Baptism... a gift from God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The sacrament of baptism isn’t a good luck charm but a gift from God that enables Christians to overcome evil, Pope Francis said.

Those who receive the sacrament are given the strength to overcome “the temptation to separate from God, from his will, from communion with him (and) fall into the snares of worldly seductions,” the pope said April 25 during his weekly general audience.

“Baptism is not a magic spell but a gift of the Holy Spirit that allows those who receive it to fight against the spirit of evil, believing that God sent his son into the world to destroy the power of Satan and bring men and women from the darkness to his kingdom of infinite light,” he said.

Thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the general audience despite the day being a national holiday commemorating Italy’s liberation from Nazi occupation.

Pope Francis, however, chose to reflect on the spiritual liberation from evil offered to men and women who receive the sacrament of baptism.

At the annual Youth Rally

PHOTO BY MARIKA DONDERS
Cathy Russell and St. Joseph Sister Mary Gregory Munger are shown at the vocations exhibit at the 2018 diocesan Youth Rally held at St. Mary’s in Canton Saturday.

FULL COVERAGE, NEXT WEEK’S NCC

Corpus Christi

Plans are set for annual celebration June 2 at St. Andrew Church in Norwood.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

A BISHOP AND SOME FUTURE BISHOPS?

PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO
Bishop Terry R. LaValley encouraged the altar servers for the April 21 Confirmation Mass at Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks to try on his mitre and zucchetto for size. From left are Garrett Richards, Holy Name Church; Nathan Beattie, St. Augustine Church, Peru; Anthony Semeraro, Catholic Community of Keeseville, and Gavin Richards, Holy Name Church.

GUGGENHEIM: Camp registration continues through June 1.... page 4
EDITOR'S NOTE

Tentative thoughts about springtime!

Is it safe to relax? Have we seen the last of the endless snow of 2018? I’m going to err on the side of optimism and believe that the forecast for 70-degree temperatures this week will actually become our collective “dream come true.” That makes it much easier to look forward to all the spring and summer events in our North Country church.

Our young people led the way with the annual Youth Rally held this past weekend in Canton. We will be able to see faces of faith and read words of wisdom from the day in next week’s NCC.

Another annual event that will capture our attention is the deacon convocation to be held Wednesday and Thursday in Lake Placid. This year, 16 brand new deacons will be warmly welcomed as the group prepares to listen to Bishop Christopher Coyne, our neighbor from the Diocese of Burlington.

Later in May, the priests will gather in Lake Placid for their annual assembly. A highlight of their gathering will be a Mass and dinner during which the priest jubilarians are honored. As always, the NCC will join in the tributes, this year recognizing Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Pierre Aubin and Father Normand C. Cote, for 60 years of priesthood; Fathers Douglas A. Decker, Alan J. Lamicen, and Alan D. Shnob for 40 years; and Father Timothy G. Canaan, a 25-year jubilarian.

Younger members of our Catholic family will be the center of attention as Bishop LaValley travels across the diocese to preside at the sacrament of Confirmation.

Unfortunately, we won’t be gathering together an ordination this spring but vocation work on the parish and the diocesan level insures that we’ll have plenty in the future. Bishop LaValley will lead a holy hour for vocations May 3 at the cathedral, and, on May 5, a parish vocation ministry meeting has been scheduled in Norfolk.

And, if we’re really brave, we can look all the way to summer when more faith-building, fun-filled opportunities will be available for our young people. Yes, it’s safe to think about Guggenheim. In fact the time to register is now!

FATHER MUECH SAYS

Words of thanks and some saintly advice

I am going to begin today with a word of gratitude and my wish for a happy retirement to my friend and editor, Mary Lou Kilian.

I want to thank you, Mary Lou, for your efforts to continue the excellence of the North Country Catholic. Mary Lou, you were great.

The North Country Catholic is an important resource for the Diocese of Ogdensburg – its history is long and extensive. Mary Lou Kilian has continued that excellence and I am truly proud of the North Country Catholic as a priest of this diocese.

As I offer my congratulations to Mrs. Kilian, I promise her my prayers as she continues to enjoy her other career as a grandmother.

It was over five years ago that Mary Lou invited me out to lunch. I was then in Saranac Lake – a bit of a ride from Ogdensburg. On a pleasant morning in the Adirondacks, she arrived at St. Bernard’s. During lunch she spent some time offering me this space I have occupied since then. I am grateful to her for this unique opportunity to be involved with the NCC.

So, I have had this happy experience of working with Mary Lou. She has been such an excellent editor – always patient with me as I rushed to meet a deadline. Thank you, Mary Lou.

