VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The Catholic Church gives an authentic witness of God's love for all men and women only when it fosters the grace of unity and communion, Pope Francis said.

Unity is part of "the DNA of the Christian community," the pope said June 12 during his weekly general audience.

The gift of unity, he said, "allows us not to fear diversity, not to attach ourselves to things and gifts," but "to become martyrs, luminous witnesses of God who lives and works in history.

"We, too, need to rediscover the beauty of giving witness to the Risen Lord, going beyond self-referential attitudes, renouncing the desire to stifle God's gifts and not yielding to mediocrity," he said.

Despite the sweltering Roman heat, thousands of people filled St. Peter's Square for the audience, which began with Pope Francis circling the square in the popemobile, occasionally stopping to greet pilgrims and even comfort a crying child.

In his main talk, the pope continued his new series on the Acts of the Apostles, looking specifically at the apostles who, after the Resurrection, "prepare to receive God's power – not passively but by consolidating communion between them."

Before ultimately taking his own life, Judas' separation from Christ and the apostles began with his attachment to money and losing sight of the importance of self-giving "until he allowed the virus of pride to infect his mind and heart, transforming him from a friend into an enemy."

Judas "stopped belonging to the heart to Jesus and placed himself outside of communion with him and his companions. He stopped being a disciple and placed himself above the master," the pope explained.

Nevertheless, unlike Judas who "preferred death to life" and created a "wound in the body of the community," the 11 apostles choose "life and blessing."
“I’m a chip off the old blockhead.”
That’s my response when people note the similarities between me and my father.

In fact, I’m fairly confident most descriptions of me would point first to attributes I inherited or learned from my father.

“Darcy’s really tall.”
That’s from dad.

“Darcy’s really outgoing and talkative.”
Oh yeah. That’s dad.

“Darcy’s quick with a joke and has weird phrases she likes to use often.” Also dad (I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard, “the lucky ones live three days like that,” after I’ve reported some illness or injury to my father).

“Darcy isn’t afraid to give you her opinion, even if you’re not going to like it.” Yup. Dad.

“Darcy has a bit of a stubborn streak, and when she gets mad, watch out!” Dad, dad, dad.

I vividly remember walking into the barn on the dairy farm my father and grandfather ran together and hearing the two of them arguing, yelling at top volume. I always thought they argued because they were so much alike, both being stubborn, outspoken and opinionated.

I don’t think anyone was shocked that my teenage and young adult years were full of loud arguments with my father.

The stubborn, outspoken and opinionated gene had manifested in another generation.

Both my father and I have mellowed a bit as we’ve aged. We argue and yell a lot less, though we still enjoy a good debate and any opportunity to make a joke at the other’s expense.

My father’s been through a lot in the last couple years. Through the grace of God and outstanding medical intervention, he overcame a medical issue that was nearly catastrophic.

Celebrating Father’s Day last weekend, it seemed like a good time to reflect on how blessed I am to have a father who has taught me to grow old, but never grow up; to be serious about my obligations to my family and my work but never take myself too seriously; to strive to use my strong voice in ways that promote goodness, humor and love; and to love family, community, country and God.

Thank you to and for all the fathers, grandfathers, spiritual fathers and father figures.

Reflecting on, praying for our bishops

I have been thinking about bishops this week. I have watched some of the television coverage of the American bishops meeting in Baltimore. I saw a few bishops I recognized, and it was interesting to hear some of the statements made by the bishops. I know there are many challenges bishops of this country are facing today. I pray for them. I do believe that they are doing their best.

In addition, like all of you, I was excited by the news that our Father Douglas Lucia has been chosen to be a bishop, the bishop of Syracuse. This is a “big deal” for us here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. One of our priests has been chosen to be ordained a bishop.

Our diocese has been noticed again. It has been ten years since Bishop Terry LaValley, a priest of our diocese, was chosen to be a bishop – bishop of our diocese. And now another priest of our diocese becomes a bishop. I believe this is something we all can be very proud of.

