

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Interview with  
Dr. Gregory Popcak,  
part 2 | PAGE 5

Lent: a time for  
mercy, love and  
forgiveness | PAGE 16

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 43

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 14, 2018

## '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

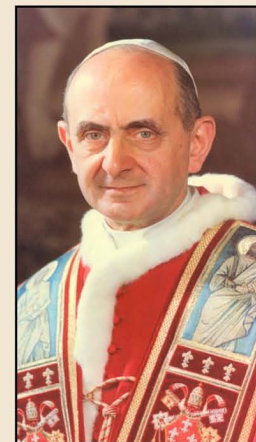
## CREATING A TREE OF KINDNESS



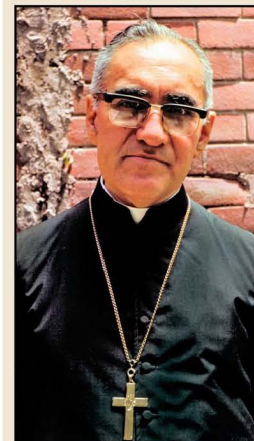
During Catholic School Week, the students of Seton Academy of Plattsburgh, including Azik Helmer, Elizabeth Burnham, and Dana LaValley, shown above, began to create a "kindness tree." They children looked at pictures showing kind acts, read accounts of people showing kindness, and added leaves to the 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.

## TO BE SAINTS

### Cleared for canonization



CNS PHOTOS/FILES/OCTAVIO DURAN  
Pope Francis has cleared the way for the canonizations of Blessed Paul VI, above, and Oscar Romero



FULL STORY, PAGE 13

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY  
R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Editorial Office:**  
622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

**Telephone:**  
(315) 608-7556

**E-mail:**  
news@northcountry  
catholic.org

**Entered at the  
Post Office:**  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 and  
additional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

**Subscription:**  
For one year:  
In-Diocese Rate: \$27  
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed to  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received by  
Thursday prior to  
publication.

Paper is printed each  
Monday;  
deadline is Wednesday.  
Member, Catholic Press  
Association.

**POSTMASTER:**  
Send address changes to  
North Country Catholic,  
PO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY  
13669-0326

## 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 com-

munity which depends on money to carry out so much of our mission.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

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 dur-

ing 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 and 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 MUENCH SAYS

## Our foundation for living as Christians

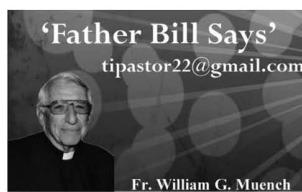
Today, let us talk about the commandments.

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 negative 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



Fr. William G. Muench

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 our 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 you 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 con-

cerned 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 Atonement 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.

## YOUNG ARCHITECT



Angela Dwyer, sixth grader at Holy Family School in Malone, focuses on creating an earthquake resistant apartment building, combining math, science, and technology.

## 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](mailto: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.**



## MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

# 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

Lord,  
make me an instrument  
of your peace;  
where there is hatred,  
let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness,  
joy.  
- St. Francis of Assisi

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 you will be forgiven; give, 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 be 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.

## GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.  
E-mail [eward@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:eward@dioogdensburg.org)  
to sign up today.



### **Christ-led, Christ-fed, Hope-filled**

All the Faithful of the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
are cordially invited to join

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

for the annual Renewal of Priestly  
Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils,  
and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for  
use in all the churches of the Diocese  
symbolizing that we are one family in Christ  
on

**Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.  
at St. Mary's Cathedral  
in Ogdensburg, New York.**

## JOB OPENING

### Wadhams Hall Business Manager

Wadhams Hall Retreat Center in Ogdensburg, NY is seeking a person to serve as Business Manager.

The Business Manager is responsible for the total operation of the Retreat Center.

The responsibilities include the fiscal operation, building maintenance, kitchen, housing, and buildings and grounds upkeep.

A complete job description can be sent to interested persons by writing to [msgraucoin@mac.com](mailto:msgraucoin@mac.com).

Interested candidates should send their letter of interest along with a Curriculum Vitae to:

Rev. Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin  
850 Arsenal St., Watertown, NY, 13601

*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 pub-



lished, 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 take-away? 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



**Dr. Gregory Popcak and his wife Lisa, left, will serve as keynote speakers for the "Marriage: God Calls, We Respond" conference to be held April 14 in Massena. Further information and registration is at [www.rcdony.org/marriage](http://www.rcdony.org/marriage). In the second of a two-part interview, Dr. Popcak discusses the Pastoral Solutions Institute and some of the relationship issues couples face.**

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. Everything just escalates.

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.

**NCC:** Have the issues that couples struggle with changed much in the last 30 years?

**DR. POPCAK:** Underneath it all, the issues are very similar to what they were then, the same process issues I just named.

Obviously, social media and pornography do play a role today—but the relationship issues are still the most important.

Interestingly, this generation expects more personal satisfaction from marriage than previous generations - but are more cynical about their ability to succeed in marriage, believing that they are not capable of it.

This is a challenge for the Church, but also a great opportunity. It is a chance to affirm couples' desire to have a great, passionate, intimate and beautiful marriage. After all that is what God wants for married couples too.

**NCC:** You and Lisa have been married for 29 years. How has your own marriage influenced your work, and vice-versa?

**DR. POPCAK:** Our marriage is a kind of lab for our work; we don't teach anything that hasn't worked for us. We challenge each other to practice what we preach, which has borne a lot of fruit in our relationship.

We have been blessed with a great marriage and family life. But there's nothing special about us; we have our struggles.

The good news: you don't have to be perfect. Anyone willing to do the necessary work and cooperate with God's grace can have a wonderful marriage!