I would also like to us this opportunity today to encourage you all to find the opportunity to read and study, Pope Francis’ recent Apostolic Exhortation, “Gaudete Et Exsultate” (Rejoice and Be Glad). Pope Francis describes this letter as a Call to Holiness in Today’s World. I want to guarantee that you will find this a well done and inspiring message. And let me add – this is not some difficult Papal message – you will understand Our Holy Father’s message.

Pope Francis writes this letter as directed to each person, each one of us, he speaks directly to “you.” Pope Francis focuses on Jesus’ Beatitudes in one section of the letter. Let me quote him: “The Beatitudes are like a Christian’s identity card. So if anyone asks, ‘What must we do to be a good Christian?’ the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives.” (63)

Pope Francis reminds us of the instruction set by so many saints. He mentions many and I imagine they are his favorite saints.

He writes: “The saints now in God’s presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us.” (4) He points out to us that they show us and guide us to the way of holiness.

I would like to add to Pope Francis’ saints, the many saints, my saints, who have been part of my life. They are not canonized by the Church but they have, and by the way continue to have, a profound influence on my life and my priesthood.

Pope Francis begins this letter by making it very clear that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” (14)

Personally, I have thought often of this quest of holiness in our lives as Christians. So, I am truly pleased that Pope Francis has taken the time to write this letter to us – joining with all who call us to holiness.

I like to point out that it is truly about the little things in life. Only a few of us will be called to do something great and extraordinary in our search for holiness. However, each day we will be challenged by the ordinary. Someone, one day, I expect it was a saint, gave me this definition of a saint – which I have shared with you often. A saint is someone who does ordinary things extraordinarily well.

GO GREEN!

Receive the NCC in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world. E-mail cward@dioceseungb.org to sign up today.
A year of planning

Deacon Philip Regan, one of the organizers of the annual celebration, writes about its origins:

The Feast of Corpus Christi honors the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. “Corpus Christi” is Latin for “Body of Christ.” Taken from the book, “God is Near Us,” by Cardinal Ratzinger, later to be Pope Benedict XVI, there is a chapter on Corpus Christi which gives us a deeper meaning and understanding of this great feast. Cardinal Ratzinger breaks it down into three parts. First, is standing before the Lord.

This is when we are celebrating the Mass, meeting together around the Lord, for the Lord, standing side by side. Second, is walking with the Lord, the procession. Third, is kneeling before the Lord glorifying Him during benediction.

I’d like to share how the seed was planted for our first celebration in 2015. We (Norwood Knights of Columbus) were discussing the green light to start planning for Corpus Christi, 2015. We had a little less than a year so, the first step was to invite Bishop LaValley to be our principle celebrant. Knowing how busy he is, we were pleased and honored when we received his letter accepting our invitation! We then compiled a list of active and retired priests, deacons, and other religious; invitations were sent. We also invited surrounding Knights of Columbus Councils and the different societies of area parishes. Information was sent to parishes for their bulletins so the date could be saved.

We approached the Village Board to get approval for the procession around the block. They in turn, contacted the Norwood Volunteer Fire Department who provided personnel to control traffic at the intersections. Everything was in place. All we had to do was pray for a wonderful turnout.

On June 7, 2015 our church was blessed with over 155 participants. Nearly everyone joined in the procession around the block. What a beautiful site in Norwood with the Bishop carrying the Monstrance, which held the Blessed Sacrament. The 4th Degree Knights providing color, priests, deacons religious, altar servers, and parishioners from all over singing and praying as they processed. Back at the church we ended with Benediction. A reception followed with the help from our Altar Rosary Society.

The success of this day was beyond our expectations. We all agreed it must become an annual celebration. After discussing at our next meeting we thought it best to rotate with different parishes in hopes of keeping the Feast of Corpus Christi a glorious celebration in our area. St. Mary’s parish in Potsdam hosted Corpus Christi in 2016 and Sacred Heart Church in Massena hosted it in 2017.

We are excited to be the host this year. Our goal is to make it more successful than 2015.

Please mark your calendars and join us if you can. We encourage our youth from surrounding parishes to attend. I truly believe it will remain in their hearts for a long time and hopefully they will want to come back.

Welcome Spring!

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JOB OPENING

Director of Youth Ministry

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a Director of Youth Ministry. The position is responsible for the planning and implementation of the diocesan youth program. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. Applicants should have a Bachelor’s Degree with extensive experience in the fields of religious education and faith formation, successful experience as youth minister, knowledge of current catechetical documents, familiarity with the characteristics of youth’s personal, spiritual and emotional development, proven interpersonal skills and competency in administration and the use of technology.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail ksnover@rcdony.org. Deadline for application is May 18, 2018.

