NY religious leaders laud bill to end solitary confinement

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) – The numbers are so staggering that it has been called "torture." Solitary confinement is in widespread use in prisons across the United States and, in New York state alone, more than 3,000 inmates are isolated in 6-by-10 cells for over 23 hours a day.

The Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act, which has not yet made its way to the floor of the New York state House or Senate, is looking to change that.

The Catholic conference, which is the public policy arm of New York's Catholic bishops, put out a memorandum in support of the measure, which is known as HALT.

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Pope: God is ready to help free people from evil

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Christians recognize life's great paradox that so much evil and temptation exist in the world, but that God is always present, too, ready to help and give people the strength to persevere, Pope Francis said.

Each person has been given life, "dreams of love and the good," but is then "continuously exposed to evil" aimed against himself and those around him, so much so that "we can be tempted to despair," the pope said during his weekly general audience May 15.

"In fact, Christian prayer does not close its eyes to reality," he said. Christians know life can be very difficult, painful or unjust and they pray that God—who is greater and stronger than any evil—would offer strength to go on and would "deliver us from evil."

Continuing his catechesis on the Lord's Prayer, the pope reflected on the last invocation, "Deliver us from evil."

Jesus teaches people to always turn to God, especially when they can feel evil's "threatening presence," which St. Peter said was like an angry lion, always circling, ready to "devour us," the pope said.

The last lines of the Lord's Prayer that call on God to "not abandon us and to deliver us," he said, are petitions for all who find themselves in dire straits: in a situation of sin, persecution, desperation or even death.

The mysterious presence of evil is an "absolute certainty" in people's lives, the pope said, since the devil spares no one as he moves "silently like a serpent, carrying venom."

"Deliver us from evil," he said, is a cry against evil that can manifest itself in so many ways, such as slavery, innocent suffering, exploitation, mourning and "the cry of innocent children."

"Christians know how domineering the power of evil is and, at the same time, they experience how much Jesus, who never succumbed to its lure, is on our side and comes to our aid."
He seems pretty pastoral to me

“Some of the guys are more pastoral, others are more administrative,” said Father Christopher C. Carrara, speaking about the priests of the diocese as he was explaining some aspect of his role as Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel early in my tenure with the diocese. “I’m more administrative.”

Father Carrara celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on May 14, the same day I celebrated a year of working for the diocese. As I reflected this week on all the grasps, struggles, funny moments and changes I’ve experienced in my first year, a couple moments with Father Carrara stood out as especially impactful.

The day after Father Carrara made that statement, I attended my first department head meeting with the diocese. I was more than a little nervous about how I’d perform my first time reporting to the assembled group of diocesan department heads and Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

After that meeting, Father Carrara went out of his way to visit me in my office to tell me he thought I did well presenting my activities and plans. The simple gesture made me feel accepted. He seemed pretty pastoral to me.

On another occasion, Father Carrara and I were walking out of our shared office building, chatting as we walked. At the time, I was struggling with health issues and was reliant upon a cane to walk.

As we proceeded down the front steps of the building, my cane missed the edge of a step, and I almost went crashing to the concrete below. I caught myself with the railing and, in the process, uttered the worst of all the curse words.

I instantly regretted my utterance and began apologizing to Father Carrara. His response: “Can’t walk and talk at the same time, Darce?”

It was the perfect response! Instead of dwelling on my inability to control my tongue, he made a joke to lighten the moment.

The light-hearted and humorous response seemed familial and made me feel at home. Again, he seemed pretty pastoral to me.

These were small moments, but in these small moments, an “administrative” priest made me feel like I belonged, both in my role and in my new workplace family.

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Priesthood has been full of surprises

Recently, I drove to Burlington, Vermont, to attend the graduation of my great-nephew, Will Muench, from Champlain College. Will is the nephew that I have told you about before. I know you have heard the story. His parents, my nephew and his wife, Paul and Susan, invited me to accompany them at the time of his birth, now over 20 years ago. I truly consider that day the most exciting day of my life.

The drive over to the graduation and back home was long and tiring. However, that drive proved to be a rather happy experience for me. The drive was close to a complete circuit around the Diocese of Ogdensburg, my diocese. It was a ride filled with memories and prayers. Each road, each place was filled with memories of times I remember well — places where I spent time, places where I lived, places where I served as a priest. Each place reminded me of a priest I had known well — a former pastor or other priests I had worked with.

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Mass of Christian Burial
held for Msgr. Peter R. Riani

Reverend Monsignor Peter R. Riani, age 89, passed into new life on the night of Thursday, May 16, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg.

On Monday, May 20 at 5:30 p.m. Reverend John Yonkovig, Vicar Foraine of the Adirondack Deanery, presided over the reception of the body at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid. Calling hours continued until 9 p.m. and resumed on Tuesday, May 21 from 9 a.m. until 10:15 a.m.

At 10:30, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial, with the priests of the diocese concelebrating.

Reverend Monsignor Leeward J. Poissant offered the homily.