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Visit our website [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) to subscribe online by clicking on "Subscribe by Credit Card", top right corner or call our office at 315-608-7556 to subscribe by phone

## OUR READERS WRITE

## 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 all ways 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

**MONASTERY CARD SHOP**  
Cards for All Occasions  
*Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.*

**Precious Blood Monastery**  
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM  
SATURDAY 9 AM - 12 PM  
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN  
315-788-1669  
[www.sisterspreciousblood.org](http://www.sisterspreciousblood.org)

## Proud to serve the Diocese of Ogdensburg

### PINTO MUCENSKI HOOPER VANHOUSE & CO., CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, P.C.

42 Market St. Potsdam, NY 13676	301 Ford Street Ogdensburg, NY 13669	443 S. Main St. Massena, NY 13662
Phone: 315 265 6080 Fax: 315 265 3530	Phone: 315 393 7502 Fax: 315 393 9231	Phone: 315 769 7430 Fax: 315 769 8377

Members : American Institute Certified Public Accountant  
NYS Society of Certified Public Accountants

## 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 14** – Msgr. Maurice John Belamy, 1958; Msgr. Edgar A. Gallagher, 1961; Rev. John Quinn, M.S.C., 1962; Rev. Joseph E. Turcotte, O.M.I., 1980; Rev. Edward C. Rivette, 1981; Rev. Timothy J. Soucy, 2009

**March 15** – Rev. Charles J. McMorrow, 1898; Rev. Howard G. Goiser, 1984

**March 16** – Rev. William A. MacDermott, 1913; Msgr. Noel V. Zimmerman, 1994

**March 17** – Rev. Michael Froc, O.M.I., 1905; Rev. Francis X. Parisian, 1955

**March 18** – Rev. Joseph Murtagh, 1928

**March 19** – Rev. Andronique Blaignier, 1958; Msgr. Thomas J. Robillard, 2009

**March 20** – Most Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, 1939

## 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](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information is available from Jill Lawrence, 315-393-2920, ext 1440

Upcoming sessions:  
**March 14** – 6 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena  
**March 23** – 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Massena

## 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, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

## 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 Si: 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.



# Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Report of Special Funds

## A Letter From The Diocesan Fiscal Officer

### A Message from Bishop Terry LaValley

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.

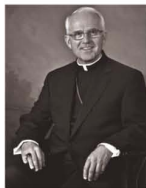
Your personal sacrifice and generous support provides the needed resources for the Diocese of Ogdensburg to proclaim the Good News and minister faithfully to our sisters and brothers in Christ throughout the North Country.

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



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 the 2017-18 fiscal year 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 of \$953,500 in its 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. \$200,000 of the Fund's net assets were transferred to the Lay Employees' Retirement Plan in December 2017.

#### 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 \$26,374,778. 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 (114% 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) 393-2920, ext. 1210, email at [mtooley@rcdonv.org](mailto:mtooley@rcdonv.org) or visit the Fiscal Office at 604 Washington Street in Ogdensburg during normal office hours.

Michael J. Tooley  
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

***Diocesan Trust Fund Principal***  
**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**  
**January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2017**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN PRINCIPAL**

	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2015	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016	July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	January 1, 1977 - June 30, 2017
<b>Opening Balance</b>	\$0.00	\$27,427,007.76	\$26,905,814.76	\$0.00
Net Deposits	15,057,881.67	(337,604.69)	199,104.80	14,919,381.78
Net Realized Gain on Sales	20,047,750.93	372,977.40	1,196,879.77	21,617,608.10
Fees [Custody/Management]	(1,887,354.95)	(100,020.25)	(448,222.93)	(2,435,598.13)
Transfers to Pay Dividends	(10,009,816.58)	(751,251.31)	(751,248.44)	(11,512,316.33)
Net Adjustments*	<u>4,218,546.69</u>	<u>294,705.85</u>	<u>(87,945.82)</u>	<u>4,425,306.72</u>
<b>Closing Balance [Book]</b>	<u>\$27,427,007.76</u>	<u>\$26,905,814.76</u>	<u>\$27,014,382.14</u>	<u>\$27,014,382.14</u>
<b>Market Value</b>	<u>\$29,292,158.91</u>	<u>\$27,440,514.06</u>	<u>\$29,016,659.23</u>	<u>\$29,016,659.23</u>

\* includes income reinvested for fund, funds in transit, etc.

\*\* Assets June 30, 2015 at NBT Bank, Dimensional Fund Advisors & The Investment Fund for Foundations.

	Book Value	Market Value	% Yield (Book)	% Yield (Market)
<b>NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</b>				
Bonds & U.S. Government Agencies & Bond Funds	\$9,883,620.27	\$9,870,023.25	2.41%	2.41%
Equities & Equity Funds	10,032,347.60	11,472,588.61	0.89%	0.78%
Real Estate and Real Estate Trusts	475,945.39	640,948.54	3.19%	2.37%
Money Market	<u>396,220.69</u>	<u>396,220.69</u>	<u>0.86%</u>	<u>0.86%</u>
<b>TOTAL NBT BANK INVESTMENTS</b>	<u>\$20,788,133.95</u>	<u>\$22,379,781.09</u>	<u>1.65%</u>	<u>1.53%</u>
<b>CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES</b>				
Bond Funds	\$1,843,936.62	\$1,827,545.85	0.95%	0.95%
Equity Funds	<u>\$3,414,638.57</u>	<u>\$3,867,697.81</u>	<u>1.18%</u>	<u>1.04%</u>
<b>TOTAL CHRISTIAN BROTHERS INVESTMENT SERVICES</b>	<u>\$5,258,575.19</u>	<u>\$5,695,243.66</u>	<u>1.10%</u>	<u>1.01%</u>
<b>DIMENSIONAL FUND ADVISORS</b>	<u>\$626,000.00</u>	<u>\$534,767.48</u>		
<b>THE INVESTMENT FUND FOR FOUNDATIONS</b>	<u>\$341,673.00</u>	<u>\$406,867.00</u>		
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<u>\$27,014,382.14</u>	<u>\$29,016,659.23</u>		

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

**BALANCE SHEET**

	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,087,281.85	\$1,646,925.04
Accounts Receivable	\$52,397.33	\$0.00
Interest Receivable	118,934.44	108,034.96
Notes Receivable - Borrowers	2,658,203.66	3,208,305.39
Reserve	(488,182.00)	(707,386.00)
Investments	36,384,053.18	29,312,183.55
Investment - Diocesan Trust Fund	661,340.21	620,735.65
Due From Retirement Plan for Priests	600,000.00	600,000.00
Due From Operating Fund	<u>(674,611.00)</u>	<u>(264,021.49)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$40,399,417.67</u>	<u>\$34,524,777.10</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Notes Payable - Depositors	\$34,789,010.47	\$29,881,281.77
Accrued Interest Payable	108,478.74	95,066.63
Fund Balance	<u>5,501,928.46</u>	<u>4,548,428.70</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>\$40,399,417.67</u>	<u>\$34,524,777.10</u>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