IS YOUR SCOUT WEARING ONE OF THESE?

Now’s the time to start working on a religious emblem. There are a variety of emblems for Scouts of all types and ages (Daisy, Brownie, Cub, Girl, Boy, Venture, and Explorer).

For more information, go to www.rcdony.org/scouting or contact Scott Quinell at 315-212-0137 or bsaquinell@gmail.com. The emblems are awarded at the annual Scout Mass—this year to be in Canton on October 13th. Get started today!

Guggenheim sign-ups open

SARANAC LAKE—Registration for Camp Guggenheim, the diocesan summer program for young people, continues through June 1.

The registration forms are online at www.rcdony.org/camp.

The first of six weeklong sessions begins July 1. Weeks one through five are open to 12- to 15-year-olds while the sixth week, Aug. 5-10 is just for those ages 16 to 18.

Each week provides campers with a mix of faith, fun and adventure. Faith formation and growth is at the heart of the Guggenheim experience and is an important part of every day. Campers actively participate in Mass, reconciliation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and prayer throughout the day.

Camp activities include swimming, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, rappelling, arts & crafts, campfires, dances and more.

“Campers are actively involved in living out and sharing their faith,” said Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director. “It’s what makes Camp Guggenheim so incredible.”

DYC applications due May 7

Applications for membership on the 2018-2019 Diocesan Youth Council are due May 7.

Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director says that the DYC is an opportunity for students in grades 10-12 to grow in faith and leadership through helping with diocesan events and growing as disciples in their own parishes.

Applications are available at www.rcdony.org/youth-ministry/diocesan-youth-council.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley’s columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!
SPRINGTIME IN THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

FACES OF FAITH

Father Jay Seymour, presider, and Deacon Ronald Pominville and Deacon James Chaufty assisted at the annual Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at St. Hedwig’s Catholic Church in Houseville on April 8.

Dr. Alvin Maloney, a parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown, was awarded the Samaritan Medical Center’s Lifetime Achievement Award in an April 10 ceremony. From left are Dr. Mario Victoria, Samaritan’s chief medical officer; Dr. Maloney and his wife, Judy; and Thomas Carmen, president and CEO of Samaritan.

April is the Month of the Military Child, and Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown participated in an Out-Of-Uniform Friday event to join the Purple Left campaign. All students, PreK-12 grade, were permitted to wear jeans and a purple shirt to honor the children of the people who serve the country and sacrifice their lives for it. Students and faculty could pay $1 to be out of uniform, and 100% of the donated funds go to the IHC’s general fund to help students and teachers. Pictured are Immaculate Heart Central School’s Primary level military students.

Douglas Schirmer, Ogdensburg, shares his journey to the seminary with the group attending the first Operation Andrew dinner of the spring. The dinners are an opportunity for young men to learn about priesthood with Bishop LaValley and share a meal.

Dr. Alvin Maloney, a parishioner of St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown, was awarded the Samaritan Medical Center’s Lifetime Achievement Award in an April 10 ceremony. From left are Dr. Mario Victoria, Samaritan’s chief medical officer; Dr. Maloney and his wife, Judy; and Thomas Carmen, president and CEO of Samaritan.

April is the Month of the Military Child, and Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown participated in an Out-Of-Uniform Friday event to join the Purple Up campaign. All students, PreK-12 grade, were permitted to wear jeans and a purple shirt to honor the children of the people who serve the country and sacrifice their lives for it. Students and faculty could pay $1 to be out of uniform, and 100% of the donated funds go to the IHC’s general fund to help students and teachers. Pictured are Immaculate Heart Central School’s Primary level military students.
Funeral held for FIC brother

ALFRED, ME.– A Mass of Christian Burial for Brother Marcel Lacasse (in religion, Brother James), 91, was held April 21 at Notre Dame Chapel. He died April 16 at Maine Medical Hospital in Portland. Burial was in the Brothers Cemetery.

He was one of ten children born of Lucien and Desneiges (Nadeau) Lacasse in Waterville, Maine on Dec. 17, 1926.

His formation as a Brother of the Christian Instruction (FIC) began in Alfred in 1939. He entered the novitiate 75 years ago in 1942.

He was a 1952 graduate of LaMennais College, Alfred, and earned graduate degrees in education (Boston College, 1958) and Mathematics (University of Detroit, 1963).

He started his teaching career as an elementary school teacher in Plattsburgh, and Sanford, Maine. He was also assigned as a teacher at Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh along with other teaching positions. In 1964 he contracted to be the dean of students at Walsh College (now University) in Canton, Ohio and eventually served as registrar.

