VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Like the ancient Israelites, Christians today also can fall into the temptation of creating their own idols when difficulties and uncertainties arise, Pope Francis said.

"To escape precariousness human nature looks for a ‘do-it-yourself’ religion. If God does not show himself, we create a tailor-made god," the pope said Aug. 8 during his weekly general audience.

Continuing his series of audience talks about the Ten Commandments, Pope Francis said he wanted to return to the theme of last week’s talk on idolatry because “it is very important to know this.”

He reflected on the reading from the book of Exodus in which the Israelites ask Aaron to build a golden calf to worship while Moses was on the mountain receiving the commandments. Moses’ absence, Pope Francis explained, triggered insecurities and anxieties in the people, leading to the creation of the idol that embodied "the desires that give the illusion of freedom but instead enslave."

“The calf had a double meaning in the ancient East. On one hand, it represented fruitfulness and abundance; on the other hand, energy and strength. But above all, it was made of gold because it is a symbol of wealth. Success, power and money. These are the temptations of all time,” the pope said.

Idolatry, he continued, stems from the inability to trust in God. In the absence of this trust, Christians lack the strength to resist succumbing to doubt in times of uncertainty and precariousness.
Finding a moment of faith in chaos

Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. – 1 Timothy 4:12

“DANCE PARTY!”
That’s not something you hear every day working in Catholic media. Yet those were the words I heard as I entered the evening program of one of our two Catholic camps for teens in the diocese. This time, it was Catholic Heart Work Camp.

Flashin lights, music and fog filled the gym in which the campers had gathered. The teens, and even a few of the chaperoning adults, were dancing and singing along with the music.

Despite the high volume of the music, another noise soon sounded out above the tunes: the fog machine tripped the smoke alarms.

The adults were obviously rattled. They scrambled to get the teens out of the building and into a nearby courtyard, contact the facility maintenance staff and wait for the fire department. It would be a couple of hours before the teens would be cleared to re-enter the building.

But the teens weren’t phased. They moved their dance party outside. Not only did they have their music and fun, they followed it with outdoor adoration. What seemed like a stressful moment for the adult staff was, for the campers, an adventure. They turned an evacuation into an opportunity for outdoor fun infused with faith.

We have an amazing young grace to the grace they need to stay connected to the Lord as they advance in age. I pray the rest of us are open to the joy of that moment. I pray these youth are open to the grace of outdoor fun infused with faith.

The life-altering power of the Eucharist

August is becoming a rather unique month this year. I am certain that it was pointed out to you that the Gospel readings for Mass on each of the Sundays in August are from the sixth chapter of St. John’s Gospel, John 6. We, Catholics, find this chapter of John’s Gospel rather important to us. In John 6, we read of Jesus’ dialogue with the people who have experienced his feeding of the 5,000. The overall message is that Jesus wants them and us to recognize that God sends us bread from Heaven, and Jesus is truly that bread – the bread of life. For us, we recognize Jesus’ message as the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Already, during August, you have heard much at Mass about this most important sacrament of our Catholic faith, the sacrament of the holy Eucharist. So, today, I would like to share with you a few of my thoughts concerning the sacrament of the holy Eucharist.

As a priest, I have had the opportunity of demonstrating to the people of my communities how deeply concerned Jesus is to be part of our lives as his disciples. I have been able to lead others to recognize that Jesus is present to us in the blessed Eucharist. I remember well the happiness I experienced when I was ordained a priest. I was then able to celebrate Mass daily of life. I am often asked about the experience of celebrating Mass, of saying the words of the consecration during Mass. It has always been a special moment for me, and I must admit that as I grow older, it becomes even more special at each Mass. However, when I recognize the faith of all those present with me at Mass, their personal readiness to be united with Jesus in Holy Communion, I recognize the joy of that moment.

I do want to mention here that I found a new happiness and joy when the liturgy of the Mass was powerfully changed at the time of the Second Vatican Council. The Council allowed us to become more united at Mass, priest and people, since we all could better understand the prayers of Eucharist, in our own language. So, I often pray in gratitude to St. Pope John XXIII for his wonderful Council.