	July 1, 2016 June 30, 2017	July 1, 2015 June 30, 2016
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest on Notes Receivable	\$74,480.85	\$63,230.54
Investment Income	775,906.54	758,289.38
Unrealized Gain (Loss) On Investments	511,612.53	14,957.09
Realized Gain (Loss) On Investments	727,855.74	(104,487.72)
Other Income	<u>52,397.33</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>\$2,142,252.99</u>	<u>\$731,989.29</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Interest on Notes Payable	\$968,764.37	\$838,831.11
Investment Management Fees	143,982.51	138,491.43
Fiscal Office Administration	172,634.00	148,978.00
Office Supplies	319.25	251.13
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Increase in Reserves	(217,346.72)	293,295.00
Loans Forgiven	0.00	0.00
Departmental Grant	120,399.82	0.00
Contributions	<u>0.00</u>	<u>200,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>\$1,188,753.23</u>	<u>\$1,619,846.67</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>\$953,499.76</u>	<u>(\$887,857.38)</u>



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

**BALANCE SHEET**

	June 30, 2014	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2017
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Investments	\$960,173.53	\$915,535.13	\$902,877.32	\$961,937.78
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,742.56	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,959.21
Notes Receivable	0.00	0.00	2,640,689.35	2,970,140.30
Accounts Receivable	132,476.18	(60,447.62)	101,719.56	182,951.07
Prepaid Insurance	0.00	11,986.00	11,986.00	11,986.00
Due From Operating Fund	2,692,989.03	2,396,289.44	2,031,153.83	2,367,225.31
BPIC Member Share	207,164.00	243,134.00	245,370.00	297,499.00
Stock in NCRRG	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84	132,247.84
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$4,129,793.14</b>	<b>\$3,643,744.79</b>	<b>\$6,071,043.90</b>	<b>\$6,928,946.51</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>				
Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,564,152.14	\$2,943,178.60
Unearned Insurance Premium	\$900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserves For Claims	2,149,721.30	2,550,041.48	2,526,142.86	2,178,593.10
Fund Balance	1,979,171.84	1,093,703.31	980,748.90	1,807,174.81
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$4,129,793.14</b>	<b>\$3,643,744.79</b>	<b>\$6,071,043.90</b>	<b>\$6,928,946.51</b>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

	July 1, 2013 June 30, 2014	July 1, 2014 June 30, 2015	July 1, 2015 June 30, 2016	July 1, 2016 June 30, 2017
<b>INCOME</b>				
Earned Premiums	\$1,680,823.46	\$1,703,064.51	\$1,781,428.48	\$1,821,466.68
Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Gain (Loss) On Investments (Net)	159,473.71	(8,668.48)	(10,421.81)	111,189.46
Investment Income	30,823.92	23,725.88	24,506.59	24,871.18
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,871,121.09</b>	<b>\$1,718,121.99</b>	<b>\$1,795,513.26</b>	<b>\$1,960,027.32</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Reinsurance Premiums and Bonds	\$877,727.44	\$914,661.89	\$929,238.40	\$902,125.27
Professional Services	10,297.70	6,565.52	7,815.02	6,303.41
Gallagher Bassett Service Fee	23,475.00	24,622.00	24,333.00	22,814.00
Adjustment in Reserves	555,331.36	400,320.18	(23,898.62)	(347,549.76)
Self Insured Claims	424,351.81	722,221.82	702,438.79	264,268.56
NYS Compensation Board Assessments	22,574.86	52,135.34	36,567.80	61,176.61
Department Grants	92,824.86	44,215.81	48,254.13	37,264.28
Grants	0.00	250,000.00	634.00	0.00
Diocesan Administration	180,685.93	188,847.96	183,085.15	187,199.04
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$2,187,268.96</b>	<b>\$2,603,590.52</b>	<b>\$1,908,467.67</b>	<b>\$1,133,601.41</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(\$316,147.87)</b>	<b>(\$885,468.53)</b>	<b>(\$112,954.41)</b>	<b>\$826,425.91</b>

**Diocesan Protected Self-Insurance Program - Claim Payment and Reserve Experience**  
**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG**  
 As of June 30, 2017

