fiscal year 2018.

Congress faces a March 23 deadline to approve an omnibus appropriations measure that likely would fund the government through the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

Lawmakers will consider whether to include the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 in the bill.

"Increasing and fierce attacks on conscience rights regarding abortion cry out for an immediate remedy," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, chair of the Committee for Religious Liberty.

In a joint statement March 6, the bishops urged Catholics to flood Congress with emails and calls asking for enactment of the measure and "to pray for this outcome."

They expected Congress to take action the week of March 12.

Catholics were encouraged to reach their members of Congress in one of two ways: calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and asking to be connected with their representative or senator; or sending them an email message via the Human Life Action website -- http://bit.ly/2IlH7vu.

"Increasing and fierce attacks on conscience rights regarding abortion cry out for an immediate remedy," Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Kurtz said. "Congress must remedy this problem by enacting the Conscience Protection Act now as part of the fiscal year 2018 funding bill."


The House passed an omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 that includes the language of the Conscience Protection Act but the Senate didn’t pass an appropriations bill.

In January, the civil rights office of the federal Department of Health and Human Services put in place new policies to protect conscience rights and religious freedom, "a move that won praise from Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Kurtz."

But they also said a legislative solution was needed.

"Conscience protection should not be subject to political whims, however, permanent legislative relief is essential," they said in a Jan. 19 statement.

They urged action on the Conscience Protection Act to give victims of discrimination the ability to defend their rights in court."

"No one should be forced to violate their deeply held convictions about the sanctity of human life," they said.

Editor’s note: Videos featuring nurses forced by employers to choose between their jobs and participating in abortions can found on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website, www.usccb.org/conscience, and on the USCCB’s YouTube channel and at Facebook.com/USCCB.
Pope adds feast of Mary to universal church calendar

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- Pope Francis has decreed that Latin-rite Catholics around the world will mark the feast of "the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church" on the Monday after Pentecost each year.

The Gospel reading for the feast, which technically is called a "memorial," is John 19:25-31, which recounts how from the cross Jesus entrusted Mary to his disciples as their mother and entrusted his disciples to Mary as her children. The decree announcing the addition to the church calendar was released March 3 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Pope Francis approved the decree after "having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety," the decree said.

Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation, noted in a brief commentary published the same day, that Blessed Paul VI in 1964 had formally bestowed the title of "mother of the church" on Mary, but that recognition of her maternal care for the church and for believers had already spanned centuries.
Loving and forgiving as God loves and forgives

Ever since the time of Abraham, God has revealed Himself as not only as an awesome Creator of everything that is, but as a God who fell in love with the humans that He created. It is a love that will never give up. Over and over, we have been fickle, forgetful, and ungrateful for all that God has lavishly given us.

In this passage, He forgives the sinfulness of his “chosen” people, their failure to value His love. Much less, do they make a return for God’s love by attempting to really loving Him back. Through Jeremiah, God promises to take away their stony hearts, replacing them with hearts made of flesh. He will write this “new” covenant on their hearts. In other words, He will make their hearts able to respond with the power of God’s own love. That love will wipe away their sin, and also provide a mysterious food (the Eucharist) to enable them to accept suffering as Jesus did.

In the Gospel, the Greeks who wanted to meet Jesus probably expected to see a face that mirrored success and triumph. Instead, they met a Jesus who was preparing his chosen Twelve to witness His brutal and shameful death as a common criminal.

What of us? We have seen the face of Christ crucified in the ways in which people can torture and kill other people who were saved by the blood of Jesus’ death on the Cross. Especially in the last fifty or sixty years the shocking pictures we have seen through the media, especially through the pictures remain deep in our memories.

They are pictures of the Holocaust, pictures of disfigured men and women of Nagasaki and Hiroshima after August 6th, 1945, Vietnamese children, running for their lives during the Tet Offensive in 1968, people leaping from the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center.

We are so numbed to see what people can inflict on other people!

We must always make reparation for the evil that only God can forgive through our penance, prayer and almsgiving.

Lenten reflection on mercy and forgiveness

By Mary Wood
Contributing writer

“Stop judging, lest you be judged.” Mt. 7:1.