This day – May 21 – is Msgr. Riani's 64th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

He was laid to rest in Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Keeseville in the alb prepared by his grandmother for his ordination.

Peter Riani was born on August 16, 1929, the son of Peter J. and Mary (Robarge) Riani in Keeseville.

He attended Union College in Schenectady in 1946 and 1947 before beginning seminary studies at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. After graduating in 1951, he attended St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore until graduating in 1955.


Father Riani spent five years served as Assistant Pastor at St. Rita's Church in Deferiet, St. Paul's Church in Black River and St. Bernard's Church in Wadhams. During a hiatus, Father Riani was pastor of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid from 1982 until 1985. While completing his Wadhams career, he served as pastor of St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton between 1988 and 1993.

He returned nearer to his hometown to serve as pastor at St. Augustine's Church in Peru from 1993 until 1999 and then St. Elizabeth Church in Elizabethtown and St. Philip Neri Church in Westport between 2000 and his retirement in 2012. During this time, he was Dean of the Essex Deanery. He held numerous diocesan posts such as Associate Editor of the North Country Catholic and Director of Seminarians and served on many committees.

Many will remember Father Riani for his many world travels, love of sailing and his annual summer rental of Rock View Camp on Lake Champlain. These memories were always made with family and friends, like Reverend Richard Sturtz and many others. When Father Riani stopped moving, a book was always in his hand or a discussion on his lips, often involving the philosophy of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. He spent 75 years schussing down mountains on his skis, and only Parkinson's disease robbed him of that joy.

Rev. Msgr. Peter Riani is survived by his sister-in-law, Joan Riani and brother-in-law William Turner and numerous nieces and nephews and their children. He was pre-deceased by his parents; a brother, Richard G. Riani; sisters, Nancy McClellan and Susan Turner; a brother-in-law David McClellan; and a nephew, Christopher J. Riani.

Father Riani requested no flowers be sent. Arrangements are in the care of the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home, Saranac Lake.

Mater Dei College reunion planned

What started as a Facebook group to unite alumni, professors, staff and students of Mater Dei College has spurred the planning of a college reunion.

The reunion will take place July 13 at Ella’s on the Bay in Morristown. The event, which begins at 4 p.m., will include a cash bar, entertainment, the opportunity to order food from the restaurant menu and space to socialize.

“We want anyone who had any affiliation with the college to come,” said event organizer Marla Kinch. “We want to see and hear from anyone who ever attended the school, whether they graduated or not, as well as the staff, professors, the Sisters of St. Joseph—everyone!”

A 1982 graduate of Mater Dei College, Kinch said many of the now-closed college’s alumni and instructors have recon nected via a Facebook page, “MY COLLEGE DOESN’T EXIST ANYMORE? MATER DEI ALUMNI.”

“We’ve been talking for a long time about having a reunion on that Facebook page,” she said. “We finally just picked a date and a time and booked some entertainment.”

Lester Gates will be providing music at the event. Kinch, who studied liberal arts at the school, said the reunion is open to all majors/programs of study, and all years the college was open.

“The more the merrier,” she said. “This is an opportunity to see old friends and maybe make a few new ones.”

She also stressed that the reunion would be a casual gathering.

“We want it to be a relaxed evening,” Kinch said. “It’s casual dress, and low key.”

While reservations are not required, Kinch said the restaurant is hoping to get a rough count of how many are expected to plan staffing. Anyone who plans on attending is urged to contact Kinch at 315-323-2572 or to respond via the Facebook page.

Funeral Mass to be held for Deacon Mazuchowski

A Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon Edward Lawrence Mazuchowski at 11 a.m. on June 28 at St. Joseph’s Church in Danemora. A Mass of Christian Burial was also celebrated on May 17 at St. Jude’s Church in Ocala, Florida.

Deacon Lawrence, age 73, died the evening of May 10, 2019, saying goodbye to his earthly family to abide for eternity in his heavenly home. He and his wife Louise were living in Ocala, Florida at the time of his passing.

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania on March 12, 1946 to Edmund and Margaret Mazuchowski, he grew up there with his two sisters, Lois and Denise. After attending one year at Penn State, Deacon Lawrence enlisted into the U.S. Air Force in July of 1964, where he served in Vietnam until his honorable discharge in April of 1968.

At age 20, on July 30, 1966, he married his soulmate and love of his life, his wife Louise. Together they raised two wonderful children in Cadyville, New York.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Michele, and her husband, Gavin; his son, Edward II, and his wife, Carol; and five grandsons TJ, Sean, Pierce, Alexandre and Zachary, who were the joys of his life and they loved him immensely.

Deacon Lawrence began his civilian life working for Proctor & Gamble in Pennsylvania. Four years later, he and his family moved back to Louise’s hometown in Upstate New York. He became the Water and Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Plattsburgh until his time of retirement in 2001. He enjoyed golfing, fishing, spiritual reading, watching Jeopardy, doing puzzles, playing scrabble and walking in nature.