YEAR	CLAIMS	RESERVES	TOTAL	Losses In Excess of Specific Retention	Losses In Excess of Aggregate Retention	Net Claims	Maximum Amount Single Claim	Maximum Amount Aggregate Claims
XLII - 2016-17	\$69,917.28	\$65,100.09	\$135,017.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135,017.37	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
XLI - 2015-16	401,788.84	161,364.07	563,152.91	0.00	0.00	563,152.91	250,000.00	0.00
XL - 2014-15	5,013,620.91	4,343,461.78	9,357,082.69	8,610,000.00	0.00	747,082.69	250,000.00	0.00
XXXIX - 2013-14	492,787.56	6,121.86	498,909.42	0.00	0.00	498,909.42	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVIII - 2012-13	347,191.74	33,100.00	380,291.74	0.00	0.00	380,291.74	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVII - 2011-12	371,606.71	19,797.64	391,404.35	0.00	0.00	391,404.35	250,000.00	0.00
XXXVI - 2010-11	361,855.44	301,972.37	663,827.81	120,000.00	0.00	543,827.81	250,000.00	0.00
XXXV - 2009-10	159,529.85	5,358.20	164,888.05	0.00	0.00	164,888.05	250,000.00	0.00
XXXIV - 2008-09	605,366.54	0.00	605,366.54	0.00	0.00	605,366.54	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXIII - 2007-08	320,044.95	9,117.32	329,162.27	0.00	0.00	329,162.27	250,000.00	850,000.00
XXXII - 2006-07	192,455.63	0.00	192,455.63	0.00	0.00	192,455.63	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXXI - 2005-2006	552,374.82	49,981.76	602,356.58	140,000.00	0.00	462,356.58	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXX - 2004-2005	726,960.73	0.00	726,960.73	92,089.73	0.00	634,871.00	250,000.00	815,000.00
XXIX - 2003-2004	736,739.70	100,214.20	836,953.90	276,847.00	0.00	560,106.90	250,000.00	780,000.00
XXVIII - 2002-2003	753,520.22	190,368.73	943,888.95	449,295.37	0.00	494,593.58	250,000.00	750,000.00
XXVII - 2001-2002	275,460.43	0.00	275,460.43	22,192.92	0.00	253,267.51	125,000.00	525,000.00
XXVI - 2000-2001	299,143.47	0.00	299,143.47	0.00	0.00	299,143.47	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXV - 1999-2000	302,681.02	0.00	302,681.02	0.00	0.00	302,681.02	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIV - 1998-1999	329,653.96	0.00	329,653.96	0.00	0.00	329,653.96	125,000.00	500,000.00
XXIII - 1997-1998	551,727.55	0.00	551,727.55	105,084.53	0.00	446,643.02	125,000.00	500,500.00
XXII - 1996-1997	478,202.02	0.00	478,202.02	98,570.05	0.00	379,631.97	125,000.00	583,500.00
XXI - 1995-1996	301,341.20	0.00	301,341.20	0.00	0.00	301,341.20	125,000.00	550,000.00
XX - 1994-1995	757,973.52	34,896.03	792,869.55	293,901.70	0.00	498,967.85	125,000.00	475,000.00
XIX - 1993-1994	1,096,356.83	205,096.07	1,301,452.90	681,079.89	139,018.91	481,354.10	125,000.00	450,000.00
XVIII - 1992-1993	326,552.77	0.00	326,552.77	0.00	0.00	326,552.77	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVII - 1991-1992	233,464.19	0.00	233,464.19	0.00	0.00	233,464.19	75,000.00	355,000.00
XVI - 1990-1991	92,322.17	0.00	92,322.17	0.00	0.00	92,322.17	75,000.00	355,000.00
XV - 1989-1990	190,455.56	0.00	190,455.56	0.00	0.00	190,455.56	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIV - 1988-1989	175,616.44	0.00	175,616.44	0.00	0.00	175,616.44	75,000.00	330,000.00
XIII - 1987-1988	217,603.90	0.00	217,603.90	38,761.50	0.00	178,842.40	75,000.00	300,000.00
XII - 1986-1987	189,446.09	0.00	189,446.09	0.00	0.00	189,446.09	75,000.00	300,000.00
XI - 1985-1986	56,964.54	0.00	56,964.54	0.00	0.00	56,964.54	75,000.00	260,000.00
X - 1984-1985	160,033.76	0.00	160,033.76	0.00	0.00	160,033.76	75,000.00	260,000.00
IX - 1983-1984	109,583.65	0.00	109,583.65	0.00	0.00	109,583.65	75,000.00	260,000.00
VIII - 1982-1983	184,851.55	0.00	184,851.55	18,990.00	0.00	165,861.55	75,000.00	260,000.00
VII - 1981-1982	103,135.97	0.00	103,135.97	0.00	0.00	103,135.97	75,000.00	260,000.00
VI - 1980-1981	323,071.44	0.00	323,071.44	112,199.00	0.00	210,872.44	75,000.00	225,000.00
V - 1979-1980	1,046,172.69	418,654.92	1,464,827.61	1,110,967.94	141,859.67	212,000.00	75,000.00	212,000.00
IV - 1978-1979	40,498.05	0.00	40,498.05	0.00	0.00	40,498.05	75,000.00	212,000.00
III - 1977-1978	153,929.85	0.00	153,929.85	36,878.52	0.00	117,051.33	50,000.00	150,000.00
II - 1976-1977	61,216.79	0.00	61,216.79	0.00	0.00	61,216.79	50,000.00	150,000.00
I - 1975-1976	63,402.99	0.00	63,402.99	0.00	0.00	63,402.99	50,000.00	150,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,226,623.32</b>	<b>\$5,944,605.04</b>	<b>\$25,171,228.36</b>	<b>\$12,206,858.15</b>	<b>\$280,878.58</b>	<b>\$12,683,491.63</b>		

*Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Fund*  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

**BALANCE SHEET**

ASSETS	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014
Accrued Income	\$25,453.34	\$15,079.98	\$14,734.62	\$9,063.36
Accounts Receivable	71,964.09	16,848.28	36,274.78	17,765.98
Prepaid Expenses	235,134.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cash & Investments	27,056,267.56	26,053,449.19	28,222,276.89	29,928,554.01
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>227,388,819.96</b>	<b>226,085,377.45</b>	<b>228,273,286.29</b>	<b>229,955,383.35</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>				
Due for Office Expense	\$392,652.51	\$422,756.86	\$400,506.20	\$418,149.30
Deferred Revenue	621,389.02	581,046.00	467,525.00	316,222.00
Fund Balance	26,374,778.43	25,081,574.59	27,405,255.09	29,221,012.05
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>227,388,819.96</b>	<b>226,085,377.45</b>	<b>228,273,286.29</b>	<b>229,955,383.35</b>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

ADDITIONS	July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017	July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2016	Sept. 1, 1967 - June 30, 2017
Employer Contributions	\$1,083,320.07	\$1,008,153.56	\$23,122,203.84	\$24,205,523.91
Gain (Loss) on Investments (net)	2,798,870.71	(966,693.39)	17,916,923.11	20,715,793.82
Investment Income	443,155.17	450,336.36	17,972,870.30	18,416,025.47
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>\$4,325,345.95</b>	<b>\$491,796.53</b>	<b>\$59,011,997.25</b>	<b>\$63,337,343.20</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>				
Benefit Payments	\$2,761,015.00	\$2,534,946.00	\$28,655,354.52	\$31,416,369.52
Administration Expense	271,127.11	280,531.03	5,274,657.52	5,545,784.63
Loss on Security Deposit	0.00	0.00	410.62	410.62
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>\$3,032,142.11</b>	<b>\$2,815,477.03</b>	<b>\$33,930,422.66</b>	<b>\$36,962,564.77</b>
<b>NET (ADDITIONS MINUS DEDUCTIONS)</b>	<b>\$1,293,203.84</b>	<b>(\$2,323,680.50)</b>	<b>\$25,081,574.59</b>	<b>\$26,374,778.43</b>
<b>CASH &amp; INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>Book Value</b>	<b>Market Value</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents		\$171,001.57	\$171,001.57	
U.S. Government & Agency Obligations		\$3,271,992.08	\$3,279,245.96	
Corporate Obligations		858,319.75	855,825.60	
Equities		9,109,770.21	10,520,211.56	
Manning & Napier Advisors Investment Funds		4,775,736.40	4,769,167.69	
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets		1,034,250.00	909,876.91	
Christian Brothers Investment Services - Funds		5,651,206.72	6,116,445.27	
The Investment Fund for Foundations - Real Opportunities Fund		364,872.00	434,493.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$25,237,148.73</b>	<b>\$27,056,267.56</b>	

*Diocesan Lay Employees' Retirement Fund*  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
Annual Amounts (Book and Market Value) of Investments