Those five words standing alone can be confusing, because they create a conflict for all of us. On the one hand, people use that quotation to ensure that we are not allowed to express an opinion as to whether something is right or wrong. Often, if we take a stand against evil, we are accused of being intolerant. However, if we fail to teach the Gospel, we will most certainly be held accountable at our judgment.

So where does that leave a good Christian? Certainly if we habitually criticize people’s different lifestyles, we will not bring anyone to Christ. We will instead drive them away.

The rest of the scripture adds clarity to the situation. Mt7:2 states: “For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged. And with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Judging is not condemned, but the scripture exhorts us to be very careful about the approach. If we are going to address an issue, we must look to Jesus’ words. First he tells us “Let anyone who is without sin be the first to throw a stone” Jn8:7.

The key is that God does judge us, with justice and mercy. That’s how we must judge others. We do not have perfect justice or perfect mercy, therefore we must lean toward mercy. Living that way, perhaps we can hope that God will lean toward mercy in judging us.

The doctrine of the final judgment states: In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each man’s relationship with God will be laid bare.” It is important to understand that Christ will reveal and judge what each person has done or failed to do. We can only apply this to our own examination of conscience for no human person can ever know what is in the heart of the sinner. As for practicing our faith, we often come up against sin in the world. It is best to approach others with great love. The only thing that we can tell someone who is engulfed in sin is that God loves them and Christ died for every one of us. Their relationship with the Father is personal, and if they would like someone to pray with them, we would be happy to do that. In the meantime, we must pray to the Spirit for their conversion.

We can only move forward with the understanding that our actions will be judged. It is our obligation to act with justice and mercy, with a heavy emphasis on mercy.

Most of us have been forced to face off against evil in our society, and hopefully in our journey, we recognize evil when we see it. Lent is a good time to reflect on the evils that we face and reevaluate how we deal with evil.

We must stand for righteousness in the world, and the example of our lives must shine forth with virtue, goodness and forgiveness. At the same time, we must never hesitate to condemn that which is inherently evil.

As Jesus went into the desert, he was surrounded by wild beasts... but He fasted and prayed for the victory of good over evil. He was praying for our strength in our battle.

Let us join Him in fasting and praying for strength against evil, and conversion in our own hearts during this Lenten season.

(Mary Wood is a parishioner of Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, president of the local Legion of Mary and student in the diocesan Formation program for Ministry program.)
By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

Can a lovelorn yet sensuous cleaning lady in 1962 Baltimore find true love with a blue and yellow and sometimes glowing fishman from the Amazon? “The Shape of Water” (Fox Searchlight), which evenly splits elements of romantic fantasy, classic horror and musical nostalgia, makes the case for girl meets gills.

The sexual content on display is, however, so strong and so pervasive as to make this unsuitable for the casual moviegoer.

Nothing about this element of the film is intended to appear prurient or shocking. Rather, it’s a matter of sheer quantity.

Writer-director Guillermo del Toro likes to underline his points in this mix of “Beauty and the Beast” and “Creature from the Black Lagoon” -- in the case of sexual identity, with the cinematic equivalent of a bright, thick Magic Marker. In many other places, he makes gentler observations about the prevalence of prejudice in a variety of forms.

Sally Hawkins is Elisa, a cleaning lady at a secret government underground lair. She’s been mute since childhood as a result of having her vocal cords cut. She lives with a gay advertising illustrator, Giles (Richard Jenkins), who is fighting to stay employed and relevant. Octavia Spencer is her co-worker and friend Zelda, who translates Elisa’s sign language and is, unfortunately, the old stereotype of the sassy black friend.

Elisa is very much alone, and she and Giles, although they live above a movie theater showing wide-screen Technicolor fare, prefer to watch old musical pictures on a black-and-white TV -- and practice dance steps.

Suddenly, the way plots in these stories occur, the lab receives a tank containing the Amazonian amphibian (Doug Jones).

The lab is a military facility, but is bossily ruled over by civilian Richard (Michael Shannon). He’s pugnacious, racist, in a stale marriage with a by-rote sex life, hates being stuck in Baltimore, and likes to torture the fishman with an electric cattle prod.

Complicating matters further is the presence of a Russian spy, Robert (Michael Stuhlbarg), since the Russians also are interested in retrieving this “asset.”