Prior to Bishop LaValley, it had been many years since a priest of our Ogdensburg Diocese was chosen to be a bishop – since Bishop Conway was made a Bishop in the 1920s.

I do want to take this opportunity to congratulate Father Lucia. I am certain that he will do well as a bishop. I realize it will be quite a challenge for him. I promise him my prayers and encourage you all to pray for him also.

I have told my priest friends in Syracuse how fortunate they are to have him come as their next bishop.

As a priest of this diocese I have had the experience of “working” under several bishops. I have found that, over the years, those chosen to be our bishops have been dedicated to bringing God’s love and spirit to our parishes. I have been truly impressed by those bishops who have come to our diocese from different places, like Buffalo or Brooklyn. They have become close to us all – priests and people – and did so many good things here.

I know the bishop I remember best is Bishop Brzana. He was our bishop for 25 years. Bishop Brzana came to us from Buffalo. Personally, I remember the very day he was installed as our bishop. I was assigned to the Cathedral Parish and St. Mary’s High School. The morning of the installation, I had organized a group of high school students to help me rake and clean up around the school grounds.

As we were walking, along came Bishop Brzana with a priest friend on an early morning walk. They stopped to chat with me and the students.

As a bit of an aside, over the years, the only bishop I was bold enough to argue with was Bishop Brzana, probably because he was here for such an extended time. I guess I was a bit more comfortable with him.

I do want to thank God. Our diocese has been blessed with the very dedicated and caring bishops. I know most of them have been very happy to be here with us, even those who were here for only a short time. I think some of them wished they could have stayed with us longer. I am certain they realized how great we are to be with – priests and people.

In these recent years, the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been blessed with Bishop LaValley. He knows us well, especially being a priest of this diocese. He has become a friend to all – priests and people. So, I take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to Bishop LaValley. I thank you, Bishop LaValley. You have been so caring and dedicated to my diocese.

EDITOR’S NOTE

I get that from my father
Bishop-elect Lucia to be installed Aug. 8

SYRACUSE—Pope Francis has appointed a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to be the new bishop for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse. Bishop-elect Douglas J. Lucia, 56, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid and St. Mary’s Church in Watertown, diocesan judicial vicar and episcopal vicar for canonical affairs, as well as director of vocations and seminarians, will become the 11th bishop of Syracuse, succeeding Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, who has served the diocese since May 26, 2009.

Bishop-elect Lucia will be ordained and installed at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception located in downtown Syracuse on Aug. 8.

Bishop Cunningham submitted his resignation for the purpose of retirement to the Holy Father upon his 75th birthday on June 18, 2018, as is required by canon law. He will continue to serve as the Apostolic Administrator until Bishop-elect Lucia’s ordination and installation.

Bishop-elect Lucia was born on March 17, 1963, the son of Leward and Betty (Pepin) Lucia in Plattsburgh. He and his twin brother and their sister and younger brother grew up in Altona. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Wadham’s Hall Seminary College in Ogdensburg in May 1985 and a Masters in Divinity from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora in May 1989. He was ordained to the Ministerial Priesthood at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg on May 20, 1989, by Most Reverend Stanislaus J. Brzana, DD, STD, bishop of Ogdensburg.

In his first assignment, Bishop-elect Lucia served as parochial vicar at St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown. In 1990, he was sent to the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, Ontario, Canada for two years of service where he was parochial vicar at St. Columban’s Church in Cornwall. Upon returning to the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the bishop-elect became the parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh for three years. He was then assigned as a parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg. He became the associate secretary of the Matrimonial Tribunal in 1996.

From 1997 to 1999, the bishop-elect was assigned to study canon law at the Pontifical University at St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. During the summer of 1998, he served as a parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Watertown and worked part time for the Diocesan Tribunal Office.

Upon the completion of his studies in June 1999, Bishop-elect Lucia was named adjunct judicial vicar and vice chancellor. He also served as administrator at St. Raphael’s in Heuvelton and as a part-time chaplain at the Governor Correctional Facility. In 2000, he was appointed secretary to the bishop and in 2003 was named diocesan director of vocations.