As I read John 6, again and again each week this month, I can only imagine how startled those people with Jesus must have been when they heard the words of Jesus. I suspect that many of you may be surprised even now, when you again hear the words of Jesus in this Gospel. Today, I have again read over this chapter, John 6. I want to again remind you of the words of Jesus as we consider the Lord’s presence in the blessed Eucharist.

So, let me remind you of a few of Jesus’ words: “I am the bread of life.” (45) “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven, if anyone eats this bread, he will live forever, and the bread which I will give you for the life of the world is my flesh.” (51) “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood you have no life in yourselves.” (53) “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.” (54)

I believe in faith this message of Christ’s presence in the holy Eucharist. My life as a person and as a priest has been transformed by this sacrament of the holy Eucharist, each time I receive holy Communion. I am a different person through the gift of the Lord at each Mass. Through the gift of my ordination as a priest, I am allowed to say the words of Jesus from the Last Supper. I don’t believe that Jesus needs me. However, I am completely grateful that Jesus allows me to be involved in this Eucharist, his presence among us, as the Lord comes to be one with each of us as we receive Holy Communion.
Faith, fun combine at Guggenheim

By Darcy Fargo

SARANAC LAKE - More than 300 youth from around the Diocese of Ogdensburg and beyond gathered for one of six sessions of hiking, swimming and praising and Camp Guggenheim this year.

“This year, we had 320 campers,” said Camp Director Kelly Donnelly. “The vast majority are from here in the diocese, but we have campers from as far away as Texas and Colorado.”

Camp Guggenheim welcomes around 60 campers per week. Youth ages 12 to 15 attend weeks one through five, while youth ages 16 to 18 attend week six. In all six weeks, the youth participate in a variety of activities encouraged to help them connect to one another, their faith and Jesus Christ.

“Camp is a community,” Donnelly said. “It’s a place where people can more fully come to appreciate their Catholic faith and witness the vibrancy and joy of a life centered on Christ.”

Campers arrive at the Saranac Lake facility on Sunday afternoon and stay until Friday afternoon.

According to Donnelly, a typical day starts with morning prayer and breakfast. Campers then divide into pre-determined groups for morning programs.

“There are four programs – project adventure, waterfront, arts and crafts, and liturgy,” she said. “By the end of the week, campers will have done all four programs.”

In project adventure, campers participate in team-based games, as well as a ropes course. Waterfront includes games and activities on the beach and in the lake. In liturgy, campers plan the evening Mass or reconciliation service. In arts and crafts, each camper makes a piece of a camp-wide project, and there’s generally time to work on independent art and craft projects.

After morning programs, the youth gather for song practice, in which they practice the music for that evening’s Mass or reconciliation service before having time for lunch, a break and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

“With the exception of Friday, when the campers are getting ready to leave, we have adoration every day,” Donnelly said.

Later in the afternoon, campers break up into smaller groups to participate in afternoon programs.

“The campers sign up based on interests,” Donnelly said. “We offer rappelling, hiking, touch football, volleyball, Rosary making, dancing, kayaking, nature walks, card games… a pretty wide variety of activities.”

The campers then get time at the camp’s private beach before participating in the evening Mass.

“We have Mass every night but Wednesday,” Donnelly said. “On Wednesday, we have a reconciliation service. The campers help plan the liturgy and they take active roles in it.”

The night ends with evening programs.

“We have a different evening program every night,” Donnelly said. “We do camp-wide games, a movie night, a variety show, and a formal dinner and dance.”

Camp staff, all but two of whom attended Guggenheim as campers in their younger years, plan the programming in the 10 days prior to the start of the first session.

“We get just over a week together to plan out the programming, complete all our training and learn any needed skills,” Donnelly said.

On Friday, the last day of each camp week, parents and guests join their campers for a closing Mass at 1:30 p.m.

IN THEIR WORDS

Sofia Mangino, 15, Adams

“This is my fourth year at camp. I love everything about being here. It gives me a better perspective on my faith, and I love how much fun I have. I love having Mass every day. It’s nice to have the opportunity to relate to other people of faith. And it’s a great place to get closer to God.”

Cade Corris, 13, Saranac Lake

“This is my first year at camp. I honestly didn’t know what to expect. I sort of came because my mom wanted me to. I really thought it was just going to be a lot of praying and church. But I’m having a lot of fun. I’ve learned about my faith, but it’s been in fun ways. I’m making new friends. We get to play football and other sports. It’s like it keeps getting better every day. I’m glad I came. It’s worth it.”