	Book Value	Market Value
August 31, 1968	\$32,855.00	\$33,344.00
August 31, 1969	\$105,040.00	\$97,828.00
August 31, 1970	\$167,236.00	\$144,704.00
August 31, 1971	\$244,322.00	\$248,784.00
August 31, 1972	\$328,375.00	\$341,430.00
August 31, 1973	\$397,979.00	\$357,121.00
August 31, 1974	\$442,091.00	\$374,519.00
August 31, 1975	\$485,652.00	\$502,393.00
August 31, 1976	\$651,402.00	\$661,536.00
August 31, 1977	\$746,759.00	\$758,276.00
June 30, 1978	\$907,676.00	\$873,290.00
June 30, 1979	\$1,091,077.00	\$1,066,747.00
June 30, 1980	\$1,333,304.00	\$1,240,533.00
June 30, 1981	\$1,637,330.00	\$1,468,851.00
June 30, 1982	\$1,966,375.00	\$1,685,948.00
June 30, 1983	\$2,332,800.00	\$2,766,951.00
June 30, 1984	\$2,866,861.00	\$2,832,430.00
June 30, 1985	\$3,314,597.00	\$3,748,256.00
June 30, 1986	\$4,200,610.00	\$5,189,275.00
June 30, 1987	\$5,686,447.00	\$6,363,937.00
June 30, 1988	\$6,280,104.00	\$6,713,049.00
June 30, 1989	\$6,849,652.00	\$7,569,606.00
June 30, 1990	\$7,716,476.00	\$8,434,613.00
June 30, 1991	\$8,285,622.00	\$8,951,313.00
June 30, 1992	\$9,025,501.00	\$10,401,337.00
June 30, 1993	\$11,107,406.00	\$11,674,275.00
June 30, 1994	\$11,653,168.00	\$12,127,575.00
June 30, 1995	\$12,338,738.00	\$13,734,082.00
June 30, 1996	\$13,031,227.00	\$15,645,877.00
June 30, 1997	\$14,013,278.75	\$18,380,013.00
June 30, 1998	\$15,646,840.00	\$21,676,585.00
June 30, 1999	\$16,243,414.85	\$24,534,082.00
June 30, 2000	\$18,392,037.89	\$27,831,968.70
June 30, 2001	\$21,013,619.31	\$23,928,040.75
June 30, 2002	\$21,362,600.49	\$20,539,548.82
June 30, 2003	\$19,524,487.79	\$20,622,312.68
June 30, 2004	\$22,017,665.13	\$22,691,213.55
June 30, 2005	\$22,914,541.47	\$24,896,701.34
June 30, 2006	\$24,356,734.29	\$27,020,394.56
June 30, 2007	\$25,561,684.80	\$30,676,999.67
June 30, 2008	\$25,564,499.16	\$28,332,067.06
June 30, 2009	\$23,030,415.60	\$20,674,813.27
June 30, 2010	\$21,625,470.32	\$21,322,358.36
June 30, 2011	\$22,640,200.15	\$25,259,932.71
June 30, 2012	\$23,074,757.16	\$24,490,220.68
June 30, 2013	\$23,845,778.35	\$26,396,266.72
June 30, 2014	\$25,462,693.87	\$29,928,554.01
June 30, 2015	\$26,826,021.72	\$28,222,276.89
June 30, 2016	\$25,720,922.66	\$26,053,449.19
June 30, 2017	\$25,237,148.73	\$27,056,267.56

*Diocesan Unemployment Insurance Fund*  
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2017

**BALANCE SHEET**

ASSETS	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016
Money Market	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investments (DTF)	435,747.75	408,993.98
Due From Operating Fund	40,073.50	(43,387.17)
Prepaid Expenses	3,135.00	3,135.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$478,956.25</b>	<b>\$368,741.81</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		
Claims Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reserve For Claims*	0.00	0.00
Fund Balance	478,956.25	368,741.81
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$478,956.25</b>	<b>\$368,741.81</b>

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE**

	July 1, 2016 June 30, 2017	July 1, 2015 June 30, 2016
<b>INCOME</b>		
Unemployment Premiums	\$109,311.94	\$111,797.59
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	26,753.77	(5,733.86)
Investment Income	11,266.38	11,101.22
Transfer from Other Funds	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$147,332.09</b>	<b>\$117,164.95</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Claims Paid	\$14,924.22	\$14,403.83
Consultant	6,270.00	6,270.00
Diocesan Administration	15,923.43	15,925.76
Transfer to Other Funds	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$37,117.65</b>	<b>\$36,599.59</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$110,214.44</b>	<b>\$80,565.36</b>

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

<u>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</u>	<u>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</u>	<u>July 1, 2015- June 30, 2016</u>
	\$125,449.19	\$119,265.72
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Diocesan OPA Collection	\$52,079.81	\$43,801.24
Missionary Coop Collection	2,262.07	11,327.40
Parish OPA Donations	0.00	0.00
Interest	4,030.61	3,857.31
Special Gifts	0.00	0.00
General Donations	555.61	0.00
Bequests	<u>0.00</u>	<u>6,018.43</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>58,928.10</u></b>	<b><u>65,004.38</u></b>
<b>TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$184,377.29</b>	<b>\$184,270.10</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Office Supplies	\$501.16	\$486.32
Advertising	25.00	976.75
Budget Grants and Donations	<u>41,602.07</u>	<u>57,357.84</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>42,128.23</u></b>	<b><u>58,820.91</u></b>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30-</b>	<b><u>\$142,249.06</u></b>	<b><u>\$125,449.19</u></b>

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

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>		<u>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES</u>		
	<u>June 30, 2017</u>	<u>June 30, 2016</u>	<u>July 1, 2016</u> <u>June 30, 2017</u>	<u>July 1, 2015</u> <u>June 30, 2016</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		<b>INCOME</b>		
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00	\$0.00	Premiums	\$117,552.00
Cash & Money Market Funds	6,372.98	5,915.26	Retiree Drug Subsidy	0.00
Investment in Deposit & Loan Fund	0.00	0.00	Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	0.00
Due From Operating Funds	<u>196,378.43</u>	<u>157,920.39</u>	Investment Income	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$202,751.41</u></b>	<b><u>\$163,835.65</u></b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$117,552.00</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Reserve for Claims**	\$0.00	\$0.00	Claims Paid	\$46,709.36
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00	Administrative Fees	0.00
Due To Operating Funds	0.00	0.00	Health Insurance - Retired Priests	5,038.84
Fund Balance	<u>202,751.41</u>	<u>163,835.65</u>	Fiscal Office Administration	26,888.04
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$202,751.41</u></b>	<b><u>\$163,835.65</u></b>	Transfers to Other Programs	<u>0.00</u>
			<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>\$78,636.24</u></b>
			<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) - INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>\$38,915.76</u></b>
				<b><u>(\$36,388.62)</u></b>