From September 2003 to March 2004, the bishop-elect served as administrator of St. Mary’s Church in Canton. In September 2004, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, then Bishop of Ogdensburg, appointed him as chancellor and episcopal vicar for Diocesan Services. In 2005, he was given additional responsibilities as diocesan director of seminarians.

In June 2006, while retaining his diocesan responsibilities, Bishop-elect Lucia was appointed pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Morrisstown and St. Peter’s Church in Hammond with its mission of St. Patrick’s Church in Rossie. He was also appointed diocesan director of the Office of Worship.

In August 2008, the bishop-elect was appointed pastor of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary’s in Canton where he served until June 2017. During this time period, he served as the episcopal vicar for worship as well as the adjutant judicial vicar. In 2017, Bishop-elect Lucia was appointed pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Watertown and St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid and the judicial vicar of the diocese. He continued in his role of diocesan vocation director and director of seminarians.

On June 4, Pope Francis appointed him to be the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse. As bishop of Syracuse, Bishop-elect Lucia will be the shepherd of over 220,000 Catholics who reside in seven counties of the diocese covering 5,479 square miles.

Celebrate with Bishop-elect Lucia

**Farewell Mass & Reception:**
St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg – July 27 – 4 p.m. Vigil Mass
- Open to the Public
- Followed by Reception

**Ordination Eve Evening Prayer:**
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse – August 7 – 7 p.m.
- Open to the Public
- Meet and greet after service

**Mass of Ordination and Installation of the Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia as the eleventh Bishop of Syracuse:**
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse – August 8 – 2 p.m. Consecrator: His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan; Co-consecrators:
- Most Rev. Robert Cunningham and Most Rev. Terry LaValley.
- Due to capacity and related safety concerns, this event is by invitation only. No one without an invitation will be allowed to enter the Cathedral.
- The Diocese of Syracuse will livestream the Mass.

**Mass of Thanksgiving:**
Church of the Holy Angels, Altona – Sept. 1 – 10 a.m.
- Open to the Public
- Reception to follow

St. Mary’s Church, Clayton Annual Summer Gala & Raffle
To benefit St. Mary’s Church

(One need not be present to win)
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A conversation with Bishop-elect Lucia

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

OGDENSBURG— The North Country Catholic sat down with Bishop-elect Douglas J. Lucia to discuss his reaction to the appointment, leaving the North Country and shepherding the Diocese of Syracuse. The following is a transcript of that conversation.

You've had a bit of time to process the appointment. How do you feel? I'm excited in the sense that it's something I wouldn't've ever thought of doing, but I like a challenge. This is going to cause me to stretch and grow, and that's a good thing. On the other hand, it's intimidating in the sense that I go from basically being pastor of local churches to being pastor of a diocese. I kind of ask myself, "how am I going to do this?" I keep saying, "I'm going to do it like I try to do in the parishes I've served—by getting to know people and by consulting. One of the themes I've been sharing is that I just want to accompany them. I want to be there for folks and accompany them on their journey with the Lord. That's how I've lived as a parish priest, and that's how I intend to live as bishop.

What was your initial reaction to the announcement? Total shock. I was not expecting it. The morning I got the call, Memorial Day, I did not have my cell phone with me. I went back to the rectory after spending my morning at both cemeteries, and I saw I had two calls from Washington within 15-20 minutes, but no message. I thought, "who's trying to get ahold of me?" First, I thought maybe it was one of my cousins—I have family in Washington. Then I checked to see if it was a scam. Nothing suggested it was a scam. I knew the day before, Bishop (Terry R. LaValley) had received a call from Washington. I was with him when the call came in. I sent a text to him, saying "I received two calls from Washington this morning. Any idea what this is about?" The message I got back was in bold letters: "Make the call now." I responded back, "But there wasn't a message." (Bishop LaValley) said "tell them you have caller ID." I called. The Nuncio, asked if I was alone and said, "I have something to talk to you about, something to tell you." He told me I had been named bishop of Syracuse. I was stunned. I think he knew I was stunned. He said, "you do know Syracuse." I told him I was. He said, "do you accept?" I said, "I do, archbishop." It went from there. I was totally shocked. I remember sitting in rectory completely stunned.