Richard, though, would prefer that the lab take the amphibian with the soulful golden eyes, and cut him into pieces to see how he works, since he can breathe on both land and sea. Richard purports to know that the amphibian is an affiliate to God, since he’s not “made in his image.”

The tank is in an area Elisa and Zelda are assigned to clean. It gets messy in there when the amphibian attacks Richard and tears off two fingers. But Elisa retrieves the digits, although they soon turn gangrenous (It’s not one of del Toro’s subtler analogies).

She also bonds with her new equally mute fishy friend over lunches of hard-boiled eggs and big-band ballads played on a portable phonograph.

She and the amphibian fall quickly into interspecies love, and she and Giles hatch a plan to spirit him out of the lab and to their apartment, where she installs him in the bathtub.

There’s also some improbable skinny-dipping when Elisa floods the bathroom. Subsequently, it turns out that her expressive sign language is a very convenient way to explain to Zelda how the sex works.

Will the amphibian make it to the ocean? (Technically the Chesapeake Bay, but let’s not pick that nit.) Can his and Elisa’s love survive? And does he have godlike healing powers?

All the glorious formulaic elements of a lush period romance mashed up with too many sexual references. Somehow, Alice’s warbling from beyond the grave manages to pull all of it together.

The film contains strong sexual content, fleeting gore and frequent rough language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.
ADIRONDACK

LENTEN FISH FRY
Bloomingdale - K of C Council 7803 Bloomingdale/Gabriels will hold their annual Lenten Fish Fry.
Date: March 23
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: St. Paul's Church
Cost: Adults, $11; Children 6-12, $6

CLINTON

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS
Plattsburgh – Annual Good Friday Prayer Service sponsored by Champlain Valley Right to Life is planned.
Date: March 30
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: In Front of Planned Parenthood
Features: Prayer for human life.
Contact: Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz at 518-562-1175

FISH FRY
Chazy – Sacred Heart parish to have their annual all you can eat Fish Fry.
Date: March 16
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $11; Children 6-12, $5; All Take-outs, $11

GUGS AND DOLLS
Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic to present Guys and Dolls Jr.
Date: March 23 at 7 p.m.; March 24 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Contact: Tickets are available at Bob's Music, Pearl Physical Therapy, and the Party Factory or by calling 518-561-4031 ext. 2555

SPAGHETTI DINNER
Altona – The Fourth Annual Hamilton Spaghetti Dinner to be held.
Date: March 18
Time: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: Holy Angel's Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $8; Children 6-12, $4; under 6, Free
Features: Easter Basket Drawing.

COCKTAIL UNVEILING
Plattsburgh – Seton parents are holding a Seton Gala Cocktail Unveiling.
Date: March 24
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Menor's
Cost: Suggested donation for the evening is a $15 gift card to be auctioned at the gala.
Features: This a free pre-Gala (Seton Gala is set for April 14) event, With tasting of 2018 Gala signature cocktail and food.

LAKEISERS FISHERS CLUB
Plattsburgh – The Fishers Club, a discernment program for men (juniors in high school and older) open to the possible vocation to the priesthood, to meet
Date: March 25; April 8 & 22; May 6
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church
Features: Discussion, prayer, dinner.
Contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor, stbarts@roadrunner.com /315-369-3554

LENTEN ADORATION
Plattsburgh – St. Peter's will offer Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Monday's and Tuesday's.
Time: 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Place: Chapel of St. Andre Bessette
Features: Ends with Benediction on 7 p.m. on Tuesday of Holy Week.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Plattsburgh – 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.

FRANKLIN

LENTEN MISSION WITH BISHOP
Bishop LaValley will be leading a Lenten Mission entitled: "Jesus through the eyes and hearts of Joseph, Peter and Mary" in Brushton and North Bangor
Time: 7 p.m.
Schedule: March 19 & 20 at St. Mary's Church, Brushton; March 21 at St. Augustine's Church, North Bangor.