For decades he held administrative positions internal to his congregation of the Brothers of Christian Instruction (province bursar) and local religious superior. In 1995, he retired to the brothers’ retirement center on the Notre Dame campus to serve as its superior until precluded by health issues.

He was predeceased by his parents; three sisters, Rolandette Therrien, Ursuline Sister Jacqueline Lacasse, and Doris Dumais; as well as by twin brothers, Henri Louis and Henri Paul Lacasse and Jacques Lacasse.

He is survived by a sister, Geraldine Lacasse of Rochester, N.H. and brother, Bertrand Lacasse of California and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions to the Brothers’ Retirement Fund can be made in his memory (c/o Br. Daniel Caron, PO Box 159, Alfred, Maine 04002.)
‘Demonizing immigrants hardens American heart’

By Rhina Guidos
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)--New York Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin said he worries that reducing the number of immigrants, particularly refugees to the U.S., and demonizing them represents a "hardening of the American heart," and that should be of concern to a country that has been historically a welcoming place.

The country’s iconic Statue of Liberty “is welcoming people because of who they are and not seeing them simply as objects of charity, but as potential contributors to this experiment that is the United States of America,” Cardinal Tobin said in the CMSOnAir podcast aired April 23 by New York’s Center for Migration Studies. “We should be concerned about the success that some voices in the public square have had in demonizing the other.”

In the interview with Donald Kerwin, the center’s executive director, Cardinal Tobin expressed worries about sentiments popular around the country at the moment, including some that paint certain groups of immigrants as rapists, drug smugglers or as people intent on taking jobs away.

“All of which aren’t true,” he said. “And people forget that they’re part of families. They love their children. Many of them are here at great sacrifice leaving behind their families, so that they can provide for their children. I think what religious leaders can do is help people understand, because if you can put a face on someone, it’s much more difficult to do really inhuman things to them.”

It is similar to what happened to the Irish and other communities that arrived in the U.S. in the past, he said, when they were painted in extremely unflattering ways and yet they contributed to the country.

The world’s main religions counsel strongly against persecuting the stranger because God himself identifies in a very real way with those who are foreigners among you,”

“ ‘We should ask why we want to become so ethnocentric. I don’t think the word xenophobic is too strong to describe some of the caricatures that are proposed to Americans. I want to believe that Americans are smarter than that and that their hearts are bigger,” he said.

While many Christian immigrants are being affected by some of these events, other Christians shouldn’t exclusively help them but try to help everyone who is suffering even though it’s true that “the people who are being deported include great numbers of Christians. “

“My hometown of Detroit, Michigan, has a large Chaldean community, which is being eviscerated by ICE,” he said, referring to the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

When asked whether people of good faith can disagree on immigration and other issues that the church advocates for as matters of prudential judgment, not doctrinal issues, Cardinal Tobin said that, if prudential judgment simply means or reduces the question of the help to undocumented peoples or immigrants as matters of secondary concern, I think that’s wrong.

“I think that is a misrepresentation of some of the fundamental principles of the church’s social doctrine,” he further explained. “Certainly, the capricious nature of the laws and the enforcement of laws around immigration is an offense of human dignity. It is a wound to the common good. So, yes, I don’t have a whole lot of time for people who reduce things to prudential judgment. I’ll listen to everybody, but I think that there is more to life than self-fulfilling prophecy to justify the present chaos.”

He said he’s not opposed to borders or thinks they “are necessarily wrong.” But he said that “when they achieve almost an idolatrous force that they become so sacred that you would close your eyes to the needs of people who come across the border seeking a better life or help or when they reduce human dignity to a caricature or when they break that fundamental solidarity that we owe even across national or cultural borders, then I think as believers, we have to question that.”

People should never forget where their family came from, he said, or the challenges they and other immigrants of the past faced - whether they did or did not enter the U.S. legally.

“They were all lumped into the same offensive group,” he said. “I think that remembering that and remembering that out of those immigrant communities came people like Marconi, who gave the radio to the world, and Enrico Caruso, and all of these people who enriched our nation’s lives in so many ways, that’s one thing, is to remember. Secondly, is to listen to your faith before you listen to a particular ideology. God is pretty clear. He doesn’t favor one nation over another.”

The world’s main religions counsel strongly against persecuting the stranger, he said, and that’s “because God himself identifies in a very real way with those who are foreigners among you.”
After Easter prayer: unity in love

The days after Easter have been exciting and joy-filled days for the early Church. However, the time has come for Jesus to leave his followers and to ascend back to the Father. Now is the time for a new presence to take over—that of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus has tried to prepare them for this new way for God to guide his fledgling Church but there were bound to be surprises.