As a devout Eastern Rite Byzantine Catholic, he lead a life of faith and touched all those around him with his unconditional love, compassion, and joy for life. His smile and laughter would light up the room. On October 12, 1996 Ed followed his calling and was ordained a Deacon. He loved people and welcomed everyone with an open heart. He was a wonderful minister to those in need.

Deacon Lawrence was also active in the community as a Diocesan Family Life Director, Marriage Encounter Coordinator and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus.

Deacon Lawrence’s life will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone he met.

Condolences may be sent to 11597 SW 69th Circle Ocala, FL 34476.

IN BRIEF

Seton holds first cash raffle

Seton Catholic is conducting its first ever $10,000 Cash Raffle! The fabulous thing about this raffle is that you actually have 23 chances to win. There will be:

• Ten $100 prizes
• Eight $250 prizes
• Four $500 prizes
• One grand prize of $10,000

Tickets draw for the smaller prizes will also be re-entered for the remaining prizes, including the grand prize. Each ticket can win more than once. Drawing is June 20.

To purchase a raffle ticket, or if you are willing to sell tickets, please contact Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org or 518-561-4031 (ext. 2012).

If the school is successful in selling 500 raffle tickets at $100 apiece, it would raise $50,000 for various improvements to the school.

Don’t miss out on the first ever...

Seton Catholic

$10K CASH RAFFLE

Give $100 and get
23 chances to win
up to $10,000!!!

Every ticket-holder is eligible to win ten $100 prizes, eight $250 prizes, four $500 prizes and the grand prize of $10,000! Added bonus: even if you win a smaller prize, your ticket will go back into the drawing so you still have a chance to win a higher amount, including the jackpot!

Drawing Date: June 20, 2019

Contact Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org or 518-561-4031 ext. 2012 to purchase your tickets today!
New York religious leaders endorse bill to end solitary confinement

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) – The numbers are so staggering that it has been called “torture.” Solitary confinement is in widespread use in prisons across the United States and in New York state alone, more than 3,000 inmates are isolated in 6-by-10 cells for over 23 hours a day.

The Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act, which has not yet made its way to the floor of the New York state House or Senate, is looking to change that.

“Long-term use of solitary confinement is a form of torture, yet it continues to be widely practiced nationally and in New York, despite some recent reforms in our state. Inmates don’t surrender their basic human dignity when the prison doors close,” said Dennis Poust, director of communications for the New York State Catholic Conference.

The Catholic conference, which is the public policy arm of New York’s Catholic bishops, put out a memorandum in January in support of the measure, which is known as HALT.

“We can protect society, and protect those inside the prison without wide-scale use of confinement in special housing units, which leads to all sorts of mental health issues, including paranoia, depression and suicidal thoughts,” Poust told The Evangelist, newspaper of the Diocese of Albany. “It creates a less stable inmate population and, ultimately, creates a less safe society when those inmates are subsequently released, sometimes directly from solitary confinement.”

The New York State Catholic Conference, the state Council of Churches and the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, as well as other Christian, Muslim and Jewish organizations all endorse the bill.

If the bill becomes law, it would limit the amount of time an inmate can spend in solitary confinement to 15 days, which is in accordance with the U.N. special rapporteur on torture, as well as offer alternatives to segregated housing units. The report said anything over 15 days is a form of torture. The same sentiments were echoed by Pope Francis as far back as 2014. He said that “one form of torture is … confinement in high security prisons. … The lack of sensory stimuli, the total impossibility of communication and the lack of contact with other human beings induce mental and physical suffering such as paranoia, anxiety, depression, weight loss, and significantly increase the suicidal tendency.”

And in a 2016 op-ed in the Albany Times Union, Albany Bishop Edward B. Schaefer-Denner wrote: “Social science has affirmed that solitary confinement works against the purpose of rehabilitation and restorative justice. It also works against the purpose of improving public safety, both inside our prisons and jails and in our communities.”

He added, “For all Americans committed to building a safer, healthier society, we cannot ignore the mental illness, debilitating trauma and recidivism that are the hallmarks of placing inmates in solitary confinement.”

The website of the New York Campaign for Alternatives to Isolated Confinement, nycaic.org, notes that in October 2015, the U.S. Congress endorsed the Mandela Rules, which prohibit any person from being held in solitary confinement beyond 15 days. The United Nations adopted the rules in December 2015.

New York currently places no limit on the total time a person can spend in “isolated confinement.”

On May 7, a group of faith leaders gathered at the state Capitol in Albany in support of the HALT bill. In 2016, after a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union led to a $62 million settlement, the state made reforms to limit the solitary confinement of pregnant women, youth and the disabled. This bill aims for even more reforms.