Faith Leader, 12, Gouverneur

“This is my first time at a full week of camp, but I’ve been to Family Camp. I was a little nervous before I got here, mostly because I knew it would be a lot of new people, but I also know I have family here, and I know I love this place. So far, I love it! I love that we have Mass every day. And there are no soft kneelers or anything like that. But everyone still kneels. It feels like it’s more of a sacrifice that way. I loved project adventure and waterfront, too.”
YOUNG FAITH

CAMP GUGGENHEIM

Week five campers create small wooden crosses as part of a camp-wide art project. Each camper was asked to draw a design on his or her cross and write a prayer intention on it. The small crosses were then added to a larger wooden cross. Crosses from all six weeks will be included in the larger cross by the end of the camp season.

PHOTO BY DARCY FAR G O

The 2018 Guggenheim staff includes, Father Martin E. Cline, chaplain for the second week of camp, and counselors (front row, from left) Katy Sherman, Clare Woolschlager, Robert Leader, (second row) MariKate Parmeter, Conner Cummings, Grace Leader (third row) Camp Director Kelly Donnelly, Lillia Woolslager, Michael Bobak (fourth row) Lukas Gruber, Joy Leader, Ellen Miner, (fifth row) Carter Pierce, Adam Branch, Nick Olley, Kevin McCullough, Mariah Foltan and Johnny McBride.

PHOTO BY DARCY F A R G O

Counselor Kevin McCullough, also a seminarian for the diocese, chases Sarah Weaver in a variation on tag. The game was part of the project adventure morning program.

PHOTO BY DARCY F A R G O

Faith Leader uses hand holds to help cross a balance obstacle as part of the project adventure morning program. The obstacle course included a number of obstacles designed to test balance and agility.

PHOTO BY DARCY F A R G O

Campers play “Wet Potato” as part of waterfront activities. Similar to “Hot Potato,” campers pass around a ball as a song is sung. Whoever has the ball at the conclusion of the song gets lake water dumped on them.
Make a will month: Join the Memorare Legacy Society

By Scott Lalone
Executive Director of Development

What are some of the things most important to us? Our families, our faith and the charities that touch our hearts come to mind for most. Others might also add to that list our assets we accumulated with hard work throughout our life.

With over 50 percent of adults in the United States not having a will, the things most important to them may not be taken care of the way they might have intended.

We all know the importance of a will and what purpose they serve. It’s just taking that first step. With August being National Make-A-Will Month, what better time than now? Do not let state laws determine who will inherit your property/assets.

Over the years, so many individuals have had bequests through their wills or trusts, and had the Diocese of Ogdensburg, their parish, a Catholic school, Catholic Charities, Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, St. Joseph’s Nursing Home, the Bishop’s Fund Appeal, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg and other ministries and institutions of the Diocese of Ogdensburg as one of their final beneficiaries. Other donors who have been called home to God in the past several years have used charitable gift annuities as well as their wills to provide for the future of the diocese.

In commemoration of their faithfulness and the commitment of those today and tomorrow who will make such gifts, the Memorare Legacy Society was established in 2008. It is through this society that the Diocese of Ogdensburg thanks donors for their support of the beneficiaries listed above.

The Memorare Legacy Society honors and recognizes the generosity and vision of those who have chosen to leave a legacy to the Diocese of Ogdensburg through estate or deferred gifts.

An annual Mass and luncheon is held each May for the Memorare Legacy Society members with Bishop Terry R. LaValley officiating.

One qualifies for membership by designating a portion of his or her assets to pass at death to the any of the above mentioned. These gifts may be accomplished by a simple statement that you have remembered the church in your will or similar document, such as a trust, life insurance policy, charitable gift annuity, designation of an IRA or 401(k) or any other more complex transactions.

Members of this society are those who have informed the diocese of a planned gift that, in the future, will benefit the Diocese of Ogdensburg or any of its parishes or programs. This ensures a continuous commitment of care to the church and its vision. Members’ names will not be made public unless they specifically give their consent to do so.

