Pope: Jesus calls us to help others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God wants his disciples to bring his mercy and love to everyone, everywhere on earth, which means it may cost them their "good name," comfort and their life, Pope Francis said on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Following Christ requires "that we open our hearts to the Father and to all those with whom he has wished to identify," particularly the downtrodden, the lost and the wounded, "in the sure knowledge that he will never abandon his people," he said during a Mass in St. Peter's Square June 29.

"Jesus wants to liberate his disciples, his church, from empty forms of triumphalism: forms empty of love, empty of service, empty of compassion, empty of people," he said.

The Mass was celebrated the day after Pope Francis created 14 new cardinals from 11 different nations.

Cardinals as well as 30 archbishops appointed over the course of the year concelebrated the Mass with Pope Francis.

Respect Life Grants awarded

Thanks to the generosity of North Country parishioners, 21 grants will be awarded from the Respect Life Second Collection.

On June 18, Bishop Terry R. LaValley approved the grant amounts as suggested by the grant committee.

This year's collection total was $74,142, an increase from last year's collection ($68,267).

The funds are allocated to pro-life causes.

WORKING WITH HEART

Emily Healy, 15, a parishioner of St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington, paints door trim in a private residence in Plattsburgh. Healy is one of 260 teen participants in this year's Catholic Heart Work Camp. The teens completed service projects in 85 locations in and around Plattsburgh. They also participated in spiritual programs and Mass every day of the program, which ran from June 24 to 30 at Seton Catholic Central. See the complete story on Page 3.

COURT: Requirements on pregnancy centers violate free speech... Page 11
Making the journey of faith together

Two are better than one: They get a good wage for their toil. If the one falls, the other will help the fallen one.

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-19

If I were to make a list of “fun things to do,” walking for miles in 85-degree temperatures wouldn’t make the cut. I love being in nature, and I love hot days, but health issues from my childhood left me with arthritis in both hips. Long walks are uncomfortable at best, excruciating at worst.

Yet I found myself joining the Massena-area pilgrims marking the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul with a walking pilgrimage. My schedule prevented me from making the complete 13-mile trek. I joined the group within the last few miles.

From where I joined the pilgrimage to my first stop, I spent my time fiddling with my camera equipment, phone and notebook. As I reached the first stop, I was very aware of discomfort in one hip.

As we were walking to the next couple stops, I spent my time talking to other pilgrims, including several I had never met before. As we walked and talked, I stopped noticing my discomfort and started forming community.

Community lessened my pain, or at least made me less aware of it.

I heard other pilgrims say they talked to people they had never met before, and they were happy to have made new friends in faith.

Build community through your prayers

Today, let us continue talking about community. One of our challenges as Catholics is how we can personally do something to make our Church truly a community, more of a family. So, what do you think? What would you consider something important that you can do as an individual? What would you suggest?

Speaking for myself, I would like to start this discussion by talking about prayer. Obviously, prayer is an important part of Catholic life. Being a prayerful person means that we have a strong faith in God. I hope that you believe firmly that God, our Father, cares about us all. Jesus taught that God is love. Jesus came to be one of us to demonstrate God's love by living among us, dying for us and then rising to new life. Bringing our own concerns, our own hopes and dreams to God is the beginning of our prayer. We believe that God listens and answers our prayers.

When we pray, it is important to begin with ourselves. In prayer, our first challenge is to develop a strong relationship with our God, a real friendship. Without that, our prayers are meaningless. Then we go on to remember in prayer our families and those with whom we are close. There are so many personal needs that we should recognize, and this will develop a deeper love and concern for them. As I hope and pray my Catholic Church will be a strong and loving family, I must accept the challenge of making my own personal family more united in love and peace.

Now, this family that we want our Catholic Church to be, one place to start is considering our joining together at Mass. The church at Mass is the beginning of our forming a community. We must recognize everyone joining with us at Mass as part of our church family. We do this best by praying for each and every person with us at Mass. At Mass, I often tell people they should look around. Look around at your family. In this moment, they are all your family – both those you know and those who are strangers. You may not see some of them again, but at this Mass you are family in the Lord. And so, we must pray for each and every one of them. They are our family.

I believe, although obviously I can't be certain, that there is at least one person at every Mass – one person in our family – who desperately needs our prayers and maybe more. Don't leave anyone out of your prayers; pray for everyone. Your prayers for the others are an important part of your Mass experience. As we unite ourselves with our God at the altar of the Lord, we are united with everyone there in a special way. As we pray for each other, we are becoming closer together as a community, as part of the Body of Christ.

I would now like to suggest that we extend our prayerfulness even further as we pray at Mass. I believe that as a community, as a parish, we should remember and include in our prayers all the members of our parish, including all those who are not there at this Mass, as well as their families.

There are innumerable needs and cares among the families of a parish. May we remember all, including those who are not with us at this particular Mass. There are many who live in our parish, who many not be part of our church, who need our prayers also. We know them. They are part of our lives. They are our neighbors. Let us pray for them, also.

There is one more step in this life of prayer; we can't just stop here. I know Jesus wants us to realize that all of us on this planet are meant to be a community. Each time you and I participate in Mass, we should remember that we are called to be part of this global community. We should pray for all, especially those who are suffering, and so many are suffering.

We are one people, one humanity – may we one day be truly united in community.
PLATTSBURGH – “We’re not just praying, and we’re not just singing or leafing through a bible. We’re doing all that, and we’re going out and serving in the community and making a difference.”

That’s how Catherine Bracy, 19, of Carthage described Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC), held June 24 to 30 at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh.

This year’s local camp drew 260 people from around the diocese, as well as from around the country. The camp focuses on the corporal works of mercy, building faith and building connections with others.

“We have youth groups here from Minnesota, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Syracuse, and we have a group from St. André’s parish in Malone, and a group from St. Mary’s in Fort Covington, and a participant from Carthage,” said Jocelyn Kelly, co-manager for the local camp. “When they arrive at camp, we divide the groups into work teams. Each adult leader will have teens from all different youth groups on their team.”

Each day of camp starts around 6 a.m. with wake-up call and breakfast. A morning program, generally comprised of music, prayer, skits and/or witness talks starts the day. The youth then gather for Mass each morning before leaving for work sites around 8:30.

This year, the camp has 85 different work locations. While around 85 percent are private residences, the youth also perform service at nursing homes, churches, a youth camp, a museum and other locations in and around Plattsburgh.

