Pope: World needs just, compassionate rulers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The world needs leaders who can "put into practice a more just way for all of us to live in this world as sharers in a common destiny," Pope Francis said.

"There is no need, on the other hand, for hurling slogans that often remain empty, or for antagonism between parties jockeying for the front position," the pope said in a letter to the international conference of "Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church."

According to the National Catholic Reporter, some 500 members from 80 countries were in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, for a meeting on the theme, "A Critical Time for Bridge-Building: Catholic Theological Ethics Today."

In his letter to participants, Pope Francis said Sarajevo, a city of bridges and symbol of the devastation of the Balkan war, was an appropriate place to discuss how in situations of tension and division, there is a need to forge "new paths of closeness between peoples, cultures, religions, visions of life and political orientations."

The pope said he keeps repeating "the need to build bridges, not walls" in the hopes that people will take action even if they are tempted "by fear and forms of regression."

Faiths unite to aid others in need

The Secretariat for Christian Unity called us to go forth performing acts of charity in unity with all other Christians.

Catholics right here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg have heard Jesus call for unity and are performing amazing acts of charity every day in unity with other faith traditions.

Learn about ecumenical efforts to aid others in Clinton, St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pro-life at county fairs

Respect Life funds fair display booths

FULL STORY, PAGE 12
Finding grace in unexpected places

"Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins."
- 1Peter 4:8

It was at the busiest part of the morning for the volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul’s food distribution on a cold spring day. We were trying to get an adequate number of bags of food prepared to keep the line moving once we started distributing.

When I looked up, she stood out from the crowd. Her red sweater caught my attention. It was a pop of color on an otherwise gray, cold and dreary spring day.

She was cold. Her shoulders were hunched forward. Her arms were crossed around her midsection, and her hands were rubbing the heel of her forearms.

I hate being cold. It’s almost a painful experience for me. She looked like she was experiencing that level of discomfort; she was experiencing painful cold.

The line was not yet moving. She was going to be there a fairly long time.

I walked away from my table. When I reached where she was standing, I was unzipping the jacket and taking it off.

"I think you need this more than I do. I’m moving enough back there that I’m warm. Please, take it," I said.

"I can’t do that. You’ll be cold. Thank you, though," the lady in the red sweater said, smiling kindly.

"I’m fine. I’m almost sweating," I said.

"Are you sure? I’d give it back," she replied.

I helped her put the jacket on. "Wear it as long as you need."

I went back to my workstation and returned to filling bags of food. The line started moving. We started distributing early because of the size of the crowd and the cold. I caught her out of the corner of my eye. She was walking toward me. She had something in her hand.

"I give these to people who I believe are angels on earth," she said, handing me a lace angel affixed to a red ribbon.

"This jacket is a Godsend. You are my angel."

She told me I was an angel, but she was my angel. At the time, I was in a rut. I was dwelling on my failings and weaknesses. She reminded me that while I’m deeply flawed and struggling, there are things about me that are good and lovable. She showed me a kindness exactly when I needed one. She was the face of God to me; the face of God in a red sweater.

Incredible graces can come from acts of gratitude and kindness, and we all have the ability to reflect God’s love to others. May God help us make the best of that ability.

Journeying with joy toward sainthood

Summer can be a good time to think about our faith and what it means to be holy. Summer gives us more time for reading and quiet prayer. I have been finding time. This summer I’ve been considering the lives of saints. I also find the prayers at Mass – especially the weekday Masses – are more meaningful, and so many of them give me a deeper insight into holiness. I find myself preaching more about holiness, also.

As an example, the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation #1, pray: “O Lord, help us to work together for the coming of the Kingdom, until the hour, when we stand before you, saints among the saints in the halls of heaven.”

Each time I pray this at Mass, I am challenged to look forward to my time with the saints. This Mass prayer tells me, and all in the congregation who are listening, to look forward to being with the saints in the halls of heaven.

What will it take for me to join those saints? Here, I think of my friend, Catherine Doherty, the founder of the Madonna House Apostolate, who wrote and taught so much about being holy. In her Little Mandate, she writes: “Preach the Gospel with your life – without compromise! Listen to the Spirit. He will lead you.” The Holy Spirit will lead us if we are open and listening, so that we will find the holiness that will be reflected by the way we live our lives.

I am still reading and praying over Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation, “Gaudete et Exsultate.” There is so much about holiness in that letter. He gives us pictures of the kind of holiness that leads to becoming a saint.

Pope Francis writes that a saint is a person “that is joyful and full of good humor.” He wants to make certain we do not get the wrong idea, so he continues: “Saints are not people who are far from timid, morose, acerbic, or melancholy or just wear a dreary face. They radiate a positive and hopeful spirit.” (122)

I am so pleased he wrote this section. Too many people – too many religious people – have a rather strange image of a saint. Many think of a saint as a monk buried in a monastery, or a missionary off to some foreign land or possibly some lay man or woman who is in church all the time.

These kinds of images discourage most of us from wanting to become saints.

Pope Francis goes on in his letter to urge us to realize saints look just like you or me. Saints bring joy and peace into their communities. Saints make the world a better place by the way they live and by what they do.

They truly are joyful people. Pope Francis writes, “That joy brings deep security, secure hope and a spiritual fulfillment that the world cannot understand or appreciate.” (125)

As I look back over my own life, I know that I have many saints who were my friends. They made a difference in my life, my community and the parishes where I was pastor. They truly radiated joy and peace. It was part of their lives. My ideas about saints are influenced by the saints I have known. Now is the time for all of us to get busy on our journey to becoming saints.