**Bishop’s Public Schedule**

- **May 20-23** – Presbyteral Assembly at the Crown Plaza in Lake Placid
- **May 23-24** – Deacon Assembly at the Crown Plaza in Lake Placid
- **May 26** – 2:30 p.m. – 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood and 10th Anniversary as Bishop of Syracuse for The Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham at The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse
- **May 28** – 7 p.m. – Confirmation at St. Peter’s Church in Plattsburgh with Our Lady of Victory and the Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh
- **May 29** – 6 p.m. – Confirmation at The Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere and Chau­mont (at St. Vincent de Paul in Rosiere)

**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**
- **Join the conversation!**

**Rest in Peace**

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

- **May 22** – Msgr. Claudius Gobet, 1961
- **May 23** – Deacon Richard A. Menke, 2003
- **May 25** – Rev. J. Hector Miglieron, 1958
- **May 26** – Rev. Thomas J. Kelleher, 1889; Rev. Steven H. Gratto, 2012

**To Report Abuse**

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri­anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christo­pher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920

**Environmental Stewardship**

**A few simple steps**

By Susanne & Richard Arens
Lake Clear Faith & Ecology Group

Last week we wrote of why it is important for everyone to be involved in “Care For Our Common Home,” as outlined in Pope Francis’ Encyclical, LAUDATO SI’. Following are some actions we take that contribute to the sustainability of God’s gift of creation. Included in our daily lives, they become habits for good. Though each action may be small in consequence, multiplied by individual and all who are following through with each, the results can be enormous.

We found information about recycling at nysar3.org and local sources. Containers specific for recycling textiles are at the local transfer center. Good reusable items are donated to St. Vincent de Paul or the local fire department and other fund raisers.

Also for reusing/recycling, we donate eyeglasses at the opticians; used printer ink cartridges are returned via UPS to the company of origin; used appliances are donated for local use; books are placed in our newly established “Little Free Library” to the local reading room or public library book sales.

Maintaining our vehicles, furnace, appliances and tools in good working order keeps them running most efficiently; when we do need to replace something, we first do our homework as to the energy efficiency, actual need and longevity. Needing to replace an inefficient furnace an energy audit was done to determine the optimum household requirements.

Having learned about vampire or stand-by power loss, we added outlet power switches. Our electrical consumption is further limited by shutting off lights etc. when not needed, using energy efficient light bulbs, on-demand hot water and clotheslines.

Composting food scraps also yields garden fertilizers; water barrels collect water for gardening; and we collect roadway litter on walks, when hiking and at recreational areas.

Gratefully protecting, sharing and caring for all we have been blessed with while continuing to educate ourselves in this world of constant change is vital.
SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME

www.usccb.org/home-missions

Collection to be held May 25 and 26, 2019
'Confession bill' viewed as violation of religious liberty

LOS ANGELES (CNS) – A bill making its way through the California Legislature would make the state the first since 1999 to require priests to choose between violating the law or violating the seal of the confessional.

At issue is the serious matter of child sexual abuse. Seven states right now require priests to violate the seal to report child abuse based on legislation passed in the 1970s and through the 1990s.

While many states have tried since 2002 to pass laws resembling the California Senate measure, S.B. 360, none have been successful. Instead, lawmakers around the country concluded similar bills would not protect children and would be a violation of religious liberty.

The summer of 2018 – with its Pennsylvania grand jury report on alleged abuse by priests and other church workers (with many claims decades old), the revelations of sexual misdeeds by then-Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington and investigations by state attorneys general into clergy abuse records – brought the battle against sexual abuse back to the confessional.

In California, priests, along with teachers, social workers, doctors and other professionals, are "mandated reporters." That means they are required by law to report any case of suspected abuse to authorities. Currently, there is an exemption in the law for any clergy member who acquires knowledge of a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect during a penitential communication.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic state Sen. Jerry Hill, said the legislation is necessary because of evidence that the confession privilege hurts children.

"Recent investigations by 14 attorneys general, the federal government and other countries have revealed that the clergy-penitent privilege has been abused on a large scale, resulting in the unreported and systemic abuse of thousands of children across multiple denominations and faiths," Hill said.

Proponents of the bill spoke at a Senate Public Safety Committee hearing in Sacramento April 2 stressing that their reports of abuse to faith leaders from various religions had gone unaddressed.

State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, who spoke at the hearing in favor of the bill, said: "The state, the people do have the right to limit certain practices that are believed to be inappropriate (and) immoral."

"We are a society. We are governed by laws, we are governed by what we believe to be morally correct, and what is in the best interest of our communities and society," she said.

And I would submit having, accepting ... condoning, allowing this kind of behavior to continue on a claim of religious freedom, is anathema to everything we hold dear.

"This has got to stop," she added.

But not everyone sees it this way. Catholic leaders, committed to ending sexual abuse in the church and abuse in the church, say there is no evidence for Hill's allegations the "penitential exemption" is being abused. They also question whether the members of the legislature understand how confession works.

The bill does not explicitly single out confession or the Catholic faith. Instead, it uses the term "penitential communications" without naming specific religions.

California law protects any confidential communication between a person of faith and his or her minister, said Dominican Father Pius Pietrzyk, a canon and civil lawyer who teaches at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Archdiocese's Angelus News, he said that "so long as the person has an expectation of confidentiality with regard to that spiritual matter, all those communications do not fall under the (mandated) reporting requirement" in California law.