Just when some consensus to Jesus’ message of salvation for the Jews has been achieved, the Holy Spirit hits them with a thunderbolt of new teaching. Peter Jews. This does not go over well with many Jews back in Jerusalem. Salvation was no longer an exclusive prerogative for the Chosen People. Now, all are chosen! The community peace is shattered!

What saves the new Church?
That other “shocker” - the command to love one another “as I have loved you.” Love is the “glue” that holds the community together, not just then but now.

Two thousand years of trial and error has not made any easier this fundamental teaching of our faith. Love! Just think of what dynamic transformation there would be in our world society, if all Christians really loved one another!

Think of how much more peaceful the transition would have been after the changes of Vatican II but the Church in the 60’s and 70’s. We could have avoided so much hurt and bitterness, if we had just listened a little more to the Holy Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit asks us if we like the idea of love, we respond enthusiastically. But even though the Lord has actually commanded us to love, we balk, make all kinds of excuses and compromises. Yet, the meaning is clear. Love one another and listen to one another!

God listens to us a lot! We get in trouble when we fail to listen to God and to His Vicar, the Pope. Without a closer adherence to this command, we will have never have the unity that is necessary for the Church to grow.

Love is a necessary path for the light of truth and obedience among Jesus’ followers.

What can we do? We can beg the Holy Spirit daily to flow into us more freely so that we will produce better fruit. Like good fruit, love is tantalizing, appealing, and truly irresistible. There is no power on earth stronger than love. It will ultimately silence critics, win over those who are hostile to the Church, and bring all nations and peoples to the salvation for which Christ died and rose again. As we await Pentecost, much prayer for unity in love is our goal.

Power of words: Listening must lead to action

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)– Pope Francis’ planned meeting with abuse survivors from Chile could mark a turning point in how the Catholic Church deals not just with prevention, but especially with how it responds to accusations.

The pope has said he wants the four days of meetings in April to be his chance to ask for forgiveness and express his “pain and shame” for what they have suffered.

And Pope Francis, who emphasizes the importance of listening and learning, also sees this as a chance to hear survivors’ suggestions for how to avoid repeating “such reprehensible acts,” the Vatican said April 25.

But this meeting is different from his other meetings with survivors. This time he is not only acknowledging and apologizing for abuses perpetrated by others, he himself caused shock and pain when he repeatedly discounted claims there was evidence Chilean Bishop Juan Barros knew of abuse against minors. Pope Francis went so far as to label such claims as “calumny” in remarks to reporters in January.

Setting aside an entire day for each survivor at end of April looked less like a typical meeting and more like a personal act of contrition.

Juan Carlos Cruz, one of the three survivors who will meet the pope, told Catholic News Service, “This is an opportunity for Pope Francis to make a difference and hold bishops accountable who are still covering up.”

It is also a chance to “make sure that survivors all over the world are looked after, taken care of and respected and not disparaged and made to feel like they are guilty, which is what bishops currently do,” he said April 25.

Much like Pope Benedict XVI’s misstatement in Regensburg about Islam sparked new and innovative initiatives with Muslims, Pope Francis’ recognition of his poor choice of words and approach toward abuse allegations could trigger a turning point and lead to something new.

It is an opportunity to go beyond damage control and actually “change things in a startlingly positive way,” said Mark Vincent Healy, a survivor and campaigner from Ireland, who was one of six survivors invited to Pope Francis’ first meeting with victims at the Vatican in 2014.

“The man I met was so compassionate,” genuine and generous with his time, he said of the pope.

“The pope is not a bad man. It was a big mistake” to call the Chile accusations slander, Healy said. “So how can he turn this negative into an opportunity for the best,” for “coming clean” and looking at why he and other church leaders can react so negatively and defensively against people crying for help, Healy asked.

One change that must come from listening to victims, he said, is to look at victims differently - not as enemies, opportunists or politically motivated, but as brothers and sisters belonging to the same wounded family.

Victims “wouldn’t raise an accusation so publicly with so much to lose” since disclosure often brings tremendous added stress, severe repercussions and even reprisal, he said. They are “seeking help to survive in a better way. Help us do that,” he said.

“The church should react with compassion. Don’t question the veracity. It should ask how best it can respond with love and regard,” he said.

Also, “we are living in a world where our leaders are not fact-checking before they speak,” he said, which means everyone, including the pope, should “be more engaged in fact-checking,” especially before making charges or outright denials.