I remember a man, a rather good friend, who would come to me for confession. He would always begin by saying, “Well, Father, I’m no saint.” I always wanted to respond (actually, I didn’t), “Then you better get busy; it is after all the only reason we are down here.”
Knights lead pilgrimage to Isle LaMotte

By John T. Ryan
Contributing writer

ISLE LAMOTTE, VT. — On Sunday, July 22, Knights of Columbus from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg participated in the organization's 70th annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont. Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the 12:15 p.m. Mass and later joined the Knights and their families for a picnic lunch. Many attended Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as part of the event.

Dedicated to St. Anne, the mother of Mary, the Shrine's religious history dates to 1666 when a French fort was erected at the site bordering Lake Champlain. The chapel was blessed in 1893 and a beautiful statue of St. Anne was erected. Later in 1893 nearly 2,000 people attended the Shrine's first organized pilgrimage with several people traveling to the pilgrimage by steamboat.

The late Past Grand Knight Earl Carter of Dannemora Council 2166 originated the pilgrimage as a council program in 1949. Interest in the family day of prayer and fellowship gradually spread to neighboring councils and, in 1958, the New York State Council Knights of Columbus took over the pilgrimage sponsorship.

During the pilgrimage's early years, Knights formed a car caravan that stretched for miles. In late afternoon, the pilgrimage bus left Adams for its 25th anniversary journey to St. Anne's Shrine.

It takes months of planning to ensure the pilgrimage runs smoothly. Peter Keenan, a member of Peru Council 7273, has served as pilgrimage coordinator for almost 20 years. "Shrine Director Father Brian Cummings and all the staff do everything possible to make things go smoothly," Keenan said. "They cooperate in every way possible."

Keenan said everything went exceedingly well this year. "Bishop LaValley was able to stay at the picnic for at least an hour," Keenan said. "He talked to so many people. It was wonderful."

Larry Douglas, a member of Dannemora Council 2166, and his wife, Audrey, have attended the pilgrimage for many years and even travel to the Shrine the night before to erect a tent that's used at the picnic. "I enjoy the camaraderie and the ceremonies at the Mass are so special," Larry Douglas said.

Bill Boulio and his wife, Joan, have traveled on the bus from their home in Dexter for at least 20 years. "It's so quiet and it's nice to get away for a weekend," he said.

Don Recore, a member of Plattsburgh Council 255, and his wife, Dawn, have attended since the 1970s. "It's a beautiful setting," he said. "We used to live right across the lake from here, so we came by boat."

"We don't see people as often as we used to, so it's wonderful to see them," Dawn Recore added. "I really enjoy it."

One of the most invigorating aspects of K of C membership is working on charitable and spiritual programs with people throughout the diocese.

Many lifelong friendships are renewed during the Knights of Columbus' annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine.
Pilgrimage includes tickets to historic Passion Play

Drawing crowds from all over the world, the Passion Play of Oberammergau is a musical drama of epic dimensions and regarded as the longest running play in history. It’s staged every 10 years from May to October in the small, picturesque village of Oberammergau nestled in a valley amidst Germany’s Bavarian Alps.

According to the story passed down through generations, as the Black Plague swept through Europe in 1633, a village inadvertently exposed Oberammergau to the dreaded disease. After 84 people died, the survivors gathered and made a solemn oath: if God spared them, every 10 years they would present a day-long play depicting the last week in the life of Christ.

The villagers’ prayers were answered; there were no more deaths. In 1634, the townspeople performed their Passion Play for the first time on a stage erected over the graves of plague victims. Eventually, their children and their descendants took up the vow, holding themselves responsible for the promise made by their forefathers. To this day, the villagers of Oberammergau have kept their promise virtually unbroken.

The first public performance of the Passion Play in 2020 will be on May 17. The modern play takes place on an open-air stage with a covered auditorium seating 4,700 against a beautiful backdrop of towering Alpine mountains. With a total cast of 1,000, the play boasts 130 speaking parts and hundreds of smaller parts.

To be eligible for a role, the person must have either been born in Oberammergau or lived there 20 years.

When the citizens of Oberammergau perform their play in the year 2020, they’ll be keeping a promise made over 380 years ago.

Father Donald A. Robinson, pastor of St. James Church, Carthage and St. Mary’s Church, Copenhagen will lead a pilgrimage to the Passion Play and to Italy beginning on May 25, 2020.

The Italy excursion includes stops in Rome, including a papal audience, Assisi, Florence and Venice. Travelers will then travel to Innsbruck and on to Germany and the village of Oberammergau.

The price of the tour, $4,000, includes roundtrip airfare, first class hotels, most meals, admission tickets for the play, and the services of a professional guide. To obtain a full color brochure, contact Father Robinson at 315-493-3224 or at donrob4@twcny.rr.com.

Donation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In 2009 Lake Champlain’s waters overflowed causing severe damage at the Shrine. A wooden prayer bench in front of the Marian grotto was heavily damaged. Bill Ose asked past and first-time pilgrims for donations to purchase a replacement.

The pilgrims responded, and a beautiful granite prayer bench was unveiled at the 2009 pilgrimage. It was inscribed, "In honor of Jeff-Lewis Counties, NY Knights of Columbus, families and friends past-present-future, traveling by bus each year since 1994." In 2016 Ose noticed that the grotto’s wooden kneeler needed to be replaced. The following year a granite kneeler was unveiled thanks to the generosity of the bus pilgrims and Ose’s leadership. This year Ose asked all the K of C Councils in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to support a fundraiser for an unusual gift: a golf cart. The Shrine uses a golf cart to assist visitors needing transportation from the hilltop cabins to activities on the grounds. The old cart was worn out.

Ose’s friend and longtime bus pilgrim Bill Boulio, a member of Brownville-Dexter Council 7598, organized a raffle and Knights of Columbus throughout the diocese responded. On Sunday, July 22, a beautiful four-passenger electric golf cart was unveiled.

“It was so great when Bishop LaValley came over and blessed the cart,” Ose said.