“We work with local social service organizations and the local churches to identify individuals and organizations that have needs,” Kelly said. “We reach out to the individuals identified, and they apply for assistance. Once they’re approved, we go out to the work sites in the weeks ahead of camp and assess the needs. We look at what kind of tools, expertise and equipment we’ll need.”

According to Samantha Poulin, camp co-manager, the work typically includes such tasks as yard work, painting, cleaning, repairing hand rails.

“The teams also visit with the homeowners,” she said. “Some of them are lonely, and that means as much as the work performed.”

The teams typically wrap up their work for the day between 3 and 4 p.m. They return to Seton Catholic, for a break time, dinner and evening program.

“Evening program goes from huge energy to very quiet and prayerful,” Kelly said. “Tonight, there’s a dance party followed by adoration. It’s amazing to see how quickly everyone transitions.”

Other night programs include opportunities for confession, witness talks, praise and worship and prayer. Thursday night, the homeowners and organizations assisted speak to the teens.

“It’s amazing to hear how the experience impacts the people who’ve been helped,” Kelly said. “They talk about how the experience changes their impression of today’s youth, of faith and of the church.”

And they aren’t the only ones impacted.

“We get to help people and meet people who otherwise wouldn’t come into our lives,” said Emily Healy, 15, of Fort Covington. “We really get to make a difference.”

“I think most of us would say it strengthens our faith, but we’re also helping people,” said Lauryn Petrelli, 16, of Malone. “And, if nothing else, we’re building life skills. A guy on my team is 15 years old and had never pulled weeds. We’re all learning new things.

“And I love the programs. They’re super loud and energetic. I’m loud and energetic, so it’s a good fit. It’s really fun.”

This year marked the camp’s fourth year in the diocese. Next year’s camp is also tentatively scheduled for June 23 to 29.

To learn more about CHWC, visit heartworkcamp.com.

Among the participants in Catholic Heart Work Camp are diocesan residents, from left, Cecilia Poulin, Jack Crotty, Emily Healy, Lauryn Petrelli, Kora Lindley, Catherine Bracy, Rachael Cunningham, Maggie Marceau, Megan Stark and Alexandra Merrick.
Pilgrims mark Massena’s transition to St. Peter’s

Darcy Fargo
Editor

Massena — Despite temperatures in excess of 85 degrees, 25 pilgrims trekked over 13 miles on foot to mark the official transition of two Massena-area parishes into a unified St. Peter’s Parish. The Mass concluded after 13-mile pilgrimage through parish worship and burial sites.

The foot pilgrimage started at 7:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church in Louisville. The journey included stops at Calvary Cemetery, St. Peter’s Cemetery, St. Mary’s Church, St. Joseph’s Oratory and concluded at Sacred Heart Church with a Mass marking the feast day, celebrated by Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

“Pilgrimages have pretty deep roots in the church,” said Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of St. Peter’s Parish. “A pilgrimage serves as an outward sign of what’s happening spiritually; we are pilgrims on our way to the great destination of kingdom of heaven. It’s a custom going back as far as the medieval church to make pilgrimages with other pilgrims — those you can see and those you can’t see, the saints and angels.”

Father Reilly noted that the parish went through a lengthy process to prepare to transition from two separate parishes into the combined St. Peter’s, and the pilgrimage and feast day Mass were the culmination of that effort. The parish chose the name St. Peter’s partly because it was the name of the first parish to serve the community. “This is a big change,” he said. “It made sense that on the feast day of St. Peter, we’d make a pilgrimage to link all the principle sites of worship and burial. It seemed as though St. Peter’s Cemetery has been long forgotten to many people. I think this helped us open our eyes and recover our roots, both as a church and as a faith community in Massena.”

The pilgrims echoed Father Reilly’s sentiments. “I think father’s idea of walking to unite all the parishes is a beautiful idea,” said Holly Gagnon, a St. Peter’s parishioner. “I think front-loading our transition with all the graces that come from a pilgrimage will benefit the parish. And it’s been a great opportunity for me to pray for the parish and community, and for my own intentions.”

“Since we went from four parishes to two, and now to one, it’s taken some work to develop unity,” added St. Peter’s parishioner Paul Haggett. “I think this is a good way to propel us from separate churches into one church community. My feet hurt, but it was a beautiful walk on a beautiful day. The stops were well planned, with all of us joining in prayer at each stop, and it was a nice way to experience the whole parish as a united parish.”

At the concluding Mass, which included parishioners from all four Massena-area parishes serving as lectors, extraordinary ministers and altar servers, Bishop LaValley lauded the parish for choosing St. Peter as its patron saint.

“One of our diocesan priorities is to Build Parishes with Living Stones,” Bishop LaValley said. “And so, how appropriate it is that this local community of Massena has reflected upon your spiritual lineage. You have chosen to reclaim the patron saint of the first Catholic Church in Massena, Peter, as the patron for the newly configured Catholic parish in this area. I was so pleased when Fr. Reilly told me of the decision to name the living stones Family of Faith here in Massena, St. Peter’s. After reflecting on your faith story, the proud legacy of Catholicism in Massena, it was right to look to St. Peter.”

Bishop LaValley called on the parishioners to continue to look to grow and develop as a parish and as children of God.

“These days call for you and me to have a fresh outlook, a creative spirit, and energy borne of hope founded on the love our God has lavished upon us,” he said. “It is in remembering the love shared that we are able to look forward and take in all that the Lord places before us. We cannot keep doing things the way we always have.”

Bishop LaValley encouraged the parishioners to continue to grow as a community.

“As we move into the future, Christ-fed, Christ-led, and Hope-filled, let us pray for each other and support one another in our common journey to the Father,” he said.
Father Kennedy named provincial superior

Deacon Kevin T. Mastellon
Contributing Writer

CENTER VALLEY, PA. – Father Richard Kennedy was elected the new provincial superior of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart USA Province on June 20.

He will succeed Father Raymond Diesbourg, who held the post for nine years.

Father Kennedy is well known in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, having served at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown for 22 years. He celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination last year, having been ordained on September 30, 1967.

Since 2013, Father Kennedy has been director of a retirement home for retired Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) priests and brothers in Pennsylvania. Taking care of retired members of the order will be a priority for the new Provincial, but so is continuing the order’s work in the U.S.

“I am looking forward to it, because we are at a stage where we are down to about 30 active MSCs (North Americans), but we have over 20 MSCs working with us from other countries,” Father Kennedy said. “As we get older, fewer of these younger MSCs are eager to work with us and take our place. So the challenge is to make sure those joining us from other countries are well prepared to work in the United States of America; to deal with the cultural differences and be part of the American Church.”