In an op-ed piece against the proposed legislation in the April 28 edition of USA Today, Father Pietrzyk pointed out that historically U.S. courts have almost universally upheld a 'priestpenitent' privilege, akin to the attorney-client privilege.

"Although not directly taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court, the privilege is also rooted in the constitutional imperative not to prohibit the free exercise of religion," he wrote.

He said the bill wrongly conflates current reporting requirements applied to state-licensed employers – doctors, lawyers, and other professionals – with a few examples – with those of priests, who are not licensed by the state.
CLINTON

HEALING MASS
West Chazy – St. Joseph’s Church will hold a Healing Mission.
Date: May 20, 21 and 22
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph’s Church
Features: Mission will be with Paul Rymniak. The Sacrament of Confession will be available during the Mission. Healing is NOT just for the Physically Impaired. Mental and Emotional Stresses and Strains can take a heavier toll on our lives, even more than the worst of diseases. So, if you or your family are in need of healing in these areas, come and experience the Lord, and what He can do for you. Come and meet Jesus by worshiping Him. Come and see what Our Lord has for you. Come and be healed. You need not be Catholic to come and benefit from this Healing Mission.
Contact: For more information, call 518-493-4521.

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY RIGHT TO LIFE MEETING
Plattsburgh – Champlain Valley Right to Life meeting to be held.
Date: June 2
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: Newman Center
Features: Brief business, writing letters to Legislators & Editors, Movie, “I Lived on Parker Avenue.” Educational materials and snacks will be provided!

BAZAAR & FESTIVAL OF CARS
Mooers Forks – St. Ann’s Annual Bazaar and Festival of Cars to be held.
Date: June 9
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Place: St. Ann’s Grounds
Features: Craft Show, Big Ticket Pull Tabs, Bake Sale, Theme Baskets, Free Entertainment. To enter the car show it is $15 before or $20 the day of the show. There will be top 40 picks and special awards.

TOWNE MEETING CONCERT
Peru - The popular North Country band, Towne Meeting, will perform its 10th Anniversary Concert to benefit Mission of Hope’s projects in Nicaragua.
Date: June 9
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Augustine’s Church
Features: During the past 10 years the band, with generous donations from the people of the North Country, has provided 432 families with safe cooking stoves.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Peru – The 33rd Annual Peru Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Golf Tournament to be held.
Date: June 14
Time: Shotgun start at 10 a.m.
Place: Adirondack Golf and Country Club
Features: The 4-person scramble for charity is dedicated to its former chairman, the late Bill McBride Jr. Shotgun start at 10 a.m. All are welcome!
Contact: Obtain entry forms and information from Greg Lombard at 518-643-5444, 518-593-2652 or email gnelombar@charter.net.

CASH RAFFLE
Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic to have a $10,000 Cash Raffle.
Date: Drawing will be June 20
Cost: Tickets are $100 each with 23 chances to win $10,000
Features: Each ticket holder is eligible to win ten $100 prizes, eight $250 prizes, four $500 prizes and the grand prize of $10,000. Additional bonus, even if you win a smaller prize your ticket will go back into the drawing so you still have a chance to win a higher amount, including the jackpot.
Contact: Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org or 518-561-4031 ext. 212 to purchase your tickets today.

FRANKLIN

GARAGE SALE
Malone – Saint Andre’s to have garage sale.
Date: June 5-15 (Closed June 9)

TIME: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church parking lot
Features: Saint Andre’s Parish in Malone is holding their gigantic annual garage sale. Sale features furniture, household goods, tools, baby items, toys, books, bedding, and miscellaneous. New items arrive daily.

JEFFERSON

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS
Watertown – The Saint Joseph Cuperino Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will be having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for Vocations into the priesthood and to the religious life.
Date: May 25
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Anthony’s Church
Features: All are welcome to come and share some moments with The Lord.

IHC MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Watertown – The 6th Annual IHC Memorial Golf Tournament to be held.
Date: May 31
Time: Registration, 9 a.m.; Shot-Gun Start, 10 a.m.
Place: Ives Hill Country Club
Cost: Team entry fee, $400 4 Person Captain & Crew
Features: First Place, $800; Second Place, $400; Third Place, $200
Contact: Registration Deadline is May 11. Register at Ives Country Club, Pro-Shop 315-775-4653; Make checks payable to IHC Booster Club, 1316 Ives Street, Watertown, NY 13601; Questions, email ihcboosterclub@gmail.com

SPAGHETTI SUPPER
Watertown – St. Anthony’s Church Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.
Date: May 30
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, $8; Children, $4.50; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, $5 per quart; Meatballs, $.75 each
Features: Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers.

HEALING MASS
Clayton – St. Mary’s to have their Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Trequart Memorial Service.
Date: June 8
Time: 11 a.m.
Features: Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Ray Diesbourg will be the celebrants and the anointing of the sick will be offered during Mass. Following the Mass, prayer teams will offer individual prayers, and there will be light refreshments and social time.
Contact: For more information contact the Parish Office, 315-686-3398.