During the 200-mile journey back to Watertown at least a few of the bus pilgrims must have asked, “What will Bill Ose think of next?”

FAITHFULLY ATTENDING

Lawrence Spinner, 100, attended the last Mass at St. Joseph’s Church in Malone on July 7 after having never missed a Mass at the church. Pictured are Spinner, Mary Devon, Roxanne Boardway and Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Featuring the Passion Play of Oberammergau

11 Days: May 25 – June 4, 2020

Visit

Rome • Assisi • Florence

Venice • Innsbruck • Munich

Hosted By

Fr. Donald A. Robinson

$4099 per person from New York

(Air/land tour price is $3649 plus $450 government taxes/airline surcharges.)

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Faiths unite to aid others around the diocese

By Deacon Tom Yousey
Chair of the Ecumenical Commission of the Diocese of Ogdensburg

“Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Serving as a Deacon, these words resonate with me personally each week. “Go in the peace” that comes from loving and trusting in a God present in His word and the Eucharist. Serve the Lord by loving others as he loves us through works of charity, through prayer and through constant dialogue with all people seeking to be united as one with him, in him and through him.

As a part Vatican II, Pope John XXIII formed the Secretariat for Christian Unity, inviting leaders of other churches to join with the bishops in preparing guidelines for the “Application of Principles and Norms for Ecumenism.”

Just before his passion, Jesus prayed for the “grace of unity.” The Secretariat for Christian Unity called for us to go forth performing acts of charity in unity with all other Christians, to go forth uniting in prayer with other Christians, and to go forth seeking to respectfully speak and listen with those who practice other Christian traditions trying to understand how we are united as one in Him.

Catholics right here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg have heard Jesus call for unity and are performing amazing acts of charity every day in unity with other faith traditions.

St. Lawrence County
In downtown Canton, two stores with one common entrance welcome all people in need: Church and Community Food Pantry and St. Mary’s Thrift Shop.
When I walked into that common entrance and turned left, Connie Jenkins, the Director of the Pantry, greeted me with a warm smile. Connie tells me that a partnership of, originally five, now six congregations have provided food for families in need since 1974.

Today, the people of those six churches and other community groups donate 60 percent of the food needed by the pantry and provide the majority of the volunteers.

On this day, Rev. John Frary, pastor of three local United Methodist Churches, helps a client with her shopping, as he does one day per week most weeks.

The pantry, previously located on the third floor up the street from where it is now, moved to street level recently next door to St. Mary’s Thrift Store.

When I walked into the entrance and turned right, I first had to navigate around a store filled with shoppers browsing through racks filled with clothing in all sizes and all varieties.

Finally, I met Cheryl Curry, the volunteer in charge from St. Mary’s on this day. Cheryl explained how the entire Canton community supports this church ministry with donations of clothing. Volunteers from St. Mary’s operate the store, open five days per week. She went on to say that the store “never runs out of quality clothing for sale at bargain prices.”

Deacon Jim Snell, a permanent Deacon at St. Mary’s parish, guided me through Canton throughout the day. Deacon Jim, excited about the ecumenical, charitable work of these two ministries, decided about four years ago to buy the storefront with one common entrance so these two ministries could operate side-by-side at ground level. As I walked through that common door, I sensed Jesus’ prayer for the “grace for unity” in a meaningful way.

Clintoon County
Speaking of grace and unity, Mary Skillan, Director of the Newman Center at SUNY Plattsburgh, guided me to visit the Plattsburgh Interfaith Council’s Oasis Project in Keeseville, NY. Located in the parish center at the United Methodist Church, the Oasis Project provides educational and social support for homeless children.

When I arrived just after the group had finished their healthy snack, four homeless brothers, scattered about three rooms, worked and played one-on-one with four volunteer “teachers.” They completed their homework, studied for tests, and played games.

The Keeseville site coordinator, Sue Wagener, a retired teacher, explained, “Finally, I am able to accomplish what I expected to accomplish as a teacher: working with well-behaved children helping them to grow and learn in a safe, caring place.”

Starr Burke manages the program at two sites (there is another site in Beekmantown). Starr explained that the 22 faith communities united by the Interfaith Council identified the challenges facing the homeless in the Plattsburgh area and went into action. Working together, the people of those faith communities provided the resources and volunteers to get the program up in running in three months opening the first center in January, 2017.

The Interfaith Council also operates the Plattsburgh Emergency Food Pantry in the United Methodist Church. The volunteer co-chair of the pantry, Dorothy Latta, guided me through an all-volunteer ministry that serves 500 families per month.

Again, I sensed Jesus’ prayer for “grace for unity.”

Jefferson County
Guided by Kathy Allan from Holy Family Church in Watertown, I toured visiting the professionals and volunteers that minister in the many programs provided by the Watertown Urban Mission. For over 50 years, these faith communities (now numbering 22 in and around Watertown) have kept this one, strong institution of charity relevant and growing.

Tammy Olivas and Jesse Brown, the management team for the huge thrive superstore manned by as many as 20 staff and volunteers each day, explained to me, “We love our job; we come into the lives of individuals and families every day and, most often, just when they need us.”

The mission has a program to help with almost every human need and if they do not have an appropriate program, they have staff that just helps anyway.

The smiling, energetic Executive Director, Joanna Loomis, excitedly shared with me the Mission’s recent successes stemming from expansions coming out of the Bridges Out of Poverty programming and the Wheels to Work Program.

Through these ecumenical acts of charity, North Country Catholics “go forth to love and serve the Lord” performing significant works of charity side-by-side with people from many different faith communities. May we all sense Jesus’ prayer for “grace for unity” and grow together building the universal church. “May they be one as we are one.”
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DOING HEAVEN ON EARTH

To the Editor:

On Sundays, I often see her in front of the Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg. Her Sunday attire reflects the ancient beauty of the past. Yet, so beautiful does she look, she makes me feel she is a bride about to meet her groom at the altar.