In an article in the North Country Catholic in January 2013, Father Kennedy reminisced about his days in Watertown.

Answering a call from “my beloved provincial,” Father Kennedy was assigned to Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown to teach from 1976 to 1985.

“In ’81 Father (Benoit) Dostie asked to step down as pastor of (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart),” Father Kennedy said. “He, Dostie, became superior of the MSC community, and I became pastor of the parish.”

In 1988 his desire to serve in the missions became a reality when he volunteered to go to Papua, New Guinea.

“I taught school down there, loved it; loved the tropics,” Father Kennedy said.

But family and duty called him home for a few years, only to return to Papua as principal of the high school for three years. This time illness brought him home.

Once healthy again “my beloved provincial,” a different one he noted, asked if he would like to return to Watertown.

“I always knew it was going to happen,” Father Kennedy said. “I loved every day and every night in the tropics because I said I know I’m going to go back to that cold climate of Watertown.”

Father Kennedy served as Pastor at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, on the faculty of Immaculate Heart Central, was a member of the Watertown Education Council, and was on the Board and served as a spiritual director for residents of the Credo Farm for treatment of addictions.

The U.S. Province Father Kennedy will lead includes parishes, schools and retreat houses in the United States and in Columbia, South America. American Missionaries of the Sacred Heart worked for 65 years in Papua New Guinea.

The U.S. Missionaries of the Sacred Heart currently work in Watertown, where Father Jonas Tandayu, Missionary of the Sacred Heart, is pastor.

Other Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Father Vincent Frehe, the local superior, Father David DeLuca and Brother Jean Paul Paradis, are in residence in Watertown.

Father Pierre Aubin, also a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, is the pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chaumont.

MSC are also working in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Florida, as well as in Colombia and Papua New Guinea. They provide ministry in parishes, educational and job training programs, retreats, prisons and on Native American reservations. There are 1,900 MSC’s in 54 countries world-wide.
Respect Life grants awarded

Thanks to the generosity of North Country parishioners, 21 grants will be awarded from the Respect Life Second Collection.

On June 18, Bishop Terry R. LaValley approved the grant amounts as suggested by the grant committee.

The committee members are Father Patrick Ratigan, Stephen Tartaglia, Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli and John and Colleen Miner.

This year’s collection total was $74,142, an increase from last year’s collection ($68,267). Those receiving grants include: Gabriel Project crisis pregnancy apostolates in Gouverneur, Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh, Ogdensburg and Canton; four pilgrimages to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., including two youth buses; one campus ministry bus and one family bus; the Malone Catholic Charities Teen Pregnancy Counseling Program; Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center; Lifeguard of Watertown; Birthright; pro-life booths at the fairs in Lewis County, Champlain Valley and St. Lawrence County; Lake Placid’s Light of Truth Catholic Radio; Natural Family Planning Office for NFP Awareness Week materials; and the USCCB Respect Life Month pastor packets.

A highlight of the grant process is reading the reports from Gabriel Projects. Crisis pregnancy outreach is an important ministry that is supported by the collection.

Not all Gabriel Projects ask for assistance, but those who do complete a yearly report.

The reports indicate a steady increase in the number of mothers seeking assistance.

In 2017 St. Patrick’s in Brasher Falls helped 90 moms, Our Lady of Victory in Plattsburgh helped 116 moms, Massena helped 28 moms and the newest Gabriel Project, completing their first year, Our Lady’s Parishes in Ogdensburg helped 12 mothers.

Thank you to all who donate to the collection and to all who work every day to build a Culture of Life in our diocese and in our world.

Many are blessed by your generosity.

For more information on the grant process, please visit the Respect Life website: www.rcdony.org/pro-life.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terriane Yenanulwich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd., Chateaugay, NY 12920; terriane@yenanulwich@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

Rest in Peace

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

July 9 — Rev. John Rogers, 1887; Rev. Joseph H. Emard, O.M.I., 1924
July 12 — Rev. James Salmon, 1835; Rev. John J. Brennan, 1881; Most Rev. Albert Pascal, O.M.I., 1922
July 13 — Rev. George Garand, 1941

Protecting God’s Children

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

Upcoming sessions:
August 8 – 3 p.m., St. Bartholomew’s Church, Old Forge

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

Bishop’s Schedule

July 5 — 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
July 6 — Noon, Teacher of the Year Award Luncheon at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
July 6 — Noon, Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 7 — 10 a.m., Blessing of the Abbe Picquet Trail in Ogdensburg
4 p.m., Closing Mass of St. Joseph’s Church in Malone
July 8 — 9 a.m., Mass at St. Henry’s Church in Long Lake
July 8 — 9 a.m., Mass at St. Therese’s Church in Newcomb
4:30 p.m., Mass at Camp Gugenheim in Saranac Lake
7 p.m., Leadership Gift Reception at Holy Ghost Parish Center in Tupper Lake
July 11 — Noon, Leadership Gift Reception at St. Mary’s School in Ticonderoga
7 p.m., Leadership Gift Reception at Sr. Mary’s Parish Hall in Clayton
June 12 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
6 p.m., Leadership Gift Reception at St. Vincent of Paul Parish Hall in Cape Vincent
July 14 — 11 a.m., 50th Jubilee Mass for Sister Jennifer Votrav at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown
4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 15 — 8:30 a.m., Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Tupper Lake
11 a.m., Mass at St. Alphonse Church in Tupper Lake
July 16 — 7:15 p.m., Novena & Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
July 17 — 9:30 a.m., Leadership Gift Reception at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake
4:30 p.m., Mass at Camp Gugenheim in Saranac Lake
July 18 — 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
7 p.m., Leadership Gift Reception at St. Cyril’s Parish Hall in Alexandria Bay
July 19 — 6:30 p.m., Leadership Gift Reception at St. Bernard’s Rectory in Saranac Lake

Environmental Stewardship

KEEP PLANTING!

To continue our “Seeds of Hope” series, I would like to begin with a question: “How is it possible to make a difference in this vast universe we call home?” Let me plant a seed of hope to help you answer that question.

“Acceptance makes an incredible fertile soil for the seeds of change.”
- Steve Maraboli

This quote is a place to start. We need to accept that there is a problem. And with that “acceptance seed” planted in our minds, we then can turn to whatever information network we choose to discover the who, what and why. Acceptance is an answer.

In addition to acceptance, change is needed to break from old habits which is a challenge. Simply taking cotton bags to the store to put our purchases in can be a huge saving act.