You're from here. How do you feel about leaving the North Country? I love the North Country, but there's the excitement of getting to know another part of the state. There's excitement and newness. But after 30 years of ministry in this diocese, I never really thought of serving any other pace. This is a change for me. I'll miss the people more than anything, but I'll greatly miss the St. Lawrence River. I've lived on that river for many years.

How has your experience in the North Country prepared you for this next step? First, Central New York is like Northern New York, as far as it's a lot of small towns with a few bigger cities. I'm used to rural. I'm used to driving to get places. Having to traverse our diocese has been helpful. Second, dealing with parish mergers has given me an insight into what goes on in that process and how communities react. I think that will help me, since that will be one of my challenges in Syracuse. Third, my work in vocations will help me in vocations in Syracuse, as well. Finally, I think of the pastoral experience the people in the North Country have given me. The people of the north country have made me the man and the priest that I am. I bring that with me to Syracuse.

What will be your motto and why? "In the name of Jesus." During the week I couldn't say anything about this announcement, when I had time to be by myself, those words kept coming to me. They're from Acts 3:16, the encounter of Peter and John with the paralyzed in the temple during the afternoon hour of prayer. Peter meets him along the way. The man is stuck. Peter looks at him, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus, walk." That encounter gives that man new life. That's the model of what I want ministry to be.

What will be your initial priorities as bishop? Get to know the diocese of Syracuse. I would like very much over course of next three years or so—it's going to take me that long—to spend a weekend in each of the parish clusters-communities in the diocese, just so I can get to know people and see parish life in Syracuse. It'll also help me know the needs better. Based on my first impressions, they're very welcoming in Syracuse. There's an excitement right now. As I have said to the people of Syracuse, I come to serve. That's really what I want to do.
Seton Catholic names top graduates of 2019

PLATTSBURGH - Sofia DeJordy and Abigail Boulé are top graduates in the Seton Catholic School Class of 2019.

VALEDICTORIAN
Sofia DeJordy, the daughter of Sophie and John DeJordy, is class valedictorian with a Grade Point Average of 98.16.
In addition to her studies, Miss DeJordy has participated on the varsity cross country, indoor track & field and outdoor track & field teams. She has been appointed to the Seton Catholic chapter of National Honor Society as well as the Student Leadership Team. Fellow students elected Miss DeJordy as secretary of the Student Council. During the summer, Miss DeJordy shadows at Dr. Cristina Trutia's psychiatry practice and works as a temporary office secretary there.
Miss DeJordy's achievements and accomplishments include the Gary Ryan Sportsmanship Award; 2018 NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award (cross country); John J. Herbert Memorial All-Academic Award; National Junior Honor Society President; National Honor Society President; captain of the cross country, indoor track & field and outdoor track & field teams; CVAC Cross Country All-Star; All-State Cross Country Team - Honorable Mention; nominated and attended the 2018 National Congress of Future Scientists and Technologists as a delegate.
This fall, Miss DeJordy will attend Queens University, where she plans to major in psychology and minor in life sciences with the intention to pursue a career in psychiatry.

SALUTATORIAN
Abigail Boulé, the daughter of Michael and Christine Boulé, is class salutatorian with a Grade Point Average of 97.91.
For extracurricular activities, Miss Boulé has participated on the varsity soccer, hockey, tennis and track & field teams. She has also played for Plattsburgh Football Club and been a member of Key Club. Miss Boulé's fellow students elected her to Student Council. Through appointment, she has been a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Leadership Team.
Miss Boulé's achievements and awards include Clarkson Leadership Award; Hobey Baker High School Character Award; Student Leadership Team member; National Honor Society secretary; varsity soccer team captain; varsity hockey team captain; captain of the 2019 Section VII Girls Hockey Championship Team; Northern Soccer League Division II First Team All-Star; CVAC Girls Hockey First Team All-Star.
This fall, Miss Boulé will attend Siena College, where she plans to major in biology.

Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the North Country Catholic, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
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God bless you abundantly as you celebrate 60 years of Priesthood.
From your friends at St. Mary's School and Church in Ticonderoga.
Mouiakel, Duah lead IHC Class of 2019

WATERTOWN – The academic leaders for Immaculate Heart Central School Class of 2019 are Marialena Mouiakel, valedictorian, and Dominic Duah, salutatorian.

VALEDICTORIAN

Marialena Mouiakel, daughter of Dr. Marlene and Mr. Cyril Mouiakel, has an academic average of 98.440.

Miss Mouiakel has completed several Advanced Placement courses and has been the recipient of several prestigious awards including Miss Thousand Islands Outstanding Teen 2017, 2nd Place New York State Mathematics League Certificates of Merit, NYSSMA Zone 5 Area All-State Chorus (Alto), $1,500 New York State Scholarship for Excellence Award, International Catholic Citizenship Essay Champion in 2017, and Sisters of St. Joseph Department Awards for the English Department as well as the Foreign Language Department.

She has participated in Senior High Bi-County Chorus as well as New York State School Music Association festivals. She plays the piano, guitar, and ukulele. In addition to her participation with the Performing Arts Club she is a member of Stage Notes and has danced for Watertown’s In Motion School of Dance for 14 years.

Miss Mouiakel is a member of The Society of Torch & Laurel, National Honor Society, and The Northern New York Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council Chair. She is the Student-body President, Student Council Vice President as well as the Performing Arts Club Vice President for the 2017-2018 school year, Founder and Editor in Chief of the School Newspaper.

She will attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she will double major in Cinema and Media Studies and Economics.

SALUTATORIAN

Dominic Duah, son of Dr. Eric and Dr. Marylene Duah, has an academic average of 97.875. He has completed several advanced placement courses and among rewards received are the Sisters of St. Joseph Mathematics Department award, New York State Scholarship for Excellence Award, Air Force Recruiting Service Scholar/Athlete Award, and 1st Place New York State Mathematics League Certificate of Merit.

He recently received the NYSPHSSA Section III Scholar-Athlete Award for soccer, basketball, and lacrosse. He also served as a captain for the varsity soccer team. He was a Frontier League All Star and was selected to the 2018 All North soccer team.

Mr. Duah served on The Northern New York Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Council, Immaculate Heart Central School’s Mystery Players, and served as Student-Body Representative. He is a member of National Honor Society, the Performing Arts Club, Science Club, Faith Community Service, and was a member of the patriotism committee and Vice President of the News Paper Club.

He will attend the University of Pennsylvania, where he will major in Mathematics.
Environmental Stewardship

Climate change: A moral issue?

There are many people in the North Country who view global warming as a welcome occurrence, as it seems to imply lower heating costs and more favorable temperatures for being outside. However, a thermally stimulated atmosphere is producing more than just periodic bouts of warmer temperatures. Major disruptions to global weather patterns and more intense storm systems are also a consequence of climate change. As Christians, we should believe in, and try to practice, the principle that the welfare of our neighbors is more important than satisfying our personal needs and pleasures.

In our country alone, every year there is a growing number of people who are either temporarily or permanently displaced from their homes because of flooding and wildfires. The same is true around the world as unprecedented floods, droughts, and wildfires are forcing people to abandon their ways of life and seek refuge far from their homelands.

While warmer than normal temperatures may seem better for crop production, farmers all over the world during these past few decades have been experiencing increasingly more adverse growing conditions. While widespread famine has not yet occurred in our nation, there is no reason to believe that it cannot ever happen in this modern era. Too much heat, a record drought, or flooding during planting or harvest season can all turn a potentially bountiful harvest into a season with total crop failure.