Though most, if not all, women, young and old, have their hair uncovered, she has her white hair neatly covered with white braided fabric with beautiful designs. Her shoes, skin and dress often match — so elegant and so beautiful. I doubt how many of us could see her hidden beauty beneath her wrinkled face.

One time, she glanced at me in the church and with her sweet smile; she perhaps appreciated my bird legs and bare shoulders, as if I was more ready for a picnic with my Lord than to pray before Him. Or was she thinking of me as a classic example what Our Lady said in Fatima, a “new fashion” would be introduced that would offend the Lord.

Then one day, along Green street, I saw an old woman, perhaps near her eighties, ruggishly dressed, walking in the fragility of her age and pushing a cart full of empty bottles. I was amazed of her strength and determination to walk under the hot summer sun.

She was so short you could hardly see her head above the empty bottles. With her outfit and appearance, I failed to recognize her. Then, my wife reminded me: she was the lady in front of the altar on Sundays. On weekdays, a bride in the street among the poor? I cannot understand that. I asked our parish priest what she would do with those empty bottles. He said, “a large part of it goes for charity.”

If I connect her going to Church dressed as if to meet her groom and collecting bottles for charity, it would not be hard for me to think, the many miles I would have to walk with ordinary heroic virtues like her, doing my heaven on earth. Nevertheless, I could at least try.

By E. M. Abear
Ogdensburg

St. Mary’s Church, Clayton
Annual Summer Gala & Raffle
To benefit St. Mary’s Church
(One need not be present to win)
Ticket Price: $100.00 U.S. (Includes dinner for two, two drinks and chances to win - Sorry no take outs)

1st Prize $10,000.00
2nd Prize $2,000.00
3rd & 4th Prize $1,500.00
5th & 6th Prize $500.00
7th - 11th Prizes $100.00

All winning tickets will be returned to drum and be eligible for all 11 prizes.

Where: The Cerow Arena at Clayton Recreation Park
When: Tuesday, August 7 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Make checks payable and mail to:
St. Mary’s Church
521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624
(315) 686-3398

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City________________________State____Zip____
Phone__________________________

Must by 18 to purchase

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the North Country Catholic.
• Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
• We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
• Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
• Author should include first and last name, hometown, as well as a phone number.
• Join the conversation!

Bishop’s Public Schedule

August 3 — 5 p.m., St. Lawrence Deenry Clergy Gathering & Picnic at St. Andrew’s Church in Norwood
August 4 — 6 p.m., Mass at St. Hubert’s Church in Star Lake
August 5 — 9:30 a.m., Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Edwards
August 6 — 11 a.m., Mass at St. James Church in Gouverneur
August 7 — 4:30 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
August 8 — 11 a.m., Mass & Pilgrimage with the Catholic Daughters in Isle LaMotte, Vermont
August 9 — 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
August 10 — 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
5 p.m., Picnic with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart at Dablon Point
August 11 — 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
August 12 — 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop’s Residence in Ogdensburg
August 13 — 12 p.m., Mass of the Assumption of Mary at St. Mary’s Cathedral

To Report Abuse

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

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
August 14 - 4 p.m., St. Martin’s Church, Port Leyden

Environmental Stewardship

Free for the Taking

There are many riches in our natural world that are free for the taking. These items, however, are only available to those willing to take the time to recognize their magnificence and realize that God has set all things in place for the enjoyment and spiritual pleasure of everyone. It is impossible for a person with an understanding of God’s role in creation not to have their spirit uplifted when seeing a mother duck watch over her chicks, or hearing the flute-like melody of a hermit thrush in a stand of towering pines, smelling the sweet aroma of a field of blossoming milkweed, feeling the soft, moist carpet of moss coating a boulder alongside a woodland stream, or tasting a handful of blackberries just plucked from their thorny stems.

We recognize that our Creator has placed countless wonders everywhere for us to enjoy, yet it is up to us to periodically stop to “smell the roses.”

Consider taking some time this week to a walk outdoors, and enjoy the beauty of God waiting to be discovered, as the person’s prayer below reflects.

“The warmth of the sun’s embrace, the gentle breeze swept in by incoming tide, the rhythm of seasons, of new birth, death and recreation. All these speak so clearly of Your love, Your power and Your beauty. All are expressions of Your creativity, and more importantly of Yourself. As an artist might share his personality within each brushstroke, so within the myriad colors of a butterfly’s wing, You share the exuberance of Your love. That we can glimpse You within creation is a beautiful thought, but also tells us that You desire to be seen, to be found and known. Open our eyes, Lord, as we walk through this world, feel the wind and sunshine, see the majesty of creation unfolding before our eyes. Help us to see You. Amen.”

*Taken from creation page of the Faith and Worship.com website.

Submitted by Tom Kalinowski,
Member of the Faith and Ecology Group, Lake Clear

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

Aug. 2 – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919
Aug. 4 – Rev. Alexandre Soulierin, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972
Aug. 5 – Rev. M. Galixte Moutier, O.M.I., 1912; Rev. Gerald A. Sharland, 1973
Aug. 8 – Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

Rest in Peace
Appellate court denies Adorers’ pipeline claim

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal appeals court upheld a lower court ruling that denied the religious freedom arguments of a Pennsylvania religious order that sought to block a natural gas line from the sisters’ land because it violated their faith beliefs.

In a July 25 ruling, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit agreed with the lower court that the Adorers of the Blood of Christ had not made their religious objections known during the federal administrative process that led to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline.

Writing for the appellate panel, Judge Joseph A. Greenway Jr. specifically said the Adorers’ claims under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act against FERC and the Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Co. was not something the lower court could appropriately consider.