About 1 million plastic bags are used every minute, and a single plastic bag can take 1,000 years to degrade. If you’re already bringing reusable bags to the grocery store, you’re on the right track, but if you’re still using plastic produce bags, it’s time to make a change. Purchase some reusable produce bags and help keep even more plastic out of the landfill.

However, avoid those bags made from nylon or polyester because they’re also made from plastic. Opt for cotton ones instead.

Be an observant person and notice those who are already making changes.

A simple act of kindness by acknowledging their helpful nature gives positive reinforcement which might give them encouragement to continue doing more for our planet.

“Remember to be conscious of what seeds you plant, as the garden of your mind is like the world. The longer seeds grow, the more likely they are to become trees...”
- Natasha Potter

*Submitted by Faye Martin, member of the Watertown Faith and Ecology Group

Sister celebrates 60th Jubilee

PLATTSBURGH – Sister Claire Michel Fortier, a Sister of Charity of St. Louis, celebrated her 60th Jubilee on June 10 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh.

Born May 25, 1932 in Berlin, New Hampshire, she has two sisters. Her oldest sister is married, and her youngest sister is a Cloistered Dominican Sister at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in North Guilford, Connecticut.

Sister Claire attended grade school with the Sisters of Presentation of Mary in New Hampshire until fourth grade.

The family then moved to Connecticut, where she became acquainted the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis.

She entered the novitiate in Bienville, Quebec. During her teaching career, she taught grades one through five in Brookfield Center, Connecticut, and later in Keeseville and Plattsburgh, where she now resides.

Besides teaching, she worked in Our Lady of Victory Clothing Store for the needy, did grocery shopping, was chauffeur, and is the archivist for her community.

“I am especially thankful to the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis for the spiritual formation and loving support they have been providing me,” said Sister Claire.

HONORING GRADS

Graduates from St. Philip of Jesus Church in Willsboro recently received recognition from the parish community. Pictured are, Paul Fine-Lease, Rylee Pierson and Michael Hathaway, along with Father Francis J. Flynn.
FACES OF FAITH

Baccalaureate Mass was held at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson on Sunday, June 17. Pictured are, left to right, Deacon Larry Ambeau, Tessa Fowlin of Pulaski Central School, William Spicer of Immaculate Heart Central High School, Jacob Wallace of Belleville-Henderson Central School, Joseph Henry of Belleville-Henderson Central School and Father Martin E. Cline, Pastor.

The Catholic Daughters of America offered two scholarships to fifth grade students who would be attending Seton Catholic in the fall. Kathy Racette and Ciel Johnson presented the scholarships to Lauren Lincourt and Megan Mast. The students wrote essays explaining how Seton Academy helped them grow in their faith and how they were planning to put their faith into action. Their parents also wrote letters requesting the scholarship for their child.

The students at Seton Academy are proud of being missionaries who help children around the world through the Missionary Childhood Association. Displaying the certificates and goal chart are, front row, Brant Cass, Sophia Minasi, Alex Frenya, second row, Lily Forrence, Colby Roesler, Emma Meschinelli and Dayline Willette.

Young parishioners of St. Philip of Jesus in Willsboro recently celebrated Confirmation. Pictured are, front row, Heather Ahrent, Mallory Arnold, Aliceon Drollette, Olivia Politi, back row, Robbie Drollette, Father Francis J. Flynn, Nathan Collazo and Regan Arnold.
Men’s retreat takes participants ‘Into the Deep’

SARANAC LAKE – Eighteen men gathered Friday, June 8 through Sunday, June 10 for prayer, teaching and camaraderie at the annual Men’s Retreat held at the Guggenheim Lodge on Lower Saranac Lake.

Two priests, Father Mark R. Reilly of Massena and Father Alex Guimpol of Saranac Lake, along with two deacons, Joseph R. Szwed of Saranac Lake and Henry Leader of Gouverneur, were among the participants.

Others included those from the Potsdam, Watertown and Saranac Lake areas of New York and Waterbury, Vermont.

The retreat, sponsored by the Family Life Office, allowed time for praying the Divine Office, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Confession. The weekend also included a service project.

Saturday afternoon the men cleaned the Guggenheim beach and stained two new lifeguard chairs. They also had a chance to canoe and kayak. Saturday evening they enjoyed a bonfire. Sunday morning they attended Mass together at Church of the Assumption in Gabriels.

This year’s retreat was entitled “Into the Deep,” based on a book by Dan Burke with the same title. Each participant received a book as well as a June Magnificat.

John Miner, a Secular Discalced Carmelite and spirituality instructor in the Diocesan Formation for Ministry program, presented teaching which focused on finding peace through prayer, why we pray, our desire for God and His desire for you, and some essential elements for progress in prayer.

Diocesan Director of The Office of Family Life, Steve Tartaglia said, “I have really enjoyed meeting and getting to know the men that have come to the retreat over the past few years. The retreat weekend is very prayerful for the men who attend. I would love to see a similar retreat in place for women.”
A tale of two farm bills

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- With House passage of a new five-year farm bill in the rearview mirror and passage of a Senate version looming straight ahead, it's going to take a House-Senate conference committee to reconcile what is turning out to be considerably different versions of the farm bill.

"We're in an interesting period," said James Ennis, executive director of Catholic Rural Life.

The Senate version, which received a 20-1 vote in committee to send to the floor, where debate started June 28, "is very bipartisan," Ennis told Catholic News Service. "The Senate version in its current state looks a lot like the 2014 farm bill."

It's the House version that has Ennis and other rural advocates concerned. It passed June 21 by just two votes, 213-211, and it took several minutes to break the deadlock while supporters rounded up two more members to vote for it. All those voting yes were Republicans; 20 Republicans voted no, as did every Democrat voting.

The Agriculture Nutrition Act, as the House bill is known, removes money from conservation programs found in previous farm bills, which are reauthorized generally twice each decade. The Conservation Stewardship Program was cut entirely. Access to capital for business training services also was slashed, Ennis said.

Anna Johnson, an Iowa-based senior policy analyst for the Center for Rural Affairs, is concerned with trends in rural life that see farms getting bigger, with fewer people to work on them. That leads to smaller town and the problems that come with it.

"There's a bunch of factors at play," Johnson said. "Obviously, the folks leave a rural town, businesses close, places of worship close, schools close, communities dwindle. Part of our mission is to support the thriving and vibrant rural communities."

But she spied something in the House version of the farm bill that would add a new threat to rural life.