\*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

	<u>July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017</u>	<u>July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JULY 1</b>	\$9,589,809.39	\$10,668,340.50
<b>ADDITIONS</b>		
Share of Christmas Collection	\$235,379.54	\$281,878.71
Diocesan Assessment	74,676.00	74,278.00
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	4,867.00	10,583.68
Bequests and Donations	201,259.09	200.04
Investment Income	187,743.31	184,507.76
Gain (Loss) on Investments (Net)	<u>1,121,901.51</u>	<u>(391,181.13)</u>
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<u>1,825,826.45</u>	<u>160,267.06</u>
<b>TOTAL JULY 1 FUND BALANCE AND ADDITIONS</b>	\$11,415,635.84	\$10,828,607.56
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>		
Payments to Retired Priests	\$855,987.16	\$878,910.16
Retired Priests' Health Insurance	233,828.21	233,847.99
Diocesan Administration	<u>125,380.33</u>	<u>126,040.02</u>
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<u>1,215,195.70</u>	<u>1,238,798.17</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30</b>	<u>\$10,200,440.14</u>	<u>\$9,589,809.39</u>

## FORTY-NINE YEAR SUMMARY

	<u>1968-2017</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Share of Christmas Collection	\$8,067,404.88
Assessment Per Priest	1,487,279.70
Diocesan Assessment	454,509.44
Donations in Lieu of Christmas Collection	399,174.41
Bequests and Donations	3,000,124.45
Investment Income	6,913,603.34
Net Realized & Unrealized Gains on Investments	11,233,233.38
Self-Insurance Fund Grant	90,000.00
Loan Account Interest	119,838.70
Loan Account Grant	<u>30,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	\$31,795,168.30
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Payments to Retired Priests	\$16,992,246.32
Retired Priests Health Insurance	2,776,671.57
Diocesan Administration	<u>1,825,810.27</u>
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<u>21,594,728.16</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2017</b>	<u>\$10,200,440.14</u>

## PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND ASSETS

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - NBT Bank	\$218,661.60	\$218,661.60
Accounts Receivable	\$8,127.07	\$8,127.07
Due to Operating Fund	(1,753,777.68)	(1,753,777.68)
Interest Receivable	10,632.46	10,632.46
Stocks	3,370,101.25	3,829,519.57
Bonds and U.S. Government Obligations	2,358,207.04	2,353,927.48
Manning & Napier Funds	2,517,003.45	2,597,600.66
Christian Brothers Investment Services	2,263,768.28	2,451,399.32
The Investment Fund for Foundations: Real Opportunities Fund	142,364.00	169,528.00
Dimensional Fund Advisors - Emerging Markets Social Core Equities	<u>364,750.00</u>	<u>314,821.66</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS - JUNE 30, 2017</b>	<u>\$ 9,499,837.47</u>	<u>\$10,200,440.14</u>

*Priests' Retirement Fund*

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

The Fund Balance has Accumulated as Follows:

1968	\$17,500.80
1969	10,330.23
1970	20,579.08
1971	19,265.60
1972	27,914.97
1972-1973	5,070.97
1973-1974	18,329.14
1974-1975	55,740.80
1975-1976	44,465.90
1976-1977	36,976.48
1977-1978	54,045.99
1978-1979	66,581.55
1979-1980	133,679.84
1980-1981	113,242.58
1981-1982	22,235.30
1982-1983	99,793.90
1983-1984	173,959.28
1984-1985	30,889.45
1985-1986	153,452.78
1986-1987	111,359.14
1987-1988	204,214.85
1988-1989	188,566.80
1989-1990	226,548.99
1990-1991	143,441.06
1991-1992	445,497.41
1992-1993	272,881.17
1993-1994	463,490.02
1994-1995	491,107.10
1995-1996	960,060.25
1996-1997	1,021,061.17
1997-1998	408,417.16
1998-1999	829,004.36
1999-2000	719,110.30
2000-2001	660,809.56
2001-2002	(1,184,839.10)
2002-2003	330,280.74
2003-2004	1,009,257.04
2004-2005	693,492.98
2005-2006	722,134.05
2006-2007	1,178,509.12
2007-2008	(1,037,244.76)
2008-2009	(1,814,310.57)
2009-2010	92,956.71
2010-2011	1,351,134.50
2011-2012	(403,955.22)
2012-2013	632,958.28
2013-2014	1,249,004.22
2014-2015	(400,661.47)
2015-2016	(1,078,531.11)
2016-2017	<u>610,630.75</u>

**FUND BALANCE - JUNE 30, 2017****\$10,200,440.14**

## 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 Felicia 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 Lubienski, 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 lay woman 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.



## McKinnon Benefits Group

A POINT GUARD ADVISORS COMPANY

A premier agency proudly serving the needs of the Diocese since 1997.

Offering a wealth of services including:

- Employee Benefits
- Wealth Management
- Actuary Services
- Tax Preparation
- Business Valuation
- Human Resource Services
- Medicare Consulting:
  - Part C - Advantage Plans
  - Part D - Prescription Plans
  - Medigap - Supplemental Plans

Plan. Innovate. Execute.



R.K. McKinnon & Associates, Inc., dba McKinnon Benefits Group is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Point Guard Advisors.

[www.PointGuardAdvisors.com](http://www.PointGuardAdvisors.com)

110 Buchmans Close Circle, Fayetteville, NY 13066

P: 315-425-7111 • F: 315-849-5778

# 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, they 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 mes-

sage via the Human Life Action website -- <http://bit.ly/2IHt7vu>.

## Increasing and fierce attacks on conscience rights regarding abortion cry out for an immediate remedy

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities

"Nurses and other health care providers and institutions are being forced to choose between participating in abortions or leaving health care altogether," Cardinal Dolan and Archbishop Kurtz said.

"Churches and pro-life Americans are being forced to provide coverage for elective abortions -- including late-term abortions - in their health care plans," he said.

The Weldon Amendment, included in the annual appropriation for the Department of Health and Human Services since 2005, already allows health care providers as well as insurance plans to refuse to provide abortions, pay for them or refer women to abortion clinics.