“If the Adorers had participated in the administrative process, FERC may have denied or modified the conditions of Transco’s certificate,” the ruling said. “Or, if FERC failed to do so, the reviewing court of appeals may have ruled in the Adorers’ favor.”

The Adorers expressed dismay with the decision, and a member of the congregation’s leadership team told Catholic News Service the order was weighing its next steps.

“The Adorers said they ‘believe the court wrongly decided this case.’”

“While historically, the federal courts have been the stalwart protectors and defenders of religious freedoms in our country, today’s panel sided with the interests of the power gas and oil industry over the religious freedoms of the Adorers,” said in a statement emailed to CNS.

“Thus, even though the Adorers are up against a powerful federal agency and a massive oil and gas industry with unlimited resources, the Adorers believe that their faith and religious beliefs will ultimately prevail. At issue is nothing less than the future of our sacred earth,” the congregation said.

Blogger ends hunger strike

HANOI, VIETNAM (CNS) — A prominent Catholic blogger and activist ended a two-week hunger strike in a Vietnamese prison after she met with visiting U.S. diplomats, local bloggers reported.

Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh, 39, stopped her strike after the visit July 23, ucanews.com reported, after the Network of Vietnamese Bloggers released a statement July 25.

The bloggers said Quynh, who is known as “Mother Mushroom,” appeared “very tired but was of sound mind after she was on hunger strike for 16 days.”

Quynh in June 2016 began serving a 10-year jail sentence for publishing anti-government writings and fighting for prisoners of conscience. She began her hunger strike on July 6 to protest being mistreated at a prison camp in the northern province of Thanh Hoa, about 870 miles from her home in Khanh Hoa province.

The mother of two has undertaken hunger strikes three times to protest mistreatment, including food poisoning, since she was moved to the camp in January from Nha Trang, her hometown.

The bloggers said they have called on foreign embassies in Vietnam and international human rights organizations to visit Quynh in the prison as a way of pressuring the state.

The bloggers said European Union representatives already have asked the government whether they can visit Quynh. It is believed that the government has yet to reply to the request.

Quynh had criticized the government’s human rights abuses and corruption. She investigated and published widely on environmental protection, public health, correctional reform and anti-torture efforts.

She also was critical of Vietnam’s foreign policy toward China over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The Sweden-based Civil Rights Defenders last year described her arrest and ongoing detention "as nothing more than persecution against her courageous defense of human rights."
SCAEPRTURE REFLECTIONS

Be nourished and sustained by the Eucharist

From the very beginning of our human journey, there is one need that takes center stage—food. Adam and Eve’s first quarrel was about an apple! Most decisions that determined where migrants would settle had to do with an adequate food supply.

In our first reading, we hear about the Israelites fleeing from Pharaoh’s army into the desert. Soon they complained they had no food. God heard their cries and rained down a food from heaven they called “manna” (what is this?). When their water supply ran out, God provided more than enough gushing from a rock. It seemed that the Israelites were always complaining about something. They had little trust in the God who saved them from grinding slavery in Egypt.

In the Gospel, we find Jesus showing great compassion on the hungry crowds that followed him. They hungered for his words, but they also felt real physical hunger pangs.

In his role as Shepherd, Jesus multiplied a few loaves and some fish from the basket of a young boy into a banquet! The next day, the same crowds found Jesus again. Jesus sadly observed to them: “Very truly, I tell you, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.”

Jesus then invites the people to a complete transformation of attitude toward food, and promises them that, through his death on the cross, he will shift their focus from physical food to his own spiritual food—himself.

He will become their food by a miracle that will happen every time his priests utter the sacred words over plain bread and wine, “This is my Body... this is my Blood.”

Through faith, we are to feed on this “Eucharist” until we ourselves become a eucharistic community, as our church recently told us, “Feeding on the eucharist, Christians nourish their soul and become the soul which sustains the world.”

What an amazing gift and mission!

Identifying Prometheus medical temptations

Superheroes attract us. From Greek gods to Superman and Spiderman, our fascination with the awesome deeds of superheroes beckons us to become Masters of our own destiny. Yet even as we enjoy the fantasy of acquiring Prometheus powers to combat our enemies and conquer evil, we have legitimate misgivings about mere mortals taking on godlike powers in real life. We are concerned about those who play with fire—just like Prometheus did, at the risk of harm and great destruction. Today, as modern medicine tries to rebuff death and control our humanity in ever more sophisticated ways, new temptations arise that challenge us to choose between life and death, between living in reality and living in a fantasy world where we elevate ourselves as “Masters of our own destiny.”

We encounter these Prometheus temptations today in the expanding fields of reproductive medicine and infertility. We may be drawn to the idea of “manufacturing” children through in vitro fertilization and related forms of assisted reproductive technologies. By producing and manipulating our children in laboratory glassware, however, we cross a critical line and sever our obedience to the Giver of life. We assume the role of Masters over, rather than recipients of, our own offspring. We allow our children to be mistreated as so many embryonic tokens— with some being frozen in liquid nitrogen and others being discarded as biomedical waste. We take on the seemingly divine role of creating another human being and reining supreme over his or her destiny.

We are tempted toward this same type of Prometheus mastery at the other end of life. While we recognize that we cannot avoid death, we may be troubled and vexed by the possibility of a protracted and painful dying process. We may decide that the best answer is to “take charge” of the situation and move into the driver’s seat, resolutely calling the final shots ourselves. By ending life “on our own terms” through physician-assisted suicide, we hope to steer around the sufferings and agonies of the dying process. Yet suicide clearly goes against the grain of the kinds of creatures we are, creatures intended for life, not death.