A special thank you to current members of the Memorare Legacy Society: Jack Andrew of Old Forge, Msgr. Joseph G. Aubin of Plattsburgh, Dr. Lisa Breitenbach of Heuvelton, Therese Bruyere of Ogdensburg, Father Arthur J. LaBaff of Clayton, Scott and Kim Lalone of Ogdensburg, Loretta Lanzione of Clayton, John McCarthy of Massena, Father Gilbert B. Menard of Plattsburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Pearson of Watertown, Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant of Plattsburgh, Deacon and Mrs. William and Frances Raven of Black River, Michael Roach of Ogdensburg, Deacon Bernard Slate of Clayton, Kathleen St. Denis of Plattsburgh, Father Bryan D. Stitt of Canton, Father Richard S. Sturtz of Schroon Lake, Joseph Tebo of Canton, as well as several who prefer their intentions to remain anonymous.

It’s easy to become a member of the Memorare Legacy Society. Request a brochure be sent to you or complete the membership form below and return it to become a member.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org
- Read Bishop LaValley’s columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!
Caritas project aims to end hunger in South Asia

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) – The Catholic Church agency Caritas has launched a project that aims to end hunger across South Asia by 2030.

Caritas India introduced the program in collaboration with its international partners to help farmers adapt methods to cope with erratic climate conditions, ucanews.com reported.

"Climate change is a global challenge and affects agricultural production, and human well-being. It hits hardest where people directly depend on agriculture for food and livelihoods," said Sunil Simon, project director in India.

The Smallholder Adaptive Farming and Biodiversity Network was launched in June during Caritas Asia’s regional conference in Bangkok.

"The unique project aims to address our common goal of ending hunger by 2030," said Christoph Schweier, secretary general of Caritas Austria, a partner in the project.

Caritas organizations in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan will implement the program with the support of Caritas Austria and Caritas Switzerland.

The effort aims to fight hunger and malnutrition by promoting local food through small-scale farming in selected areas of South Asia in response to climate change, Simon said.

The program will contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture in South Asia.

While 40 percent of the global population is employed in the agriculture sector, 54.6 percent of India’s 1.2 billion people are farmers, according to U.N. studies.

Although more than half of Indians are farmers, agriculture contributes only 15 percent of the country’s gross domestic product.

India has nearly 191 million hungry people – 25 percent of the world’s total – who do not have a complete meal each day, said the U.N.’s 2017 report on the state of food security and nutrition.

About 51 percent of Indian women of child-bearing age are anemic because of a lack of a balanced diet, while 38 percent of Indian children have stunted growth for want of nutritious food, the report said.

The project aims to create a network of farmers to discuss their environment, climate and agrarian economy to pinpoint their specific problems. They will then identify locally acceptable solutions and test them to arrive at the best solution for growing crops.

"Mutual sharing, learning and proactive problem solving between farmers, agricultural scientists and governmental and non-governmental organizations are at the core of this project," Simon said.

The five-year project aims to benefit 10,000 farmers in India and 40,000 across South Asia before concluding in 2022, he said.
Young Catholics in letter to bishops: ‘Take clear action’

NEW YORK (CNS) – A group of young Catholics has urged the U.S. bishops to "take clear action" by conducting an independent investigation of who knew what and when about actions by Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, who has been accused of sexual abuse.

They also stressed that the bishops should engage in "formal acts of public penance and reparation" for what has happened.

"An Open Letter from Young Catholics" was published online Aug. 8 on the website of First Things, a journal of the Institute on Religion and Public Life, which is a research and education center based in New York.

The journal is printed 10 times a year.

The letter, addressed to "Dear Fathers in Christ," had 43 signatures. The group includes authors, writers and editors; the heads of Catholic and other organizations; and professors, assistant professors, doctoral candidates and research scholars in various disciplines at Catholic and secular universities in the U.S. and elsewhere.

"You are the shepherds of the church. If you do not act, evil will go unchecked," the letter said.

It asked the bishops to "agree to a thorough, independent investigation into claims of abuse by Archbishop McCarrick, both of minors and of adults. We want to know who in the hierarchy knew about his (alleged) crimes, when they knew it and what they did in response. This is the least that would be expected of any secular organization; it should not be more than what we can expect from the church."