OPEN HOUSE
Carthage – Augustineian Academy to have an open house.
Date: June 9
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Features: Meet the teacher, tour the school, learn about curriculum. All faiths welcome. Now serving PK (3 & 4) and K-8
Contact: 317 West Street, 315-493-1301, c-augustinian.org

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Watertown – The 4th Annual Frank Capra Memorial Golf Tournament to be held.
Date: June 19
Time: Registration start at 8 a.m.; Shotgun start at 9 a.m.
Place: Ives Hill Country Club
Cost: Captain and Crew - $380; Team - $350; Singles - $95/player. Includes Golf, cart, skins, mulligans, dinner buffet, prizes, a chance at a hole in one contest and a complimentary hot dog or hamburger at the turn.
Features: All proceeds from the golf tournament aid in supporting the Sacred Heart Foundation mission to raise funds to provide financial assistance for the education of those studying to become future priests and brothers of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Contact: Applications forms available at www.sacredheartfoundation.com/golf. Or you can contact 315-782-3344

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE
Watertown – The Sacred Heart Foundation to have a raffle in connection with their golf tournament.
Date: Drawing will be June 19
Cost: Tickets are $10 each, only 1000 will be sold
Features: 2 Grand prizes. Prize 1: 4 tickets to the Yankees Vs. Red Sox with an overnight stay included. Prize 2: 2019 Honda TRX-250TM Recon
Contact: For any questions or to buy tickets please contact the Sacred Heart Foundation office by phone at (315)782-3344 or by email at mail@SacredHeartFoundation.com.

ST. JAMES FAIR
Carthage – St. James to have its 45th annual fair.
Date: June 20, 21 & 22
Time: Thurs. and Fri., 6 p.m. to 10; Sat. 12 p.m. to 10
Place: State Street, Carthage
Features: Games of Chance, Ontario Amusement Rides (wristband day Sat from 12 p.m. to 4); Lots of food options and Entertainment.

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of June to be held.
Date: June 2
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. All are welcome.
Contact: 315-344-6260 for more information.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY RECOGNITION DINNER
Cotton – Faith Formation Ministry Recognition Dinner to be held for Catechists.
Date: May 22
Time: 5 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Patrick’s Church
Cost: $12 per person
Contact: Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620.
How are you using the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

We’re getting closer to Pentecost. Already, Bishops are visiting their parishes in order to confirm the sacrament of confirmation. At this ceremony, one of the readings is almost always from the Acts of the Apostles. The reading describes the apostles at prayer, suddenly feeling great power coming on them in the form of fiery tongues. From weak and uncertain men, they become courageous and bold followers of Christ.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus prepares his apostles for this great moment. He tells them that when He leaves them, the Holy Spirit will teach them everything they need to know and will remind them of everything He himself had taught them. Jesus knew that all the time He had spent preaching and healing would be in vain without the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Even as he tried to prepare them for His death the next day, He knew that only the Holy Spirit could give them the courage they would need to baptize and preach the Good News to all the world.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we learn of the events that led up to the First Ecumenical Council of the church in Jerusalem. It was there that a courageous decision was made to welcome non-Jews into the church without requiring that they be circumcised or made to follow the law of Moses. Only the power of the Holy Spirit present at that council could have guided that decision.

This is a good week for us to ask ourselves how we make use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which we received at our confirmation. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, urges us to close imitation of the life of Jesus. He urges us to be protectors of the poor and needy, and to preach by our actions. What might have happened if the Apostles had decided to keep the whole treasure of God’s Word to themselves? The newly born church would have withered and disappeared within a few years.

Jesus did not prepare his followers for an easy life. That’s not why He died on the cross, or why He rose from the dead. As He loved us to the death, so He expects us to pay the price for the glory of eternal life. This is surely a critically important time for us to look for opportunities to defend and promote what Jesus teaches without apology or compromise.

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**May 26**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**READINGS**

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John 14:23-29

**SUMMER DISCERNMENT WEEKEND FOR MEN**

Saranac Lake — Summer Discernment weekend retreat weekend for men to be held.

**Date:** July 5 at 5 p.m. to July 7 at noon

**Place:** Guggenheim Main Lodge

**Features:**

- A time of prayer, reflection, fellowship, & recreation.
- Participants should bring swimming suit or one piece suit, as well as shoes.
- All overnight retreatants must be age 18 and over.

**Contact:**

Father Doug Lucia at rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 or 315-388-4466

**MATER DEI COLLEGE REUNION**

Morristown - A reunion will be held for all Mater Dei Alumni, professors, staff, former students - anyone with an affiliation with the college.

**Date:** July 13

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** Elia’s on the Bay

**Features:**

- Includes a cash bar, as well as the option to order from the restaurant menu.
- Lester Gates will be performing.
- All majors and all years of graduation are invited.

**Contact:**

While not required, those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP to Marla Kinch at 315-323-3725 or through the Facebook page, “MY COLLEGE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE? MATER DEI ALUMNI.”

**STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE**

Attention all high school youth, the Steubenville Youth Conference to be held this summer.