Another critical need is for the church to become a bold, active partner working alongside survivors and delving into the past to look for victims and encourage them to stop hiding, he said.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Strong pro-life values are embedded in the towering, richly complex Marvel Comics-based adventure "Avengers: Infinity War" (Disney). While this often-dazzling, sometimes-dizzying epic is safest for grown-ups, its positive moral lessons may lead at least some parents to deem it acceptable for older teens as well.

The film's ethical stance can first be read through the principal aim of its outsized villain, slaughter-loving tyrant Thanos (Josh Brolin). He cherishes a long-standing scheme to bring his version of harmony to the universe by wiping out half its population, thus freeing up scarce resources for the survivors.

This maniacal goal is based on Thanos' sincere -- but obviously wildly misguided -- assessment of the fate that befell his place of origin, Saturn's moon Titan, whose civilization was destroyed, according to his account, by overpopulation. Foreseeing a similar outcome for the cosmos as a whole, Thanos believes his theoretically laudable purpose: to establish a sustainable paradise, will justify his cataclysmic methods.

Fortunately, neither the Avengers nor the Guardians of the Galaxy agree. So they team up to thwart him.

To gain the necessary power to accomplish his plan, Thanos needs to collect a set of supernatural gems called the Infinity Stones which, once assembled, will give him control over all reality. So the array of good guys -- who are too numerous to name but include, perhaps most prominently, Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man, Benedict Cumberbatch's Dr. Strange and Chris Pratt's Star-Lord -- make it their business to stop him.

Throughout the ensuing struggle, Thanos' opponents consistently refuse to sacrifice anyone on their side for the sake of their larger objective, a principle embodied in the motto "We don't trade lives." Thus co-directors (and brothers) Anthony and Joe Russo's mesmerizing saga drives home the message that the common good is not to be achieved at the price of any individual's innocent life, much less those of a multitude.

Less substantial, but perhaps more surprising, than this theme of ends and means is a fleeting reference to Jesus that some will find ultimately faith-affirming, others too frivolous in tone.

On a purely aesthetic level, an outstanding cast in top form, together with clever self-parodying dialogue in Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely's script make the two-and-a-half-hour-plus run time pass quickly. And then there's the unthinkable wrap-up, a denouement so shocking it will certainly draw gasps of surprise -- and may even leave devoted fans of the Marvel universe beside themselves with frenzy.

The film contains much harsh but mostly bloodless violence, a couple of mild oaths as well as several crude and numerous crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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**ROSA LRY RALLY**
Chateaugay – A Rosary Rally will be held to pray for peace in the World
Date: May 12
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: St. Patrick’s Church
Contact: Elaine McGinnity at 518-529-6133 or Joan Johnston at 518-497-0707.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Peru - The 32nd Annual Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Bill McBride Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held.
Date: June 15
Time: 10 a.m. Shotgun start
Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club
Features: The 4 person scramble is dedicated to its former chairman, the late Bill McBride Jr.
Contact: Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 518-643-5444 or e-mail gnelombard@charter.net.

**MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH**
Lyons Mountain – Knights of Columbus Council #7215 to have a Mission of Hope Mother’s Day Brunch.
Date: May 13
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: Lyon Mountain American Legion
Cost: Adults, $10; All Mothers, $5; Children 6-12, $5; under 5, Free
Features: 50/50 raffle; Proceeds to benefit North Country’s Mission of Hope & Knights Council #7215.
Contact: Takes outs are available 518-735-4372; For more information please call 518-516-3983.

**ALUMNI REUNION**
Plattsburgh – The Seton Catholic, MAI & SJA Alumni Reunion is set
Date: May 25 – 27
Schedule: May 25, Golf at Harmony Golf Course at 11 a.m.; Welcome Back reception at Valcour Brewing Company at 6 p.m.; May 26, School tours from Noon to 2 p.m.; Alumni Banquet at the West side Ballroom at 6 p.m.; May 27, Mass at St. John’s Church at 9:30 a.m.
Contact: Susan Pellerin at 518-561-4081 option 7 to register

**GARAGE SALE**
Plattsburgh – Donations are being accepted now for the Seton Garage Sale.
Date: Donations accepted now, Garage sale to be held June 2 and 3
Features: Items needed: Furniture, Books, DVDs, Clothing & Shoes, Home Decor, Kitchen Supplies, Holiday Decorations, Electronics (no TVs or printers), Jewelry, Small Appliances, Athletic Items, Toys/Games, Bikes, Accessories, Etc. Drop off locations at Seton Academy and Seton Catholic.
Contact: If you need assistance with your donation, we will pick it up for you. Call or text Hank at 660-626-7442