The letter also asked that "the silence surrounding sexual impropriety in the church be broken" and that the bishops "take clear action when priests flout the church's sexual teaching and that networks of sexually active priests be rooted out."

It said good priests should have the freedom to tell their bishops what they know, without fear of reprisal.

The letter writers described themselves as some being younger than others but that they were "all children in the decades leading up to the sexual abuse crisis of 2002."

Victory for life in Argentina

MEXICO CITY (CNS) – The Argentine Senate voted against a bill that would have decriminalized abortion during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy.

Senators voted 38-31 against the measure early Aug. 9 following a 15-hour debate. The measure had been approved in June by the lower house of Congress.

The Argentine bishops’ conference hailed the vote, saying the debate in the country opened an opportunity for dialogue and a chance to focus more on social ministry.

The Senate debate revealed deep divisions in Argentina, where support for decriminalizing abortion drew stronger support in Buenos Aires, the capital, than in the more conservative provinces.

Observers attributed that difference to the bill being voted down in the Senate, which includes more representation from outlying areas.

The vote came as a movement of women and supporters of the measure – wearing green handkerchiefs – filled the streets outside the Congress as voting occurred.

Catholics, meanwhile, celebrated the Eucharist.

"Everyone had time to express their viewpoints and be heard by legislators in a healthy democratic exercise. But the only ones that didn't have an opportunity de make themselves heard are the human beings that struggled to be born," Cardinal Mario Poli, Pope Francis’ successor in Buenos Aires, said Aug. 8 in his homily at a what organizers called a "Mass for Life."

In an acknowledgment that the church could be doing more to work with women, Cardinal Poli said, "We have done little to accompany the women when they find themselves in touch situations, particularly when the (pregnancy) is the result of rape or situations of extreme poverty."

In a statement after the vote, the bishops’ conference said it was time to address the "new divisions developing between us ... through a renewed exercise of dialogue."

"We are facing great pastoral challenges to speak more clearly on the value of life," the bishops said.

More than 75 percent of Argentines still consider themselves Catholic.
SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The path to wisdom is also the path to faith

For several Sundays, the Gospels have narrated Jesus’ teaching about the Eucharist. This incredible news has been accepted by the crowds with skepticism. Even his disciples had to struggle with the idea that the Master is Himself the bread of heaven. Instead of responding with enthusiasm, the people argue among themselves as to how “this man” could possibly do what he says he will do. Already some of them turn away and leave for their homes. To His disciples, Jesus asks, “Will you too leave?”

We might have reacted in the same way if we’re honest about it. There’s an old saying: “If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” And that invitation of Jesus just didn’t seem reasonable. The problem for them, as well as for us, can only be solved by seeing more than just “this man.” We must see more deeply into Jesus as the “Godman.” In every age, it takes real wisdom for people to believe in the gift that the divine Jesus offers us.

What is wisdom? Wisdom involves seeing deep down below the surface of words and events, making a judgment as to the truth of that insight, and giving an assent, which we call “understanding.” Wisdom is a gift. It’s one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom can be lost through carelessness. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, lost his precious gift through sinful living.

In the first reading today from the Book of Proverbs, God offers the gift of wisdom at a banquet prepared for all who are simple and “lack understanding.” All we have to do is forsake the path of foolishness and sin, and we will then grow in “understanding.”

In the second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul urges us to live not as foolish persons, but as wise ones. Why? Because wisdom leads to understanding, and understanding leads us to faith in the words of Jesus.

Holy Spirit, grant us more wisdom each day, that we may not only understand the Living Bread of Life, but that we may receive this Bread more worthily.

ALLOWING FAMILIES TO GRIEVE LOST UNBORN BABIES

By Kathleen Gallagher
NCC Columnist

I lost my first pregnancy to miscarriage in the late 1980s. The memory is hazy, clouded by the rollercoaster of emotions and hormonal changes that a woman experiences when she loses a baby. I remember Joe and I watching the ultrasound machine anxiously and excitedly, waiting for the heartbeat that never came. I remember the doctor taking over from the technician and delivering the tragic news. And I remember crying.