**Date:** July 19 – 21

**Features:**

- The best Catholic speakers, powerful praise and worship, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Celebrate of the Holy Mass, small groups, Adoration and more! All with 2,500 other faithful teens!

**Contact:**

For more information contact Dayna Leader Family Life Associate at diead@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 and visit Family Life Office at www.rcdony.org

**MATER DEI COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

Are you a Catholic High School Senior who currently resides in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and is planning to attend a Catholic College or University in the Fall? The Mater Dei College Foundation is pleased to offer a Scholarship opportunity to qualifying students going on to study liberal arts or sciences at a degree granting Catholic College or University.

**Contact:** To request an application form, please email Valerie Mathews, Mater Dei Foundation Scholarship Chair at vmathews@rcdony.org. Application deadline is June 1, 2019.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

**CLM ASSOCIATION SLFA SPINR EVENT**

Norwood — CLM Association SLFA Spring event to be held.

**Date:** June 1

**Time:** Program 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Mass at 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Andrew’s Parish Hall

**Features:** Marika Donders, Director of the Office of Evangelization will be presenting an afternoon workshop “Discipleship: Three Scripture Stories in Mark”. Free to attend. Snack will be provided.

**Contact:** Early registration is appreciated at https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/clm-event-registration.html or Contact Jeannie Grizuto at 315-393-2920 Ext. 1413 or jgrizuto@rcdony.org.

**TRIP TO SEE YANKES**

The Canton Knights of Columbus is once again sponsoring a trip to New York City to see the NY Yankees play the Toronto Blue Jays.

**Date:** July 12 & 13

**Cost:** $320 per person, double occupancy you will get Luxury Coach transportation, ticket to the two ball games, one night hotel stay at the La Quinta Inn and breakfast on Saturday.

**Features:** As an added bonus the July 12 game is a Mariano Rivera Bobble Head giveaway and the July 13 game is Yankees Camo Hat day.

**Contact:** For more information or to reserve your spot email cantonkofc@gmail.com or call 315-714-2016.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD**

**DOCEAN EVENTS**

Saranac Lake - The Spring Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be held.

**Date:** May 31 – June 2

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** If you or someone you know is hurting after an abortion, consider attending this weekend retreat. You’re not alone. Help is available.

**Contact:** Confidential registration form available at the Respect Life webpage rcdony.org/profile. For more information call or text Colleen Miner 518-524-0774 or email cminer@rcdony.org.

**FFM COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTER'S RETREAT**

Ogdensburg — The FFM Commissioned Lay Minister's Retreat to be held.

**Date:** June 7-9

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Cost:** $10

**Features:** Theme will be "The Coming of the Holy Spirit".

**Contact:** To register for this event, simply go to: https://www.rcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/retreat-registration-wadhams-s-hall.html

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

Saranac Lake — In conjunction with the discernment retreat there will be a Day of Reollection for High School Young Men age 14-17.

**Date:** July 6

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Guggenheim Main lodge

**Features:** Participants may want to bring swim trunks and towel. Parental Consent and Medical forms are required and will be provided when registering.

**Contact:** Father Doug Lucia at rcdony.org or 315-393-2920 or 315-388-4466

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NEW YORK (CNS) – Moviegoers turning to the senior-themed comedy "Poms" (STX) in the hope of being treated to the kind of zingy dialogue and amusing antics that made the NBC sitcom "The Golden Girls" so popular will come away sadly disappointed. Though the filmmakers' good intentions are evident, the outcome is feeble.

After being diagnosed with ovarian cancer and making the decision to forgo chemotherapy, retired teacher Martha (Diane Keaton) relocates to Sun Springs, a Georgia community for over the over-55 set. Though she initially intends to keep to herself while preparing for death, her budding friendship with her extroverted new next-door neighbor, Sheryl (Jacki Weaver), soon has Martha rethinking her pessimistic plans.

As a girl, Martha's burning ambition was to be a cheerleader. Though she eventually qualified, the need to care for her terminally ill mother prevented her from ever taking to the sidelines. Now, the fact that Sun Springs requires every resident to join at least one club, but also allows the formation of new organizations, inspires Martha to revive her dream.

Together with Sheryl, she sets out to recruit a squad of senior citizen shakers. As the duo hold auditions – Rhea Perlman's Alice and Pam Grier's Olive emerge as the resulting team's most prominent members – director Zara Hayes and screenwriter Shane Atkinson find themselves in a dilemma of their own creation.

Even as it boosts the value of friendship and determination, "Poms" is also clearly intended to convey a message about the enduring abilities of the elderly. Yet the exigencies of humor require Hayes and Atkinson to exploit the incongruity of oldsters trying to imitate the litheness and inexhaustible pep of, say, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders.

Perhaps a genius like Charlie Chaplin might have struck a successful balance between the humor and the pathos of Martha's endeavor while upholding the dignity of the ensemble of characters she leads. The folks behind this project are not equal to that delicate and daunting task.

The unevenness of the narrative tone is only aggravated by a fairly realistic treatment of Martha's declining state of health. It's jarring to jump from the distressing sight of her retching into the toilet to the next installment of ostensibly merry mischief.