"It's how policy works sometimes," she told CNS June 28. "You bury things in the language and it's hard to see, but what it's going to do is open up a lot of loopholes in the farm payment structure and go against the farm safety net," Johnson said. "It's going to allow farms to reorganize into different structures and attract more subsidy payments."

In so doing, she added, "it helps drive farm consolidation, which drives up land prices and rent prices." Agribusiness concerns, Johnson said, will more easily be able exploit the loophole and grab a larger chunk of federal farm subsidy money.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholics mobilize at border to help separated families
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Some have taken their indignation all the way to the border between the U.S. and Mexico, while others have taken action closer to home, protesting while accompanied by their children and fellow parishioners in cities and towns across the U.S. Others are volunteering their services to counsel or visit immigrant children separated from a parent or are publicly advocating against the practice. From coast to coast, Catholics, including cardinals, bishops, women and men religious, priests and laity, and many sisters from an array of religious orders, and the organizations they staff or support, have been among some of the most public and vociferous voices around the country in defense of immigrants. That defense has gone into overdrive in efforts to reunite migrant families and to call for their humane treatment.

Canadian bishops warn of discrimination after court decision
OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) -- The Supreme Court has opened the door for discrimination based on a person's religious beliefs and moral values, Canadian bishops wrote in a frank rebuttal to a decision by Canada's highest court. In the wake of a June 15 ruling that will likely scuttle a proposed law school at Trinity Western University, the bishops issued a statement that said they were "deeply concerned" and warned of "serious implications" and "negative repercussions" for individuals and institutions. The statement comes after the court, in a 7-2 decision, upheld the right of law societies in British Columbia and Ontario to reject graduates of TWU's proposed law school. The law societies objected to the Evangelical Christian university's community covenant, which includes a requirement that staff, students and faculty abstain from sexual activity outside traditional marriage. The court deemed the covenant harmful to the equality and identity of non-heterosexual students. "The decision by the court effectively means that provincial law societies can discriminate against lawyers on the basis of their religious affiliation and moral values," the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a June 20 statement.

New papal appointments reflect pope's wish for transparency
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis appointed Bishop Nunzio Galantino, 69, as president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, which handles the Vatican's investment portfolio and real estate holdings and serves as the Vatican employment office and procurement agency. The bishop, who had been serving as secretary-general of the Italian bishops' conference, replaces Cardinal Domenico Calcagno, who submitted his resignation when he turned 75, as required by canon law. The Vatican made the announcement June 26.

Pope Francis had told Reuters June 17 that he was going to make significant changes with the administrative office, known by its Italian acronym, APSA, starting with appointing a new president who had "an attitude of renewal." Cardinal "Calcagno knows the functioning well, but perhaps the mentality has to be renewed," he told Reuters. While reforms initiated by Pope Benedict XVI and stepped up by Pope Francis have sought to bring more accountability and transparency to the Vatican bank and Vatican offices, Pope Francis told the news agency he was still concerned "there is no transparency" in the Vatican's real estate holdings. "We have to move ahead with transparency, and that depends on APSA," he said.
Supreme Court rules: Requirements on pregnancy centers violate free speech

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 June 26 that a California law that placed requirements on crisis pregnancy centers that oppose abortion violated the First Amendment.

In its decision in National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra, the court found that the law changed the content of the clinic’s speech “by compelling petitioners to speak a particular message,” and that the law went further than being a mere “regulation of professional conduct that incidentally burdens speech.”

The state law in question is the Reproductive FACT Act, which says pregnancy centers must post notices in their facilities about where low-cost abortion services are available and also must disclose if they have medical personnel on staff.

During the oral arguments March 20, some of the justices expressed concerns that the law might be about specifically targeting crisis pregnancy centers instead of providing information about abortion, and the decision mentions that, if the goal of the law were merely providing information about abortion to the public, that goal could be accomplished in more effective ways that do not require speakers to deliver unwanted speech.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, praised the ruling as “an important victory for the free speech rights of pro-life organizations.”

“The Supreme Court today has affirmed that the First Amendment protects the right of all organizations to choose for themselves not only what to say, but what not to say,” he said in a statement.

“This includes allowing pro-life pregnancy care centers to continue providing life-affirming support to both mother and child without being forced by governments to provide free advertising for the violent act of abortion in direct violation of the center’s pro-life convictions,” he said.

The USccb and several other faith-based groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief before the Supreme Court supporting the pro-life pregnancy centers in the case.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, who is co-chair of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, said in a statement that “pregnancy centers want no part of a law requiring them to tell a woman where to go to kill her child. Thankfully, today the Supreme Court recognized their First Amendment right to free speech and to refrain from speaking.”

“Crisis pregnancy centers like NIFLA serve women and children according to their religious mission, and California should respect that,” said Mark Rienzi, president of Becket, which is a nonprofit religious liberty law firm. “This ruling proves that when it comes to important issues, the government doesn’t get to tell people what to believe, and it also doesn’t get to tell people what to say about it.”

Justice Clarence Thomas delivered the opinion of the court, and was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Anthony Kennedy, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch. Kennedy filed a concurring opinion which Roberts, Alito and Gorsuch joined.

Justice Stephen Breyer filed a dissenting opinion and was joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

In other reaction, Jeanne Mancini, president of the March for Life, said in a statement: “We applaud the Supreme Court for preserving these centers’ free speech right and allowing them to continue offering such comprehensive and critical support to women in need.”

The statement also said that forcing the centers to advertise abortion would “force these centers ... to work against their life-affirming mission.”

A forthcoming report by the Charlotte Lozier Institute found that in 2017 pregnancy centers provided slightly under 2 million people with free services, saving communities at least $161 million.

Same-sex wedding case sent back to lower court

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Religious liberty advocates were pleased with the U.S. Supreme Court’s June 26 order to send Arlene’s Flowers v. State of Washington and Arlene’s Flowers v. Ingersoll back to the lower court for review.

Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene’s Flowers in Richland, Washington, declined a customer’s request to make custom floral arrangements for a same-sex wedding. She cited her belief against such marriages as a Southern Baptist.

The Washington Supreme Court ruled that she could be forced to make the floral arrangements, but the Supreme Court’s order removed the judgment against her and told the Washington Supreme Court to review the case in light of Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

“We are pleased that the high court has reaffirmed the importance of governmental respect for the religious freedom of Barronelle Stutzman, consistent with its recent decision in favor of Jack Phillips,” said Joan Manix, special counsel for the Thomas More Society, a national nonprofit law firm dedicated to causes related to life, the family and religious liberty.

Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Colorado, is the baker who refused to make a custom cake for the wedding reception of a same-sex couple. He said his religious beliefs would not allow him to create a cake honoring their marriage. The case put anti-discrimination laws up against freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression.

“The high court has always supported the idea that an artist’s self-expression is protected,” Manix added in her statement about Arlene’s Flowers.

“Barronelle Stutzman’s custom floral arrangements are designed to deliver an expressive message, consistent with the personalities of the couple, approving of and celebrating their marriage, and are therefore entitled to First Amendment protection,” she continued.

“The high court’s decision in favor of this small-town florist reaffirms the high court’s commitment to the protection of First Amendment freedoms including the freedom of speech and the free exercise of religion,” she said.

The Thomas More Society submitted a friend-of-the-court brief that emphasized precedent in which both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals have recognized that the First Amendment protects artistic expression, including nonverbal art forms.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson and the American Civil Liberties Union sued Stutzman after she declined to design the floral arrangements for customer Rob Ingersoll’s same-sex wedding.
A prophet's mission is often a difficult one

Our readings this Sunday are all about prophets – Ezekiel, Paul, and Jesus.

It is God the Father who sends prophets on a mission – and it is God Himself who is aware that their message will often be rejected.

Prophets will suffer much frustration and even death from the very people with whom God has made a covenant.

In Ezekiel's day, the Israelites were truly "rebels" against trust in God's laws. Their kings were trying to make an alliance with Egypt, a pagan nation, rather than trust in God's power to protect them.

As a result, God withdrew his favor and state of prosperity.

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he combats false prophets who are telling them untruths. Paul reminds them of all he has suffered to bring them sound teaching on the Gospel. Paul is willing even to consider himself a fool rather than deny any part of sound doctrine. He will endure beatings, stoning, a shipwreck and even death for their sake.

In the Gospel, we find Jesus in his own hometown. He finds his message being treated with skepticism, and even ridicule by his own relatives and neighbors. He exclaims, "No prophet is without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." He was not able to "perform any mighty deeds there..."

May we never be guilty of turning a deaf ear to Christ's Gospel as preached by our own Pope Francis, the prophetic voice of God in our Church.

And when we ourselves attempt to preach the truth of Jesus, which may well go against society's norms, may we not be discouraged.

How else will Christ's Church have a voice in an indifferent world?

A look at the smoke over medical marijuana

A comprehensive 2015 scientific review found medical marijuana to be useful only for a small number of medical conditions. Writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, an international team of researchers found scant evidence to support the drug's claims for the drug's effectiveness.

Although clinical trials showed that chronic neuropathic pain and cancer-related pain could often be treated, other forms of pain, such as those related to rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia, HIV and multiple sclerosis did not show statistically significant improvement.

Researchers also found inconclusive data for people with insomnia, anxiety disorders, depression, Tourette syndrome, psychosis, and sleep disorders.

They registered concerns about medical marijuana's significant side effects as well.

Yale University researchers, commenting on the review, noted how the approval process for medical marijuana in U.S. states and jurisdictions has often been based on "low-quality scientific evidence, anecdotal reports, individual testimonials, legislative initiatives, and public opinion."

They raised concerns around the fact that medical marijuana seems to be receiving "special status" and is being "fast-tracked" for legalization, when it should instead be subject to the standard scientific verifications of the FDA approval process to assure its efficacy and safety.

The Yale authors offered this corrective: "Imagine if other drugs were approved through a similar approach... If the goal is to make marijuana available for medical purposes, then it is unclear why the approval process should be different from that used for other medications."

In his influential exposé Marijuana Debunked, Dr. Ed Gogek emphasizes how the idea of medical marijuana "didn't come from doctors, or patient advocacy groups, or public health organizations, or the medical community. The ballot initiatives for medical marijuana laws were sponsored and promoted by pro-legalization groups."

These groups have used the medical marijuana trump card to grease the skids for the acceptance of recreational marijuana. This pincer movement has enabled them to control and reap the windfall from an extensive system of dispensaries that supply and distribute addictive substances.

Even if recreational marijuana does not ultimately become legalized in a particular jurisdiction, it is well documented that medical marijuana dispensaries often end up supplying the drug not for rare, valid medical uses, but for substance abuse, similar to the situation with opioid pain medications.

Yet the push for marijuana continues unabated. In May 2018, the New York State Comptroller, Scott Stringer, issued a report declaring that legalized marijuana in the Empire State would be a potential $3 billion market, with taxes from its sale generating a potential $436 million annually statewide, and $336 million for New York City.

With such sums at play, not only are investors coming out of the woodwork, but towns and municipalities are also issuing ordinances and changing zoning laws to bring in the dispensaries. Indeed, dollar signs beckon, much as they once did for tobacco companies and plantation owners.

Besides being addictive and profitable, tobacco and marijuana have other similarities. Marijuana smoke contains harmful chemicals, with ammonia, benzene, toluene, and naphthalene levels in marijuana exceeding those found in tobacco smoke.

These chemical components may contribute to emphysema, bronchial irritation and inflammation. Patients with medical conditions treatable by medical marijuana can avoid these toxic chemicals and other side effects by using more purified preparations containing only the active ingredients.

In 2003, the Institute of Medicine, a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that evaluates medical issues, acknowledged that components of marijuana may have medicinal uses, and strongly recommended the development of prescription cannabinoid medicines based on those...
NEW YORK (CNS) — Apparently, it’s time to check in again with everybody’s favorite prehistoric era, because here comes “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” (Universal).

Director J.A. Bayona’s follow-up to the 2015 reboot of the hugely successful franchise ratchets up the mayhem and adds a bit more gore but keeps the on-again, off-again central romance refreshingly innocent.

In this iteration of the series that began with Steven Spielberg’s blockbuster 1993 screen version of Michael Crichton’s 1990 novel “Jurassic Park,” the cloned dinosaurs at the heart of the action are facing extinction due to a volcanic eruption. So Benjamin Lockwood (James Cromwell), the vastly wealthy surviving member of the duo of researchers who used DNA to bring them back from their last disappearance, organizes a rescue.

Through his principal underling, Eli Mills (Rafe Spall), Lockwood recruits Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard), the former head of the theme park that once featured the outsized critters — and now an activist on their behalf — and Owen Grady (Chris Pratt), an ex-trainer at the same facility, to transport the anachronistic lizards from the island on which they ran amok in the last movie to sanctuary on a more isolated isle.