**LAKE SIDERS FISHERS CLUB**
Plattsburgh – The Fishers Club, a discernment program for men (juniors in high school and older) open to the possessed vocation to the priesthood, to meet
Date: 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

**FOR LAY MINISTERS**
Au Sable Forks – All Commissioned Lay Ministers are invited to an event.
Date: May 12
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Holy Name Church and School
Cost: $10
Speaker: Fr. Paul Kelly
Topic: The Holy Spirit Empowers Us!
Contact: Online pre-registration is encouraged.
www.rccdny.org/formation/commissioned-layministers/clm-event-registration.html

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL**
Watertown – Commissioned Lay Ministry (CLM) Association of Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries is hosting a dinner.
Date: May 9
Time: Mass at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner and speaker
Place: SSJ Motherhouse

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**
Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of May to be held.
Date: May 6
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig’s Church
Features: The program includes: Ven-
Our Peruvian beginnings

Did you know that…

2018 marks the 55th Anniversary of the founding of San Martin de Porras Parish in Mollendo, Peru in the Archdiocese of Arequipa, Peru by the Diocese of Ogdensburg? San Martin de Porras Parish is still open today as it continues to grow and thrive.

Did you know about the Peru beginnings?

The first two priests from Ogdensburg to serve in Peru were Father Paul Hagan and Father Roger Martin. Bishop James J. Navagh invited the priests to go to South America. Their acceptance would be the beginnings of what would later be called the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate (OPA).

Both priests were genuine missionaries who left for places they never visited endured hardships and faced challenges beyond what they would have had in their home diocese. They were pioneers.

The story of the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate has many dimensions — its outward trials and achievements. The history also forms a small part of a larger story of the North American mission to South America and belongs as well to the currents and movements of the Catholic Church of that time. It was a period of ferment, searching and unsteadiness that sent many priests, sisters and lay people from North America to serve in South America. On their part there was zeal, trial, misunderstandings and various evaluations were and will be made of that larger effort of the North American Church of that time. The history of the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate belongs to that wider context. We give thanks to God for the priests from our diocese that followed in the footsteps of Fr. Hagan and Fr. Martin for their ministry in a developing country.

(The Mission Office appreciates this account with permission from The Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate: The Early Years by Father Stephen Rocker.)

Today, the Diocese of Ogdensburg continues a positive relationship built on trust and decades of faith. The Diocese continues to support San Martin de Porras through the annual collection for the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Our recent assistance with upgrading a kitchen facility and replacing a 40 year old truck are of note. The people of Mollendo are so grateful to the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and love hearing from us and having visitors to their village. The church has multiplied in size over the years as their love for Christ grows too.

This is truly an example of the Missionary experience where we lead by example, sacrificed prayers and resources as we learned the love of God does not have any boundaries.

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

www.rcdony.org/mission

OBITUARIES

Carthage — Betty (Betrus) Cooper, 96; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.


Hopkinton — Sharon A. (Foster) Mitchell, 72; Mass of Christian Burial April 24, 2018 at Church of the Holy Cross; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Keevsville — Clarence Young, 92; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2018 at St. John’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

LaFargeville — Vito L. Raineri, Sr., 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2018 at St. John’s Church.

Malone — Dawn S. Trombly, 51; Funeral Services St. Mary-Murphy-Wilcox Funeral Home; burial in Stephens Cemetery, Brandon.

Massena — Barbara A. (Regis) Gibson, 75; Mass of Christian Burial April 25, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — M. Ruth (Cannough) Langevin, 89; Mass of Christian Burial April 23, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

North Bangor — Walter “Woody” Woods, Jr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial April 30, 2018 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Honorius “Henry” T. Lalonde, 83; Mass of Christian Burial May 18, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Josephine F. “Josie” Lightfoot, 97; Mass of Christian Burial April 28, 2018 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial at Mary’s Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Thomas E. Luckie, Sr., 82; Mass of Christian Burial April 26, 2018 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh — Catherine B. (Collins) Furnia, 73; Mass of Christian Burial April 27, 2018 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Potsdam — Ruth Ann (Bradish) Barton, 77; Funeral Services April 27, 2018 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery, Parishville.

Potsdam — Vera B. Wells, 91; Funeral Services April 23, 2018 at Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Laurelle Delia (Badger) Montpellier, 93; Mass of Christian Burial May 31, 2018 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Westville — Truman A. “Lucky” Wood, 81; Mass of Christian Burial April 01, 2018 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Willsboro — Stanley C. “Stan” Flora, 76; Mass of Christian Burial April 21, 2018 at St. Philip’s Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery

Pope Francis: Heaven is not a boring waiting room

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Heaven is not an eternal dull existence but rather the completion of a journey toward a promised encounter with the Lord, Pope Francis said.