The temptation that flashes before us when we consider suicide is the fantasy of becoming “Master” over our destiny by arrogating to ourselves direct power over life and death. We begin to accept the falsehood that we are uniquely in charge of our own destiny, and can remake or destroy ourselves as if we were gods. It is but a short step, then, for us to take further powers unto ourselves, lording it over the fate and destiny of others through activities like euthanasia, direct abortion, and human embryonic stem cell research.

Although we are creatures intended for life, we may not be entirely clear about how we came to possess that life. We sense how we have been cast headlong into existence without asking for it, and we know, with certainty, that we did not create ourselves or have any role in bringing ourselves into being. The fact that we were created entirely apart from our own will means that our existence has been intentionally chosen by another. The goodness and beauty of our life has been independently conferred on us by One who has radically willed our personal existence. Because that existence is...
**Mission: Impossible – Fallout**

By John Mulderig

NEW YORK (CNS) — Tom Cruise’s by-now iconic American agent Ethan Hunt is at the top of his game in the engrossing espionage sequel “Mission: Impossible – Fallout” (Paramount).

Despite extensive, though mostly restrained, action and the eventual showcasing of Hunt’s fraught marital situation, at least some parents may deem this thrill ride of a film acceptable for older teens.

In crafting the sixth movie in a franchise ultimately based on the TV series of the 1960s, director Christopher McQuarrie and his co-writer Dylan Kussman once again pit Hunt and his loyal collaborators, Luther (Ving Rhames) and Benji (Simon Pegg), against Solomon Lane (Sean Harris), the same maniacal anarchist they tangled with in the last outing, 2015’s “Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation.”

But this time a glamorous criminal mastermind is added to the mix in the person of the so-called White Widow (Vanessa Kirby). WW is in possession of enough plutonium to wipe out vast populations and she’s out to exchange it for Lane’s freedom.

The quest to thwart them both is made all the more difficult when Erica Sloane (Angela Bassett), the director of the CIA, trumping Hunt’s boss, Impossible Missions Force head Alan Hunley (Alic Baldwin), compels Hunt to team with one of her operatives, August Walker (Henry Cavill).

A further complication is introduced by another returning character, British spy and Hunt love interest, Ilka Faust (Rebecca Ferguson). Ilka, too, is on the trail of Lane and the Widow. But, for reasons she’s initially unwilling to reveal, she’s working at cross purposes with Hunt.

Intricate plot twists and impressive stunts are the hallmarks of McQuarrie’s long but vigorous adventure. And the mayhem through which Hunt habitually moves is kept mostly stylized, though one villain meets a bloody end and another a gruesome fate.

Early on, St. Peter’s Basilica, as well as Jerusalem and Mecca, are targeted for destruction by the ecumenically anti-religious bad guys. But they soon pass on to other diabolical schemes.

By means not to be too precisely detailed for fear of a spoiler, Hunt’s ex-wife, Julia (Michelle Monaghan), resurfaces, leading to an explanation of the unique circumstances that caused their split. So long as Julia was vulnerable, Ethan was unwilling to pursue his work on the IMF. But each time something went wrong in the world, he was tortured by the thought that he might have prevented it.

So, for his good and the welfare of humanity in general, they very unwillingly went their separate ways. What Catholic viewers will make of that decision, of Julia’s remarriage and of Ethan’s chaste but unmistakable bond with Ilka will depend on how willing they are to see the situation as unique and far removed from reality. It’s certainly not a dilemma to be presented to impressionable youngsters.

The film contains much violence with some gore and gruesome images, acceptability of divorce, a couple of uses of profanity, two milder oaths as well as a single rough and several crude 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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**Promethean**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

good and beautiful, it ought always to be treated as such, and never directly violated.

The goodness and beauty of the human life we have received is also connected to the gift of our masculinity or femininity. Yet here we also face the temptation of Promethean mastery as we imagine we can become the opposite sex, or that we needn’t be either male or female, but can be any of dozens of different “gender identities.”

We engage in the fantasy that our embodied nature is fluid and malleable, and that we can vanquish our birth sex, remaking ourselves through the gender bending powers of medicine and science. But the damage that this fantasy can wreak in a short space of time – the hormones, the surgeries, the irreversible decisions and mutilated bodies – is not trivial. The lives of many thousands of individuals, convinced they have become Masters of their own identities, have already been irretrievably altered or ruined, often with the assistance of other medical or political Masters.

The ever-expanding powers of biomedicine call us to careful ethical reflection and discernment, so we do not fall prey to the temptation of seeing ourselves as Masters, rather than collaborators with God, our inalienable Source of life and being.
**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:** Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator; Tom Kallnowski, former biology teacher and author of two nature books, Father Paul J. Kelly, celebrating Mass on Saturday afternoon.  
**Contact:** To register, call: 315-212-6592 or email: srbethssj@gmail.com by Aug. 1

**FOUNDERS DAY**

Ellenburg Center — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will observe the 46th anniversary of Founder’s Day.

**Date:** Aug. 18  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Features:** Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be the main celebrant of the Mass and Homilist. Father Jack Downs will give a presentation on Pope Francis’ new Apostolic Exhortation, “Rejoice and Be Glad.” Lunch will follow Mass.  
**Contact:** For reservations please call 518-594-3253 or 518-236-6016 by Aug. 1

**FALL RETREAT**

Saranac Lake — Come away and rest awhile with the Lord amid the beauties of Fall in the Adirondack Mountains.

**Date:** Sept. 14-16  
**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge  
**Theme:** Living the “Bookend Beatitudes”: an invitation to discover ways to put the First and Eighth Beatitudes into practice through prayer, sharing and other spiritual practices.  
**Features:** Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, Faith Formation Educator, Paul Hetzler, Cornell University Cooperative Extension, Horticulture and Natural Resource Educator and Father Paul Kelly will celebrate Mass on Saturday afternoon.  
**Contact:** To register, call: 315-212-6592 or email: srbethssj@gmail.com

**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  
**Places:** St. Bernard’s Chapel  
**Features:** Mass followed by coffee and refreshment, some discussion and prayer.  
**Contact:** Fr. Mark Reilly (518-891-4616)

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**ST. PETER’S GOLF CLASSIC**

Plattsburgh — St. Peter’s is sponsoring their annual Golf Tournament.