HEARTS ON FIRE
Malone – Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.
Schedule: 7 p.m., Praise & Worship
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church
Features: Discussion, prayer, dinner.
Contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor, stbarts@roadrunner.com /315-369-3554

ST. REGIS FALLS – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass.
Place: St. Ann's Church

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary to have a spaghetti dinner.
Date: March 22
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: Msgr. Sechel Hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children, $4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $5.75
Features: Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
Watertown – Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will hold a Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration.
Schedule: Beginning Good Friday March 30 at 3 p.m. the Divine Mercy novena will begin. Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated April 8 at 3 p.m., there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, confession & a procession. You may bring your own Divine Mercy picture to be blessed.
Contact: For more info on Mercy Sunday call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit www.thedivinemercy.org

PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION
Evans Mills – A presentation to be held by Fr. Chris Loozby on a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Fatima & Lourdes.
Date: March 27
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Parish Center
Features: Trip to be held April 28 - May 7, 2019. Cost of the trip is $3,399.
Contact: Mary McIntosh at 315-558-6372.

LIFERIGHT MEETING
Watertown - Lifeflight meets the first Wednesday of the month.
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: 870 Arsenal Street.
Features: pro-life videos, books and educational materials for borrowing

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations
Date: Monday-Friday
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Place: Holy Family Church

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER GROUP
Watertown – Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.
Time: 5 p.m.
Place: Msgr. Sechel Hall, St. Anthony's

SECULAR FRANCISCANS
Watertown - The St. Joseph Cupertino Club, will be sponsoring their annual Fish Fry.
Date: March 26
Time: 5 p.m.
Place: Holy Family Church

WEEKLY ADORATION
Sackets Harbor - St. Andrew's has scheduled exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
Watertown – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.
Time: 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: St. Anthony's Church

LEWIS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Lowville – St. Peter's is sponsoring Lenten gatherings of prayer.
Dates: March 15 and 22
Time: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: One hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction.

ST. LAWRENCE

SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Canton - St. Mary's Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 2018-19 school year, Nursery through 6th grade.
Features: St. Mary's offers a faith-based, academically rigorous education, along with a family-oriented environment. Small classes and latch-key services are additional benefits.
Contact: To register, please call the school at 315-386-3572 or email at smsoffice@twcny.rr.com.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER
Canton – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.
Date: March 17
Time: 5 p.m. Mass then dinner to 7 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's School
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 4-8, $5; 3 and under, Free; Family $32

GUN AND KNIFE SHOW
Brasher Falls – The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.
Schedule: March 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Shamrock Club
Cost: $3; under 12 free
Features: Many dealers will be present with all kinds sporting items. Concessions stand open all day, breakfast served until 11 a.m. All guns must be checked in at door. Plenty of parking.
Contact: Phil Davis at 315-389-4627.

ALL DAY CONFESSION
Massena – During the week of Holy Week, all day confession to be held.
Date: March 26
Time: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Place: Sacred Heart Church
Features: During the same hours as Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

FISH AND SHRIMP FRY
Gouverneur – Fish & Shrimp Fry to be held every Friday during Lent.
Date: Feb. 16 to March 30
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.
Place: St. James School
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 12 and under, $5; under 5 Free
Contact: Take-outs available, call for faster service, deliveries 315-287-0130.
Greetings from Fr. Dan Chapin

Continued from the March 7, 2018 column

2017 was an important year for Maryknoll in Latin America. It was its 75th anniversary: Maryknoll chose Bolivia before all other Latin American countries, arriving in Cochabamba on June 14, 1942; missionaries who had been expelled from China now were missionaries in Latin America and specifically in the Amazon region of Bolivia. Celebrations were held to mark the event; the Superior General came from Osining and there were representatives from the Latin America Region...

Also in June, one of the local pastors presented his retirement due to health reasons, and since it was mid-year and the bishop had no priest available, he called upon Maryknoll and I volunteered; and so I began to help out at St. Pius X Parish; in July I began full time and in August the bishop appointed me administrator until the end of January, when new pastors are named. I have enjoyed the experience and it has given me an insight into parish life in this part of the Lord’s vineyard. There is a historical connection with both the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Maryknoll: St. Pius X was the Pope who approved Maryknoll; and the Parish of St. Pius X had its beginnings in 1962 when we initiated the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate.