But that’s all. I don’t remember asking if my baby was a boy or a girl. I don’t remember telling the awful news to our family members. And I don’t remember asking what happened to my baby’s remains. Only months later did I learn that the hospital where I lost my baby respectfully buried him in a communal plot in a Catholic cemetery. Thank God. That knowledge comforted me, allowed me to mourn, and gave my heart some peace.

Not all families are so fortunate. Due to a poorly crafted law, New York State only requires a burial permit and proper disposition for the remains of fetal deaths occurring at 20 weeks gestation or greater. The law is silent on miscarriages which occur at less than 20 weeks, an arbitrary and ridiculous dividing line. As a result, not all women who miscarry are told they may obtain a permit and respectfully bury or cremate their baby’s remains. Worse yet, if a family does not claim their child’s remains, it is often disposed of as “medical waste” under our laws.

Tragically, the silence of our current law is being wrongly interpreted by some hospitals to mean that a burial permit under 20 weeks is prohibited. It is not. I recently met with several nurses and the bereavement coordinator of a hospital in upstate New York who tell me that their facility no longer allows them to tell parents of their right to access the permit and plan a funeral for their deceased child under 20 weeks. They say that denying parents the opportunity to say goodbye is extremely harmful, and prevents proper grieving and healing from taking place.

Thankfully, a new bill has been introduced in the state legislature that would correct this wrong. Senate bill 7863 / Assembly bill 10013 would require that all hospitals notify all moms who miscarry that they have the right to access the fetal death report and obtain a burial permit if they so choose. This will allow the remains to be released to a funeral home for proper burial or cremation. This measure deserves the support of all of our state representatives.

We are fortunate that many hospitals, including Catholic hospitals, have already adopted internal policies whereby they inform parents of their right to direct the disposition of their child’s remains, no matter the gestation of the pregnancy. We’re also fortunate that there are places we can go to mourn. For example, the Shrine of the Holy Innocents Chapel, on the property of St. Mary of the Snow Church in Saugerties, New York, is open 24 hours a day every day of the week. Visitors are welcome any time to pray for their babies, unborn or born, who have gone home to God. It is a place to remember, and a place to find healing.

Losing a child – whether unborn, stillborn or live born – is undoubtedly one of the most painful and heartbreaking events that a parent can endure. Parents like me who lose a child early in pregnancy know that their child’s life, no matter how brief, was made in the image and likeness of God, and deserves to be respected and honored.
By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — It’s always dangerous to tamper with perfection. And, if there were ever a perfect world, it must be that of the Winnie the Pooh literature created by author A.A. Milne and illustrator E.H. Shepard in the 1920s.

So fans young and old may be forgiven for approaching the fantasy film named for Pooh’s owner and friend, “Christopher Robin” (Disney), with trepidation. Happily, all such anxiety turns out to be misplaced.

This is a magical and enchanting riff on the original. Its underlying values, moreover, are entirely in keeping with a Christian outlook.

After introductory scenes evoking the melancholy of the youthful Christopher Robin’s (Orton O’Brien) last visit to Pooh’s realm, the Hundred Acre Wood – the lad is about to depart for boarding school – we’re introduced to the grown-up version of the title character, played by Ewan McGregor. Spiritually, at least, the years have not been kind to him.

Now a harried middle-aged efficiency expert, Christopher consistently prioritizes work over family life. So much so that his misguided behavior is about to provoke a crisis in his relationship with his devoted wife, Evelyn (Hayley Atwell) and loving daughter, Madeline (Bronte Carmichael).

By a happy accident, Winnie (voice of Jim Cummings) chooses this moment to pay a visit to his old pal. The other inhabitants of the Wood – most prominently Tigger (also voiced by Cummings), Eeyore (voice of Brad Garrett) and Piglet (voice of Nick Mohammed) – have all suddenly disappeared. Alarmed and lonely, Winnie makes his way to real-world London where he hopes Christopher will be able to help him.

Though initially delighted at the reunion, Christopher’s patience with accident-prone Winnie wears thin quickly. To prevent further mayhem, he decides to transport the bear back to his native setting. Christopher’s return there enables its other natives, once the mystery of their absence has been solved, to join Winnie himself in gently showing Christopher the error of his materialist ways.

Director Marc Forster and screenwriters Alex Ross Perry, Tom McCarthy and Allison Schroeder make deft use of Milne’s immortal figures, marshaling droll humor to convey the message that there are better goals to be pursued than merely getting ahead.