**Date:** Aug. 3  
**Time:** Shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. (ar­rive 30-60 minutes prior)  
**Place:** Adirondack Golf Club  
**Cost:** $65 non-Adirondack members, $50 for members, $25 for dinner only  
**Features:** Proceeds will benefit the Youth Programs sponsored by St. Peter’s Church such as scholarships to Camp Guggenheim. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Any donations of $50 will be acknowledged by appropriate signage at a hole.  
**Contact:** Please call 518-561-4031 for more information.

**PEDDLER SALE**

Brushton – St. Mary’s Peddler Sale to be held and Vendors needed.

**Date:** Aug. 17 & 18  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary’s Church  
**Features:** Spaces 15’ x 15’, $15.00 a space per day. No tables provided. Set up time 7 a.m. to 9, No refunds. Sell arts, crafts, foods, jewelry, cosmetics, garage sale items, antiques. This event is being held in conjunction with Brushton town wide garage sales.  
**Contact:** Call 518-651-5859 or email: lyn nemagimm@gmail.com for reservation.

**REDFORD PICNIC**

Redford – The 162 Annual Redford picnic to be held.

**Date:** Aug. 19  
**Place:** Church of the Assumption Parish Center  
**Schedule:** Following the 10:30 a.m. Mass; 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Ham and Roast beef dinners will be served at the Parish Gym Center. There will be a variety of games for people of all ages, Skilo, Pie Wheel, Fancy Booth and the main attraction, the oldest merrily-go-round in North America. Pull Tabs, Games, Fancy Booth, food and Rummage sale. Musical entertainment will be provided from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. with music by Roy Hurd from 2 p.m. to 4. The event will end with the $5,000 cash raffle winners at 6:15 p.m. (on need not be present to win).

**BLESSING FLOWERS, HERBS, GRAINS**

Houseville — Observe the Polish custom of blessing flowers, herbs and grains, fields, forest and gardens to honor the Blessed Mother (Matka Boska Zielenia), Our Lady of the Greens and her Feast of the Assumption during the week.

**Date:** Aug. 19  
**Time:** 11 a.m. Mass  
**Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church  
**Features:** All are welcome to bring to the residence bouquets, pots, vases of flowers, herbs and stalks of grains to be blessed by the Bishop before the Blessed Mother statue in front of the altar. These blessed bouquets can then be taken to the home, or the cemetery or be given as gifts.  
**Contact:** 315-348-6260

**HEARTS ON FIRE**

Malone – Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.

**Schedule:** 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks & Fellowship

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**EUCARIAT PRAYER GROUP**

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

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**LEWIS**

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of August

**Date:** Aug. 5  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Hedwig’s Church  
**Features:** The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. At 2:30 PM before the devotions, we will view the last part of the DVD, “The Rosary: Spiritual Sword of Our Lord,” by Fr. Don H. Calloway, Microwave, VOCational Director of the Marianists. All are welcome.  
**Contact:** 315-348-6260

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**REDFORD PICNIC**

**REDFORD PICNIC**

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**DIOWCESAN EVENTS**

**ALTER 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

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**DIOCESAN LEAD EVENT**

Lake Placid — Diocesan LEAD event to be held called The Call: “A Life of Holiness Begins At Baptism”.

**Date:** Aug. 18  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Place:** Crown Plaza  
**Cost:** One LEAD member is free to attend LEAD events, additional LEAD members and non-members attending may incur a small fee that will be billed to the parish. Fee to cover lunch buffet is $20 for both LEAD members and non-members.  
**Features:** Share in reflections with Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ; and workshops with Carol Gonthier and Pam Ballantine.  
**Contact:** RSVP by Aug. 10 to Shayne at slippincott@rdcony.org or call 315-782-3620

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**BLESSED MARY IN FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS**

Ogdensburg – Come join the Legion of Mary in First Saturday Devotions.

**Date:** Aug. 4  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Deacon Winter Chapel of St. Mary’s Cathedral  
**Features:** This devotion is a direct and loving response to the request of Our Lady of Fatima.  
**Contact:** For more information contact the St. Mary’s Cathedral office at 315-393-3930.
A tribute to Father Mark McDonald

The summer 2018 Mission Co-op Appeal will be in the eastern Deaneries of our Diocese. The appeal brings missionaries to our diocese, into our churches and into our hearts. Representing the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Watertown, will be Father Vincent Freeh. Father Freeh will be telling his mission stories on developing countries in churches in Constable, Westville, Trout River, Bombay, Fort Covington and Chateaugay, as well as Lake Pleasant and Wells. As an international and global missionary congregation of 1,700 priests and brothers serving in 54 countries, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart believe that they have something of value to offer the people of our time: Spirituality of the Heart.

On April 2, 2018, the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart mourned the loss of Father Mark McDonald, a native of Watertown, who had completed his term as the superior general of the community. In his superior general leadership, he visited all 54 countries. I believe his visits around the world imbued his community, as well as all the people he encountered, with a spirituality of the heart by showing love for them and how to love others.

Though Father Mark traveled extensively into varied parts of the world, he was a frequent visitor to Lewis County. The town of Montague became the home of Father Mark’s family after his great-great-grandparents fled the Irish potato famine aboard the 141-foot Erin’s Queen and arrived in Canada. The family purchased 70 acres in Montague, starting the family’s history on Tug Hill. He visited the family homestead off Route 177, one of the snowiest areas east of the Rockies.