Although Christians may know full well that their goal is to go to heaven, “we begin to slip” when asked, “What is heaven,” the pope said in his homily April 27 during Mass at Domus Sanctae Marthae.

“Many times, we think of an abstract heaven, a far-away heaven, a heaven that we say ‘yes, its fine.’ But some may think: ‘Isn’t it a little boring being there for all eternity?’ No, that is not heaven,” he said.

Pope Francis’ homily focused on the day’s first reading from the Acts of the Apostle, in which St. Paul proclaims “that what God promised our fathers he has brought to fulfillment” through Jesus’ resurrection.

“Trusting God to fulfill his promises, he said, puts Christians on a path ‘toward an encounter, the definitive encounter with Jesus. Heaven is the encounter with Jesus.’”

Pope Francis said that during this journey, Jesus “isn’t sitting there waiting for me but, as the Gospel says, he works for us. He himself said, ‘Have faith in me’ and ‘I will prepare a place for you.’”

Jesus prays for all who embark on this path toward heaven. However, the pope said, Christians must continue to remind themselves that “he is faithful” and that he will fulfill his promise.

“Heaven will be that encounter, an encounter with the Lord who has gone there to prepare the place, the encounter with each one of us. And this gives us confidence: it makes trust grow,” he said.

“May the Lord give us this awareness of being on a journey with this promise. May the Lord give us this grace: to look up and think: ‘The Lord is praying for me,’” Pope Francis said.
Around
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ST. LAWRENCE
ITALIAN FEST
Gouverneur – Italian Fest to be held.
Date: May 11
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:15
Place: St. James School
Cost: Adults, $10; Children 12 and under, $5; under 5, Free

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Canton - The Canton-Potsdam K of C Assembly 707 is hosting a Charity Golf Tournament with proceeds to benefit local Special Olympics
Date: June 16
Place: Partridge Run Golf Course
Features: captain and crew format with prizes for the top three finishers in the following divisions: Men's, Women's and Mixed. There will also be contests for longest drive, closest to the pin, putting. The cost is $50 per person which includes 18 holes of golf with a cart and lunch at the turn.
Contact: To register a team, email: cantonkofc@gmail.com or leave a message at 315-714-2016.

DIOCESAN EVENTS
CATHOLIC BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS
Catholic Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the diocese are encouraged to Work on a religious emblem. There are a variety of emblems for Scouts of all types and ages.

(continued)

AT THE EASTER VIGIL

Bishop Terry R. LaValley confirmed Christine Bookman, music director at St. Mary’s Cathedral, during the Easter Vigil at the cathedral. Mrs. Bookman’s sponsor, Gail Barr, is shown at right, along with other sponsors of new Catholics, Thomas Lawrence and Mary Burns.

Power
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"Being on the margins is worse. People are shamed further by it" and end up isolated, alone in their despair, he said.

The renewed Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors - the pope’s independent body of experts that gives him recommendations for best practices to help the church on the local level - has chosen to protect the identity of their members who are survivors of abuse and to reach out to other anonymous survivors as consultants.

Two survivor-members stepped down early - they are survivors of abuse and to reach out to other anonymous survivors as consultants. They stepped down early - they are survivors of abuse and to reach out to other anonymous survivors as consultants.

"You respect their privacy, but you still get their input," she said. "I think that may give them more confidence in contributing to the work we do" in every aspect, including formation, education, guidelines and norms, and not just healing, she said.

The new and returning commission members, she said, also were asked to be more

"sensitive" to forming "realistic" expectations of what they can accomplish and focus only on making proposals for the pope.

"We're not an investigative body or a recourse or an appeals commission. Our goal and focus have to be what advice can we give to the Holy Father," Kettlakamp said.

Healy said action and follow-up must come out of all these listening sessions and that will require an eradication of a culture of fear - a victim's fear of coming forward and the church's fear of losing assets or its reputation when one of its members has been named a perpetrator.

"You'll never go wrong if you do the right thing," he said. "God provides for you. What do you fear? Bankruptcy? But how when God is our father? If he feeds the birds of the air, why not his own children?"

After listening to a victim, he said the church must ask itself, "how much work are you prepared to do to bring healing? Are you prepared to treat this like a plane crash and go look for more victims," and is the church ready to acknowledge abuse will flourish where "people are not held to account?"

"Our faith is made strong by doing the right thing," Healy said. "This should be our new policy."