As Martha and her cohort struggle to overcome their physical limitations and the opposition of Vicki (Celia Weston), the snobby Southern belle who holds pride of place as Sun Springs' power broker, the story arc follows a painfully predictable course while the slack pacing could use a dose of Geritol.

Romance finds a foothold via the ambition of Sheryl's grandson, Ben (Charlie Tahan), to hold hands with Chloe (Alisha Boe), the real cheerleader who becomes the ladies' coach. But the innocence of their bond is undercut by smirking remarks about how the collectors of Social Security by whom they're surrounded still like to get saucy.

The film contains considerable sexual humor, a few uses of profanity, a couple of mild oaths, about a dozen crude terms, a handful of crass expressions and an obscene gesture.

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.
Missionary spirit is going green

Pope Francis has written to us asking us all to protect our common home, the Earth. In his request, the Holy Father calls the encyclical, Laudato Si, where he speaks to the devastating effects of not caring for our planet. The poor are frequently the first to feel the impact of a neglected environment.

Inviting young Catholics to make sacrifices for the Missions through Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is a way to showcase to children everywhere that they can help make Jesus’ world safer and healthier. By calling upon the faithful to uphold the dignity and sacredness of every human, it can showcase the importance that we need to care for all that God has created.

When you discuss the elements of Catholic social teachings, know that we are urged also to protect the environment with Christian discipleship. Due to climate change, some schools of thought predict that a billion people will be uprooted from their homes by 2050. This is viewed as the ultimate refugee crisis. Christian Aid, a London-based humanitarian organization reiterates in their findings that the countries least responsible for global climate change are the most impacted by it.

It is times like this that the importance of MCA and the Pontifical Mission Societies is more than ever going to be on the forefront of assisting those in need. MCA has the unique ability to offer food, clothing, education and medical care to those whose parents cannot afford to do so.

Children tend to be the most vulnerable victims. Since the focus of MCA is children helping children, the time to step up is here. Start with where you live. Walk more. Turn off the water sooner. Replace light bulbs with the more efficient kind. But mostly, continue to offer the prayers and sacrifices to help the children. Our missionary spirit is now going green. By virtue of your baptism, you are born a missionary and now bound to be a more protective of our planet. As Pope Francis says, “interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan.” Let us pray for peace, love and dignity for all. Let us make better decision that impact our Earth. Let us begin to consider all human life. Let us pray for the support of the missions as they go green.

Please remember “The Society for the Propagation of the Faith” when writing or changing your Will.
www.rcdony.org/mission
Hi, my name is Mariah Foltan. I am from Delmar, and my home parish is Saint Thomas the Apostle. In the fall, I will be entering my junior year and will be transferring to Mount Saint Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, MD, where I will be majoring in Theology!

This summer will be my 9th year at Camp Guggenheim, and second year as a part of the staff. I am overjoyed to be returning to the shores of Saranac Lake to spend another summer hiking, swimming, and praising with all of the wonderful campers! It is truly such a blessing to be a part of this staff, and I am excited to be serving as the hands and feet of Christ, sharing HIS love, and celebrating our faith.

Hi, my name is Michael Bobak and I cannot wait to be part of the Guggenheim staff for my fourth year! I am from Grand Island, and I just graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville with my Bachelor’s of Science in Biology.

I love to hike, play guitar, play soccer, and just be outside. I also love praise and worship, and being able to play music for God during the mass. Camp Guggenheim has been an incredible part of my life for a long time, and I cannot wait to share the love of Christ with all the campers.

My name is Maria Inserra and I’m 18 years old. I live in Theresa, and I attend St Cyril’s Catholic Church. I attend Franciscan University of Steubenville where I study education.

This will be my 7th year at camp and my first year on staff. I am so excited for this summer! I love Guggenheim so much and I cannot wait to share the love of Christ with all the campers.

Hi, my name is Adam Branch. I am a sophomore health science major at Siena College. I am from Saint Bernard’s Parish in Saranac Lake, and I can’t wait to be on staff at camp Guggenheim for the second time this summer!

Ever since my first week as a camper at camp Guggenheim, I have wanted to be on the staff. I believe it is the staff’s love and devotion to their ministry that makes Camp Guggenheim such a life changing experience for so many young campers.

This summer, I am excited to help the campers learn and grow in their faith just as I did when I first came to camp.

Hello campers! My name is Grace Leader and I will be entering in my fourth summer working at camp! I can’t believe how fast time goes by and how wonderful each summer has been.

I am originally from Gouverneur, and I have been studying at Franciscan University of Steubenville Ohio for the past four years. I will be graduating this May with my Bachelors in Theology.

After this camp season I will be moving to Baltimore, Maryland where I will be attending graduate school and working towards my Masters in Montessori Education.

I am so excited to meet you all and I am praying for you every day. God Bless you!

Registration is still open for the 2019 Camp Guggenheim season! Visit www.rcdony.org for information and registration. Weekly sessions begin June 30!