As the now-split couple dodge both dinos and volcanic debris, their flicker predictably turns back into a flame. But they have more problems to contend with than they realize since there’s a conspiracy afoot to abduct the reptiles and use them as weapons.

Eventually, they’ll need the aid of Lockwood’s intrepid granddaughter, Maisie (Isabella Sermon), to thwart this scheme.

As scripted by returning screenwriters Derek Connolly and Colin Trevorrow, the adventure thus kicked off has little to offer beyond the dubious appeal of watching gigantic creatures endanger the principals and chew down on the occasional extra.

Perhaps because of all the peril, though, Owen and Claire’s physical interaction is limited to a scene in which he wakes up to find that she’s been sleeping with her head on his shoulder and her hand resting near his heart.

Less charming is a later sequence during which various bad guys get their comeuppance by being first maimed, then ingested by dinosaurs. Given the graphic nature portrayed, “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” cannot be endorsed even for mature teens.

All the more so, since there’s a vaguely anti-religious tone underlying a cameo by Jeff Goldblum in the guise of mathematician Dr. Ian Malcolm.

Testifying before Congress about the dinosaurs’ plight, he observes: “God is not part of the equation.”

Maybe he should redo his figures.

The film contains much animal violence with occasional gore and a few gruesome images, some gunplay, a couple of profanities and milder oaths, a single rough and several crude and 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.
SUMMER RETREAT
Saranac Lake – Summer retreat held for adults in the mountains.
**Date:** Aug. 3-5
**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge
**Cost:** $145, Tenting or Commuter Option, $100
**Features:** Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator; Tom Kalinowski, former biology teacher and author of two nature books, Fr. Paul Kelly, celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.
**Contact:** To register, call: 315-212-6592 or email: sbethssj@gmail.com by Aug. 1

CATHOLIC MEN’S GROUP
Saranac Lake – A Catholic Men’s Group meets on the first Saturdays of the month for a time of fellowship, prayer, and discussion.
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
**Place:** St. Bernard’s Chapel
**Features:** Mass followed by coffee and refreshments, some discussion and prayer.
**Contact:** Fr. Mark Reilly (518-891-4616)

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER
Plattsburgh – The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of each month.
**Time:** 2 p.m.
**Place:** St. John’s Church (Holy Family Chapel)

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP
Moos – Monthly prayer group held to pray for all of the sick in our parishes.
**Date:** Meets every second Friday
**Time:** 1 p.m.
**Place:** Senior Housing
**Features:** Prayer for all the people added to our list each month. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited within the prayer service. Prayer and snack lasts about an hour.
**Contact:** Nancy Monette at mmonette@charter.net

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION
Keeseville - There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.
**Time:** 1 to 4 p.m.
**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church

Eucharistic Adoration
Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday.
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
**Place:** Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel
**Features:** All are invited to one hour of exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction.

ADIRONDACK

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

GARAGE SALE
Wells – St. Ann’s Altar and Rosary Society will be holding its Annual Garage Sale.
**Date:** July 20 and 21
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
**Place:** St. Ann’s Church
**Features:** Your donations of gently used household goods, working electronics, sports equipment, kitchen ware, tools, furniture, and household items are appreciated.
**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email: Slhsadoration@aol.com

JEFFERSON

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Watertown – Come join us for a faith filled fun week of Vacation Bible School.
**Date:** July 9 – 13
**Time:** 9 a.m. to noon
**Place:** Holy Family Church
**Features:**
- For Grades K-5
- Contact: Call 315-782-6750 or 315-782-2468

LEWIS

EUCHARIST ADORATION
Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration to be held.
**Date:** July 19
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
**Place:** St. Peter’s Church
**Features:** To thank God for & To Honor the Most Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction.

ST. LAWRENCE

ST. JAMES GOLF TOURNAMENT
Gouverneur – St. James School to have their annual Golf Tournament.
**Date:** Aug. 11
**Time:** 9 a.m. Check in, 10 a.m. Tee Time/Shuttle Start
**Place:** Emerald Green Golf Course
**Features:** Opportunity to support a wonderful cause, Green Fee, Cart Fee, Welcome Gift, Dinner, Chance to win great prizes including $1,000 payout for Best Male/Female/Coed Team Score.
**Contact:** St. James Parish office at 315-287-0114 for a registration form and more information.

K OF C GOLF TOURNAMENT
Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus will have their 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament.
**Date:** Aug. 18
**Time:** Start Par 3, 12:30 p.m.
**Place:** Willow Ridge Golf Course
**Features:** $30 to play, includes cart, lunch and prizes.
**Contact:** 315-393-7990 for more information.

TRIP TO YANKEE GAME
Canton – The Canton Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Yankee Baseball Trip to New York City.
**Date:** Aug. 10
**Cost:** $230 per person dual occupancy
- Includes luxury coach transportation, ticket to the ballgame, one night’s hotel stay at Meadowlands River Inn and breakfast on Saturday.
**Contact:** For more information or to register, email: ckanokofc@gmail.com or call 315-714-2016.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

PILGRIMAGE TO ISLE LA MOTTE
Isle of La Motte, VT – Please join the Knights of Columbus from around the Diocese for the 25th Annual Bus Trip to St. Anne’s Shrine.
**Date:** July 21 – 22
**Cost:** $150 per person which includes bus, all meals, and over night lodging in the new cabins at the shrine.
**Features:** Depart from IHC Intermediate at 9 a.m. on Sat. and return around 9 p.m. Sun. night. Bus will be traveling North on Route 11 and can pick up along the way. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. with Bishop LaValley on Sunday. All are welcome to sign up and attend.
**Contact:** Please contact Bill Ose at 315-232-4433 for more information.

ALTAR SERVERS PICNIC
Ogdensburg – Altar Servers and their families are invited to Mass and a picnic.
**Date:** Aug. 17
**Time:** Begin at 11 a.m., Presentations followed by Mass at 12 p.m. at the Cathedral followed by a Picnic at the Bishop’s Residence until 3 p.m.
**Contact:** Register at your parish by Aug. 4

FAMILY GUGGENEIM
Saranac Lake – It’s time to register for Family Guggenheim.
**Date:** Session 1, Aug. 16 – 18; Session 2, Aug. 23 – 26; Session 3, Oct. 5 – 7
**Contact:** Visit https://www.rcdny.org/familylife/family-guggenheim.html to register, Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader for information at 315-323-0827 or dleader@rcdny.org
St. Peter Apostle summer appeal

A home and a prayer. That’s what Father David Njuguma Kiranga is seeking for the 237 young men preparing for the priesthood at St. Augustine’s Major Seminary in Mabanga in western Kenya. Prayers as they prepare to carry the Lord’s love to uplift the poor, to celebrate the Sacraments, to reach out to children and families, and to comfort the sick and dying. And, for right now, financial help to provide a home for these young men during their studies.