Their leisure-loving Winnie is something between an unwitting philosopher and Zen master with a knack for asking the right question. His bewildered observations on the hustle of London are hilarious, as is Eeyore’s perpetually pessimistic running commentary on life in general.

Problematic elements are entirely absent, the raciest exclamation in the dialogue being “Cripes!” But the film is too sophisticated for tots, who might also be disturbed by its scenes of mild peril. Even preteens, however, may find it a source of delight, as will a broad swath of other age groups. A rare treat for all but the littlest members of the family.

The film contains a mature story line and nonviolent action. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested.
ADIRONDACK

FOUNDEASY
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 Homily. Fr. 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.

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
Cost: $145, Tenting or Commuter Option, $75
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.
Contact: To register, call: 315-212-6592 or email sbethhss@gmail.com

CLINTON

APPLEFEST
Peru – The 41st annual St. Augustine’s Applefest will be held.
Date: Sept. 15-16
Place: 3030 Main Street
Features: Saturday’s giant parade begins at 11 a.m. at the Peru Elementary School and ends at the Applefest grounds. Two days of live music, a giant craft fair, a variety of foods, games and several new rides. Sunday afternoon there will be a chicken BBQ. Saturday’s music features singer Mitch Willette followed by the Bootleg Band. On Sunday Taylor LaValley and the Intangibles will perform.
Contact: 518-643-2435, ext. 0

REDFORD PICNIC
Redford – The 162 Annual Redford picnic to be held.
Date: Aug. 19
Place: Church of the Assumption Parish Center

THE NORTH COUNTY CATHOLIC welcomes contributions to “Around the Diocese.” Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to: North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296; e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.
Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

Our Lady of Victory Basilica, Buffalo, Mass and Holy Hour for Vocations at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Chapel.
Contact: Call 518-663-5859 or email lynnetmaginn@gmail.com for reservations.

CURSILLO MEETING
Carthage - The Jefferson/Lewis Cursillo holds its monthly meeting on the 3rd Sunday of every month.
Time: 6 p.m. to 8
Place: Community Room of St. James Church
Features: All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend. We also welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
Contact: Anne Seegebarth; mans2962@gmail.com, 315-783-4596

HIBERNIANS SEEKS MEMBERS
Watertown – Ancient Order of Hibernians are looking for new members.
Features: The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) the oldest and largest Irish Fraternal Organization in the World, is looking for new members. Are you a Catholic male, 17 years or older of Irish descent? The AOH will be visiting parishes across the North Country to spread the word about the charitable works we do across our community.
Contact: mnyirish@gmail.com or Pat Keogh 519-1961 or Sean Hennessey 775-0570.

Eucharistic Adoration
Sackets Harbor - St. Andrew’s Church has weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6

SECCULAR FRANCISANS MEETING
Watertown - The St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity of the 3rd Order of Secular Franciscans meetings are set.
Date: last Sunday of the month.
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: McCarthy Hall, Holy Family Parish

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houseville - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of September.
Date: Sept. 2.
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.
Contact: 315-348-6260.

REDFORD 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 LEAS members and non-members attending events may incur a small fee that will be billed to the parish. Additional LEAD members and non-members fee to cover lunch buffet is $20 each.
Features: Share in reflections with Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ; and workshops with Carol Gontier and Pam Ballantine.
Contact: RSVP by Aug. 10 to Shyne at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620

FAMILY GUGGENEIM
Saranac Lake – It’s time to register for Family Guggenheim.
Date: Session 2, Aug. 23 – 26; Session 3, Oct. 5 – 7
Features: Bring your family to the most meaningful weekend of the year! Hike, swim, pray, play...be.
Contact: Visit https://www.rcdony.org/familylife/family-guggenheim.html to register, Deacon Henry and Dayna Leader for information at 315-323-0827 or dleader@rcdony.org

DOVS PILGRIMAGE
D.O.V.S. (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is sponsoring a vocation pilgrimage to Western New York with Bishop LaValley.
Date: Oct. 16–18
Cost: $350 if registered by Aug. 31; $399 after Aug. 31
Features: Departing from various site in diocese. Price includes bus to all destinations; two nights stay at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY; two breakfasts; one lunch; two dinners. The pilgrimage will feature tour of the Christ the King Seminary, Mass at the seminary, tour of Our Lady of Victory Basilica, Buffalo; Mass and Holy Hour for Vocations at the Basilica; free time at Niagara Falls.
Contact: Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Enslow at 315-268-1016.
Youth are alive with faith, action

I often think youth in our community are underestimated. I would never have thought before I took a position in the Mission Office nine years ago. The youth in our communities do so much and care so much more than I think many people realize. I would like to elaborate.