The Conscience Protection Act is aimed at protecting individual physicians, nurses or other health care professionals who refuse to assist in abortions when asked to do so by their employers. It takes the core policy of Weldon -- protecting those who decline to perform, pay for, refer for, or provide coverage for abortions -- and writes it into permanent law.

"Opponents and supporters of abortion should be able to agree that no one should be forced to participate in abortion," 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 measure was introduced in the House by Rep. Diane Black, R-Tennessee, and Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Nebraska, and in the Senate by Sen. James Lankford, R-Oklahoma.

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](http://www.usccb.org/conscience), and on the USCCB's YouTube channel and at [Facebook.com/USCCB](https://www.facebook.com/USCCB).

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## 'Enduring presence of Christ in Eucharist' at heart of the faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Spending time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity "to reflect on something at the very heart of our faith -- the enduring presence of Christ in the Eucharist," Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said March 8. "As we make our way along our Lenten pilgrimage ... we come together to recognize the presence of Jesus, not just in his words, not just in his actions, but in his enduring presence in the Eucharist," Cardinal Wuerl said. Cardinal Wuerl made his remarks during a Mass in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington to open the national shrine's observance of "24 Hours for the Lord." A worldwide initiative to encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, "24 Hours for Lord" was introduced by Pope Francis during the 2016 Year of Mercy. It has since become an annual Lenten event organized by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization. About 200 people attended the opening Mass at the national shrine. Cardinal Wuerl called the Eucharist "bread that contains eternal life for those who eat it" and "a perpetual memorial to Christ's death and resurrection."

## Pope: Even when people reject God, his love is never lacking

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God's love is never lacking, despite people's sins and rejection of his presence in their lives, Pope Francis said at a Lenten penance service. "Sin is the way that we distance ourselves from him. Yet that does not mean that God distances himself from us. The state of weakness and confusion that results from sin is one more reason for God to remain close to us," he said March 9. The penance service in St. Peter's Basilica marked the start of the worldwide celebration of "24 Hours for the Lord," a period when at least one church in every diocese was invited to be open all night -- or at least for extended hours -- for confession and eucharistic adoration. After delivering his homily at the service, Pope Francis walked to one of the confessionals in the basilica and knelt in front of a priest to confess his sins. Then he went to a confessional, put on a purple stole and waited each penitent to approach. He heard confessions for one hour.

## Say it's time to address gun violence in 'comprehensive way'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees said it is long past time for the nation's leaders to come up with "common-sense gun measures as part of a comprehensive approach to the reduction of violence in society and the protection of life." The U.S. Catholic bishops have advocated for such measures for decades and will continue to do so, said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Catholic Education. In the aftermath of the tragic attack Feb. 14 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, "this moment calls for an honest and practical dialogue around a series of concrete proposals -- not partisanship and overheated rhetoric," they said in a joint statement March 5. "Once again, we are confronted with grave evil, the murder of our dear children and those who teach them," they said. "Our prayers continue for those who have died, and those suffering with injuries and unimaginable grief."

Follow Pope Francis on  
Twitter!  
[www.twitter.com/Pontifex](http://www.twitter.com/Pontifex)

 #Pontifex

# 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.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**FRANK J. WALTERS ASSOCIATES, INC.**

*Mindful Retirement Management Since 1957*

**Consulting Actuaries  
for the  
Lay Employee and  
Priests Retirement Plans**

58-13 Seabury Street  
Flushing NY 11373-4825

Tel: (718) 779-8404  
Email: sfennell@fjwalters.com



*Serving the insurance needs  
of the  
Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.**

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# 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



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

**MARCH 18**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33

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 news, 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.

## A VOICE OF FAITH

# 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. Mt 7:2 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 Woods is a parishioner of Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, president of the local Legion of Mary and student in the diocesan Formation for Ministry program.)*

### Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Ste 304, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901



**Bibles, Crosses, Missals, Rosaries, Medals, Cards**  
**Baptism Apparel and Accessories, Statues, Candles**  
**Wedding, Sacramental Gifts, Music, DVDs, Recovery**  
**Willow Tree Products, Seasonal & More!**

*Gifts of the Spirit! Shipping Available!*

Hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
(518) 561-5083 [www.peacefuldovebooksandgifts.com](http://www.peacefuldovebooksandgifts.com)  
Mrs. Linda Bracy and Ms. Mary Beth Bracy

# BARSTOW

AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU  
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

*"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"*

For more information, visit our Website at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)

**MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800**



## AT THE MOVIES

# THE SHAPE OF WATER

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

Can a lovelorn yet sensual cleaning lady in 1962 Baltimore find true love with a blue and yellow and sometimes glowing fish-man 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 sexuality, 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 fish-man 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 af-

front 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



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Michael Shannon, Sally Hawkins and Octavia Spencer star in a scene from the movie "The Shape of Water." The film won the 2018 Oscar for Best Picture.

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.



Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

## Welcome Spring!

Visit our website at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_



The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**  
is on  
**FACEBOOK**

- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

 Like

## ADIRONDACK

## LENTEN FISH FRY

**Bloomingtondale** - K of C Council 7803 Bloomingtondale/Gabriels will hold their annual Lenten Fish Fry.

**Date:** March 23

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Paul's Oratory

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; 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

## GUYS 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

**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.

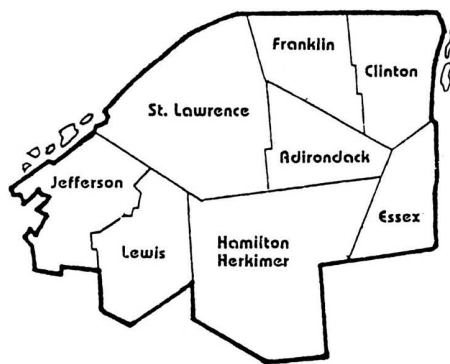
**Date:** March 24

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** Meron'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.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

## LAKESIDERS 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

**Dates:** March 25; Apr. 8 & 22; May 6.

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's

**Features:** discussion, prayer, dinner.

**Contact:** Fr. Howard Venette pastor.st-barts@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 at 7 p.m. on Tuesday of Holy Week.

## EUCCHARISTIC 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 Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

## FIRST 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

## 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. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8, Children, \$4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.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 Sun-

day call Judy at 315-783-7349 or visit [www.thedivinemercy.org](http://www.thedivinemercy.org)

## PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

**Evans Mills** - A presentation to be held by Fr. Chris Looby on a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Fatima & Lourdes.