“We’ve run out of room, and many students are crowded into an old convent near the seminary, with offices made into bedrooms,” Father David explains. And, the existing 40-plus-year-old seminarian housing is in desperate need of repair and renovations as well.

Growing numbers of young men respond to the call of our Lord to follow Him as priests, and as existing seminaries need reconstruction and rehabilitation. Will you give a seminarian a home and your prayers as he prepares to show the Lord’s loving heart and celebrate the Eucharist in any one of the most vulnerable communities around the globe?

Each year the Society for the Propagation of the Faith/Society of St. Peter Apostle sends support for some 30,000 young men preparing for the priesthood in mission seminaries providing textbooks, technology, housing, food and medical care. Renovations and construction described by Father David in Kenya break down to about $180 a seminarian. Annual support for studies is $700 for the year, about $60 a month.

If you have ever considered a missionary vocation overseas, here’s your chance to do so by giving! These missionaries, serving the poorest of the poor, are doing what the Lord has asked of them. Let us all pray our part in this holy calling.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Thank you for promoting vocations in the developing countries. While you would not know by name the young people whose vocations you help to support, you would be sure of many prayers offered for you, as you pray for the seminarians and novices in the missions. In your “link of love,” you will make a difference to a future priest, or to a future Brother or Sister. You make a difference in the worldwide mission of Jesus. God Bless our Mission Seminarians.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will. www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Brownville – Winifred J. Dwyer (Ward), 100; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Canton – Nancy Lee Dobisky-Vaisey, 65; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.


Chateaugay – Vivian Mary (Matthews) Yelle, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2018 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Clayton – Diane Charlebois, 64; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Redwood Cemetery.

Colton – Anita L. (Perkins) Sampier, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2018 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Dannemora – Benjamin King, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2018 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

Heuvelton – Beatrice Breitenbach – Lennon, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2018 at St. Raphael’s Church; burial in West Point.

Massena – Leo Dishaw, 89; Funeral Services June 18, 2018 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery, Norfolk.

Massena – Frederick J. Guilbeault, 66; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Phoebe Ann (Carbone) Savoca, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 26, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.


Ogdensburg – Margaret “Peggy” (Johnston) Denny, 85; Funeral Services June 23, 2018 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg – Wayne Noel Ladouceur, 75; Mass of Christina Burial June 28, 2018 at Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Donald R. Young, 79; Funeral Services June 30, 2018 at Frary Funeral Home.

Peru – Marie D. (Patnode) Bova, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 20, 2018 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

Peru – Elizabeth Fitzpatrick Hughes, 91; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2018 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Augustine’s cemetery.

Peru – Ella (DeFoe) Parent, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2018 at St. Augustine’s Church.


Potsdam – Margaret M. (LaBarge) Varno, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 18, 2018 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Cheryl A. (Edwards) Tobrocke, 61; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2018 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Port Henry – Mary C. (Riendeau) Petro, 75; Mass of Christian Burial June 21, 2018 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Potsdam – Henry “Hank” Domingos, 83; Mass of Christian Burial June 30, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church.

Rouses Point – Francis Baker; Mass of Christian Burial June 23, 2018 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial Maple Hill Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Peter Nihil LaHart, 81; Mass of Christian Burial June 22, 2018 at St. Bernard’s Church; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery.

Watertown – Robert J. DeLosh, 96; Funeral Services June 27, 2018 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.


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African bishop visits North Country parishes

During Masses celebrating the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on June 2 and 3, the parishes of St. Mary’s in Indian Lake, St. Paul’s in Blue Mountain Lake, and St. Joseph’s in Olmstedville had the honor of a visit from Bishop Nicolas Djomo, Bishop of the Diocese of Tshumbe, located in the center of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in central Africa.

Father Philip T. Allen welcomed Bishop Djomo at each Mass and asked parishioners to support the Bishop in his effort to bring fresh drinking water to thousands of people in his diocese.

Bishop Djomo spoke about the challenges he faces because of the location and situation of his diocese in ministering to the people of the Tshumbe so that they "experience the saving presence and compassion of Jesus in their daily lives."

The Tshumbe diocese covers a 23,000 square mile land-locked and isolated area with a population of over 680,000 people.

In much of the diocese, there are no paved roads, no electricity, and no running water.

Due to the absence of government run services, the church is the primary institution to take care of the basic needs of the people.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has the world’s second-highest rate of mother and infant mortality.

Bishop Djomo said one major cause of the high mortality is the lack of fresh drinking water.

Bishop Djomo has launched a project to bring fresh and potable water to the 30,000 people of town of Tshumbe within the diocese.

With 75 percent of the funds needed for this extensive project raised, Catholic Relief Services is assisting the Bishop in the United States with raising the remaining 25 percent of the funds needed.

Bishop Djomo asked participants at all three Masses to for their financial support of the clean water project.

"I thank you for your prayers and generosity and I am grateful for your willingness to make a difference in my ministry, the Bishop concluded. "Upon you and your families, I invoke an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God bless you.”

Donations to Catholic Relief Services can be made safely online at support.crs.org

Medical Marijuana

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

components: “If there is any future for marijuana as a medicine, it lies in its isolated components, the cannabinoids and their synthetic derivatives.”

Several different cannabinoid medications have been developed in recent years, and these medicines work as well as or better than marijuana, have fewer side effects, and are less likely to be abused.

These drugs also tend to be effective in the body for longer periods.

Dr. Gogek notes the irony of the loud public outcry that would ensue if the FDA were to approve "a drug that had no advantage over safer alternatives, went mostly to substance abuse, increased teenage drug use, and killed people on the highways."

He concludes, “We should not be sidestepping the FDA approval process that was designed to protect us.”

In sum, the reality behind medical marijuana is far from the rosy view painted by advocates. Marijuana is not "just a plant."

It is an addictive drug abused in epidemic proportions, inflicting a serious individual and societal toll. Its use as a medicine needs to be carefully regulated through standard scientific oversight and the FDA approval process, not handed over to recreational enthusiasts and opportunistic businessmen.

The current practice of encouraging states and municipalities to legalize medical, and then recreational, marijuana, is, in the final analysis, neither reasonable nor ethical.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org