In our diocese, the Mission Office oversees a program called Missionary Childhood Association. I write about it quite often. Children as young as 5 are learning about the Mission Lands in their schools and religious education programs. Through prayer and sacrifice, they raise thousands of dollars every year.

We are also blessed to have Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake. I attended Guggenheim several summers in a row in the 1980s. Now I am blessed to say my daughter attends every summer, as well. Not only did I make life-long friends there, but you leave Guggenheim changed. You leave knowing that it is your duty to go and do great things, make the world a better place and love each other.

We are also blessed to have amazing schools and educators around the diocese. These educators make a positive difference in our world. As previously reported, an IHC second grader was so moved by the stories of missionaries helping children in South America, he donated his birthday money to make sure kids everywhere have food to eat.

In our diocese, our young people go to Catholic youth rallies, pilgrimages, March for Life and retreats. Some are involving themselves in the Teen Vision program, in which they volunteer at Guggenheim to help their younger peers grow in spirituality, while they grow in leadership skills.

In our diocese, we have young men contemplating and committing to vocations in the priesthood. There are young people who volunteer every week as altar servers, choir members or lectors in their local parishes. There are young people helping with projects like cleaning cemeteries, planning flowers at churches or painting murals.

There are so many more concrete examples of our youth doing great things. Their faith is strong. Youth in our communities do so much more than just time spent towards goals in their faith, though. They are volunteering in other civic organizations, as well, doing things like cleaning parks and volunteering at nursing homes. Say a prayer for the young and faithful. They are growing up in a challenging world. Yet, our young people are trying hard to make this place better, stronger and kinder. God bless our youth. Next time someone asks you to volunteer, remember: if the youth can help, so can you.
Obituary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Morristown — Francis Murphy, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2018 at St. John the Evangelist Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.


North Bangor — Virginia Ellen (Dunbar) McCaffrey, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 9, 2018 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in Stevens Cemetery, Brandon.

Ogdensburg — Mary E. (Durant) Barlow, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2018 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg — William H. Bergeron, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.


Ogdensburg — Lucille Marsha (Rosenburg) Murphy, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2018 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — John F. Sutter, 84; Funeral Services Aug. 2, 2018 at St. Joseph Home Chapel; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh — Bertha B. (Carter) Hebenstreit, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 6, 2018 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Joyce Pricilla O’Connell Kelley, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2018 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.


Potsdam — Beverly (Hinman) LaPoint, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2018 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.


Tupper Lake — Wilbur J. Lamica, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 10, 2018 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Greta Evelyn (Bedore) Rovito, 95; Mass of Christian Burial July 30, 2018 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.


Watertown — Minnie Habib Mathar, 100; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 8, 2018 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.


Watertown — George S. Tripp, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 2, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.


West Chazy — David F. Chaavin, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 3, 2018 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Westville — Joanne E. (Bissonette) Wood, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Aug. 9, 2018 at Our Lady of Fatima Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery, Constable.

Vacation Bible School was held at St. Mary’s of the Fort in July. Titled “Around the World in 5 Days,” the children learned about Saints Juan Diego, Brigid of Ireland, Martin De Porres, Nicholas of Myra and Kateri Tekakwitha. Debbie Thomas and Vicky Phillips, members of St. Regis Mission Church and the Kateri Circle, visited the camp to tell the children about the life and miracles of St. Kateri. They also presented each child with a medal of the saint, which are blessed Father Alan J. Lamica, who assisted at the camp while Father Thomas E. Kornmeier was on vacation. Throughout the week the children brought in an offering of coins and small bills; the money collected will be given to Bishop Terry R. LaValle for the church in Latakia, Syria.