In early July a group of parishioners and the now retired pastor took a trip to indigenous territory to meet with a tribe of about 30 families; we provided clothing, food, sweets and toys for the many children and a water tank for their community; we celebrated Mass with them and Maryknoll donated a chalice. As you can imagine, Mass is rarely celebrated in these more remote areas as there is hardly the presence of any priests; in fact, it took these families hours of walking on dirt roads in order to meet us. Truth is, I would love to work and work with these communities. In mid-July I completed the course on “International Missionary Formation” offered by the mission center here; there were missionaries present from all over the continent; I love becoming acquainted with missionary congregations, some of whom previously unknown to me. I also took part in the Archdiocesan Mission Congress here in Cochabamba, leading up to the American Mission Congress which will be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in mid-July and which will welcome missionaries from all Latin America.

Presently, schools are finishing vacation and will start up again on February 5; families have been traveling as well as receiving loved ones who live away and come home for a visit. It is the rainy season here and fortunately we have been receiving rain which helps with drought conditions. The country is in somewhat of a turmoil, with strikes and shutdowns; I will explain this in another email, as this situation is going to continue over the next two years leading up to national elections in October of 2019.

Let us continue to pray for all missionaries and especially Father Dan.
Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

ST. LAWRENCE

MIDLANDERS FISHERS CLUB
Canton - Fishers Club, a discernment program for young men (juniors in high school and up) who are open to a possible vocation to the priesthood, will meet
Place: St. Mary's Rectory
Time: 9 a.m.
Schedule: March 31, April 14 and 28
Features: brunch, discussion, and prayer with Fathers Douglas Lucia and Bryan Stitt.
Contact: Fr. Doug Lucia dlucia@rcdony.org /315-348-4466

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ANNULMENT WORKSHOPS
The Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is sponsoring informational workshops on annulments.
Schedule:
- March 27, St. Mary's School, Canton, from 7 p.m. to 8:30
- April 9, St. Patrick's Parish Center, Port Henry, from 6:30 p.m. to 8
- April 16, Holy Ghost Parish Center, Tupper Lake, from 6:30 p.m. to 8
Features: The workshops are designed for people who wish to explore beginning the annulment process. The tribunal staff will have the forms available to begin the process and will be on-hand to answer any individual questions.

YOUTH RALLY
Canton — The annual diocesan Youth Rally to be held for young people in grades 6-12.
Date: April 28
Place: St. Mary's
Cost: $25 (Includes lunch and a guaranteed t-shirt) for those registered by March 15. $30 (Includes lunch, T-shirt while supplies last) for those registered after March 15.
Features: The day will include keynote speaker Bob Perron, interactive park, prayer, workshops, and a closing Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley.
Contact: Youth leaders can register their groups at www.rcdony.org/youthrally/rally

RACHEL'S VINEYARD
Saranac Lake - A Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat is set
Date: June 1-3
Place: Guggenheim Lodge
Features: Father Mark Reilly will serve as the retreat chaplain. Confidential registration forms are available at the Respect Life webpage: www.rcdony.org/prolife

CAMP GUGGENHEIM
Registration for Camp Guggenheim is open. Weeks 1-5 are open to ages 12-15, and Week 6 is open to 16-18-year-olds.
Contact: Register at www.rcdony.org/camp.

PARISH VOCATION MEETINGS
Three regional parish vocation ministry meetings have been scheduled for those currently involved and those who wish to get started.
Schedule:
- March 17 in Peru; April 21 in Watertown; May 5 in Norfolk
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30
Contact: Contact Cathy Russell at crusell@rcdony.org or slippincott@rcdony.org for more information.

OPERATION MIRIAM LUNCH
Watertown — A program for women of middle school age and older, to learn about consecrated life is set
Date: April 15
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: SSI Motherhouse
Features: Prayer to know one’s vocation with benediction; Lunch with Bishop LaValley, followed by sharing of vocation stories and information about consecrated life. Parents are welcome.
Contact: Register by contacting Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620 by April 12.

Contact: For information about the Plattsburgh camp or register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at chvc.ogdensburg@gmail.com or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786. Additional information at www.heartworkcamp.com.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE
Massena - The Department of Family Life in conjunction with the Offices of Vocations and Evangelization, will present an all-day Life and Family Conference and workshop entitled Marriage: God Calls, We Respond.
Date: April 14
Place: Trinity Catholic School
Speakers: Dr. Gregory and Lisa Popcak
Contact: More details and registration information is available at www.rcdony.org/marriage