The story goes that Father Mark was a frequent visitor to Tug Hill to beat his cousins in eating his grandmother’s famous filled sugar cookies and doughnut holes.

Father Mark attended Mass in Sts. Peter & Paul’s Church in the Town of Pinckney on Route 177 and was able to celebrate the final Mass for the closing of the church. His relatives and friends were always happy when he joined the annual New Boston Picnic.

Many of his ancestors are buried in Sts. Peter and Paul’s Cemetery. In March of 2004, Father George F. Maroun called the first cemetery committee meeting. Thanks to the committee, the cemetery is well kept through grants, donations and volunteers who care for the stones at an annual reunion. May Father Mark rest in peace as many continue to share stories of his life around the world and among the many who remember his visits to New Boston.

OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks — William H. Tedford, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 25, 2018 at Holy Name Church.

AuSable Forks — Laverna "Beana" M. (Wright) Whisnup, 92; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2018 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Burke — Cheryl L. (Dumas) Patterson, 72; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2018 at St. George's Church.

Canton — Brian D. Casey, 59; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Canton — Paul J. Cunningham, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage — Leland L. "Zeke" Weaver, 84; Funeral Services July 15, 2018 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home.

Champlain — Agatha Rita (Babbiel) Dubois, 95; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church.


Dennemora — Ford Cooper Balch, 77; Mass of Christian Burial July 21, 2018 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in Mountain View Cemetery; Upper Jay.


Gouverneur — Randy E. Martin, 67; Funeral Services July 16, 2018 at the Green Funeral Home; burial New St. James Cemetery.


Keevse — Roger E. Poland, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 18, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lyon Mountain — Lillian Rabideau, 89; Mass of Christian Burial July 21, 2018 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.


Morrisonville — John J. Amell, 54; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Newcomb — Leande Goulet, 88; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2018 at St. Therese Church; burial in St. Therese Cemetery.


Ogdensburg — Margaret M. (Doris) Smith, 95; Funeral Services Aug. 4, 2018 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Peru — Clayton L. Lombard Jr., 87; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2018 at St. Augustine’s Church.

Plattsburgh — Theresa (LaBarge) Dugan, 86; Mass of Christian Burial July 21, 2018 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Ann’s Cemetery, Mooers Forks.


Schoon Lake — Maxine D. Sharlan, 97; Mass of Christian Burial July 27, 2018 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Patricia F. (Carney) Bartlett, 77; Mass of Christian Burial July 16, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Watertown — Pasquale V. "Patsy" Doldo, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 23, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.
Quebec's youngest bishop ready to spread God's love

TROIS-RIVIERES, QUEBEC (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Pierre-Olivier Tremblay of Trois-Rivieres now is Quebec's youngest bishop and probably the geekiest.

On July 22, Bishop Tremblay was ordained at Notre-Dame-du-Cap Basilica, Canada's largest Marian shrine, where the 47-year-old prelate has been rector for two years.

At the shrine, Bishop Tremblay developed new ideas for evangelization and the role of the church in society.

He continues developing the Assumption Festival, the formula adopted to refresh the traditional novena by incorporating art and music and boosting the role of laypeople. His reason: People no longer knew what a novena was.

For a long time, he said, the Canadian national shrines have been places for groups of "already convinced" Catholics. "But now, society is changing, and the sanctuaries are becoming places of frontline evangelization," he said, explaining his vision for the shrine.

Bishop Tremblay's appointment by Pope Francis was well received in Trois-Rivieres, halfway between Montreal and Quebec City where the St. Maurice and Becancour rivers enter the St. Lawrence River. He stood out as a hard-working, talented speaker, with a vision to build bridges with a Quebec society that has been at odds with its Catholic heritage for 50 years.

Melanie Charron, diocesan coordinator of general ministry, stressed how easy it seems for the new bishop to be "in dialogue with the secular world," adding that he comes out as "a cool guy" with "great relationship capacities."

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will be represented well at three county fairs this summer, including the Clinton County Fair (July 17-22) in Plattsburgh, Lewis County Fair (July 17-21) in Lowville and St. Lawrence County Fair (July 31-Aug. 5) in Gouverneur, as Respect Life displays and volunteers have been on hand.

All three received grants from the Respect Life second collection to help stock their pro-life fair booths.

The displays are intended to reach the public, who may not be familiar with the Gospel of Life. The educational opportunities provided by the exhibits include fetal models, a 3-D ultrasound video, a variety of posters, pens, pins, stickers and various brochures.

Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz, chairman of Champlain Valley Right to Life and coordinator of the Plattsburgh booth said "We had handouts on birthing, family planning, development of the life cycle and referrals to local agencies. We can help! Volunteers who minister at the booths find it to be a very rewarding ministry. They hear stories from those who visit the booth each year and look forward to sharing the pro-life information.

"It's a family-oriented time so the information is received well" said Colleen Miner, Respect Life director, who with her husband, John, volunteers for a shift at the Clinton County Fair each summer. "It's important to share the culture of life with everyone, not just those who go to Mass. Here we meet folks from all walks of life who ask questions and gratefully accept materials."

The booth at the Lewis County Fair was once again located under the big pavilion on the playground side. Lewis County Right to Life volunteers enjoyed "meeting and greeting the public and making them aware of God's great love for all of us, born & unborn."

HELP STILL NEEDED

The St. Lawrence County Fair Respect Life booth, the newest of the fair booths, is sponsored by St. James Church in Gouverneur. Coordinator Brandy Parshley, a St. James parishioner and Christina Tartaglia, parishioner of St. Mary's in Potsdam, began the booth a couple of years ago after seeing Planned Parenthood at the fair. They knew the importance of a pro-life presence.

Volunteers are still needed for the Gouverneur location. Sign-up by calling Brandy Parshley at 315-287-7384.