**Date:** March 27

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary'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** - Liferight 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

**Place:** Holy Family Church

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER GROUP

**Watertown** - Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall, St. Anthony's

## SECULAR FRANCISCANS

**Watertown** - The St. Joseph Cupertino fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will have their monthly meeting.

**Date:** last Sunday of the month

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Family Parish

## 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

## 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

## LEWIS

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Lowville** - St. Peter's is sponsoring Lenten gatherings of prayer

**Dates:** March 15 and 22

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5.

**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 [sm-office@twcny.rr.com](mailto:sm-office@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

**Place:** St. Mary's School Gym

**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. Concession 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

**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.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



## The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# Greetings from Fr. Dan Chapin

Continued from the March 7, 2018 column

2017 was an important year for Maryknoll in Latin America - 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 Ossining 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 an historical connection with both the Diocese of Ogdensburg and Maryknoll: St. Pius X was the Pope who approved Maryknoll; and the Parish of 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 missionary 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 live 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.

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** — Floyd H. Kehoe, 96; Mass of Christian Burial March 12, 2018 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, Sandy Creek.

**Brownville** — Barbara F. (Brown) Lent, 79; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Burke** — Jean K. (Moore) Russell, 85; Funeral Services March 5, 2018 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in Ridge-way Cemetery.

**Carthage** — Mary Burke Abbass, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — Rose Marie (Bushey) Cook, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

**Clayton** — Thomas C. Corroon, 74; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2018 at St. Mary's Church.

**Croghan** — Dolores "Laurie" Ann Monnat, 84; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2018 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**LaFargeville** — Martha M. (Phillips) Riches, 92; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in Grove Cemetery.

**Lake Clear** — Emanuel R. "Manny" Bailey, 98; Mass of Christian Burial March 12, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** — Mary Margaret (Reiss) Watson, 85; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lowville** — William Samsa, 89; Funeral Services March 5, 2018 at Iseneker Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Madrid** — Henry J. Currier Jr., 79; Funeral March 8, 2018 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

**Madrid** — Thomas R. Logan, 62; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2018 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** — June Margaret (DeLosh) Baker, 94; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Malone** — David A. Vincent, 60; Mass of Christian Burial March 8, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Burke Center Cemetery.

**Moors** — James A. Manor, 51; Funeral Services March 7, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Morristown** — Dr. James C. Magee, Sr. PhD, 83; Mass of Christian Burial March 5, 2018 at St. John's Church.

**Ogdensburg** — Rita C. (LeBlanc) Coleman, 87; Funeral Services March 6, 2018 at the Fox and Murray Funeral Home; burial in Pleasant Mound Cemetery, Colton.

**Ogdensburg** — Virginia A. (Dewey) Downs, 66; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** — A. Ernest Jeneault, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** — H. Theresa (Sholette) Ladouceur, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 12, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** — Doris L. (Brunelle) Blow, 86; Mass of Christian Burial March 6, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Chazy.

**Peru** — J.L. Raymond Blaine, 93; Mass of Christian Burial March 7, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Peru** — Vanessa B. (Spooner) Clodgo, 60; Funeral Services March 9, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Peru** — Neal James Van Splinter, 66; Funeral Services March 11, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Peru** — Lynn H. Wilke, 87; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Port Leyden** — Leon T. Faduski, 80; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Mildred Agnes (Moore) Jackson, 98; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in National Memorial Cemetery, Phoenix AZ

**Saranac Lake** — Ralph P. Meagher, 92; Mass of Christian Burial in the Summer at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** — Robert R. Metz, 81; Funeral Services March 9, 2018 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

**Watertown** — Marion E. (Smith) Abrams, 94; Mass of Christian Burial March 9, 2018 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Margaret Butler Bunce, 95; Memorial Mass May 26, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** — Jean H. (O'Reilly) Howell, 93; Mass of Christian Burial March 10, 2018 at Holy Family Church

### St. Jude Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the homeless, pray for us. Say prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. Thank you St. Jude  
BR

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



Service Available

**D.L. CALARCO**  
Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue  
Watertown • 782-4910

# 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](mailto: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.

**Contact:** Registration or further information is available through the tribunal office at 315-605-1087.

### 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](http://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 at the Respect Life webpage: [www.rcdony.org/prolife](http://www.rcdony.org/prolife)

### CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Registration for Camp Guggenheim is

## 'WE APPRECIATE OUR PEOPLE'



PHOTO BY ELAINE AVALLONE/JOHNSON NEWSPAPERS

**St. Joseph Sister Mary Ellen Brett, pastoral associate of St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen, and Father Donald Robinson, pastor; recently served breakfast to parishioners in appreciation for their service to the parish.**

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](http://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](mailto:crusell@rcdony.org)

[sell@rcdony.org](mailto:sell@rcdony.org) or [slippincott@rcdony.org](mailto:slippincott@rcdony.org) for more information.

### OPERATION ANDREW

The Spring round of Operation Andrew to be held.

**Schedule:** April 5 at St. Mary's Cathedral and April 12 at St. Bernard's Church

**Features:** 5 p.m. with Holy Hours and Vespers followed by dinner and conversation with Bishop LaValley and area priests. Parents are most welcome.

**Contact:** Your pastor or the Vocations office to register.

### CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP

**Plattsburgh** - Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) is returning to Plattsburgh

**Date:** June 24 to 29

**Place:** Seton Catholic Central Schedule: Daily Mass, Penance and prayer, work in the community.

**Cost:** \$375 which includes meals, lodging, transportation to the work sites, t-shirts and snacks.

**Features:** Open to high school (entering 9th grade in Fall 2018) and college students. Catholic Heart Workcamp's 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.

**Contact:** For information about the Plattsburgh camp or to register, please contact managers Jocelyn Kelly and Samantha Poulin at [chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com](mailto:chwc.ogdensburg@gmail.com) or call Jocelyn at 518-651-0786. Additional information at [www.heartworkcamp.com](http://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](http://www.rcdony.org/marriage)

### 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:** SSJ 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](mailto:slippincott@rcdony.org) or call 315-782-3620 by April 12.

## Order your 2018 Diocesan Directory!



The Official 2018 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

Order online at [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for faster delivery or fill out the form below.

Make checks payable to:  
North Country Catholic  
PO Box 106  
Canajoharie, NY 13317

(Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery when mailing in)

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ directories

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15.00  
each**