The United Nations, along with our own nation’s intelligence agencies, has reported that social upheaval in many regions of the world can be traced directly or indirectly to climate change. It is becoming more apparent that the effort to reduce our carbon footprint is not just a political issue but a moral one. As a pro-life community, we must take measures now to limit the harm we are inflicting on the atmosphere. Our current way of life is seriously hurting tens of millions of people, and we can do something about it.

Rest in Peace

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

- June 20 – Rev. James O’Hara, 1949
- June 23 – Rev. Edward Chevalier, O.M.I., 1894; Rev. Donor Morissette, O.M.I., 1976
- June 25 – Rev. J. Rodrigo Lauzon, 1944
- June 27 – Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928

Bishop’s Public Schedule

- June 19 – 10:30 a.m. – Diocesan Finance Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop’s Residence
- 6 p.m. – Our Lady’s Outreach Ministry Dinner at Wadhams Hall
- June 20 – 9:45 a.m. – Episcopal Council Meeting at Bishop’s residence followed by lunch
- June 21 – 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
- June 22 – 1 p.m. – Graduation Ceremony for Seton Catholic seniors at SUNY Plattsburgh
- June 23 – 1:30 p.m. – Mass followed by Eucharistic Procession at St. Mary’s Church in Canton
- June 26 – Noon – Teacher of the Year Luncheon to honor Shannon Margrey from Augustinian Academy in Carthage at Bishop’s Residence
- June 27 – 5:30 p.m. – Diocesan Review Board Meeting at Bishop’s Residence with dinner to follow
- June 30 – 3 p.m. – Lay Ministry Commissioning at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- July 2 – 4:30 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Gugenheim in Saranac Lake

Protecting God’s Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God’s Children for Adults.

Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org.

Upcoming sessions:
- June 25 – 10 a.m., Camp Gugenheim, Saranac Lake

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.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
- Join the conversation!

IHC offers Virtual High School option

WATERTOWN – Immaculate Heart Central School partnered with Virtual High School (VHS) to offer selected 6-12 grade students the opportunity to expand their educational experience and participate in an asynchronous online course that is not offered at IHC for the 2019-20 school year.

Students who enroll in a VHS course will be taught by a certified teacher in the subject area. Students will be able to complete Advanced Placement, honors, credit recovery, middle school, and summer school courses at anytime and anywhere.

VHS offers challenging classes for students across ability levels and students are monitored by a Site Coordinator, a certified IHC faculty member.

Middle school students also have access to high quality and challenging classes, such as sign language, computer programming, foreign languages, video game design, screenwriting and much more.

An IHC rising senior recently enrolled in the one-semester Honors Animal Behavior and Zoology class, and more students have inquired about registering for courses.

All students who are interested in taking a VHS course must complete an application. Applications must be reviewed by the Principal and the VHS Site Coordinator. Students who demonstrate good time-management skills and have a history of completing assignments successfully and on time will be eligible to take an online course.

Students who have schedule conflicts will also benefit greatly from what VHS has to offer.

The Virtual High School and/or its programs/courses are accredited by The Middle States Association, Advanced, and the NCAA. Flex and summer courses are not NCAA approved.

Send Off for Fr. Joe

Before Fr. Joe leaves Malone on June 26th to begin his new assignment at St. Paul University in Ottawa, come out to thank him for his priestly ministry at St. André’s Parish, and to wish him well in the future.

Sunday, June 23rd
in the Social Hall at St. John Bosco following the 11:00 am Mass and Corpus Christi Procession.

We will begin our Farewell to Fr. Joe with…. **On June 22nd walking from St. Helen’s to St. John Bosco; **On June 23rd - 11:00 am Mass at Notre Dame Church; and **Reception at St. John Bosco Social Hall following the 11am Mass.
Three weeks & $3,000: The birth of youth camp

By Darcy Fargo

SARANAC LAKE – Though Edmond Guggenheim gave use of part of his property on the Lower Saranac Lake to the diocese in 1963, it wasn’t until a flurry of happenings in 1972 that a youth camp could be opened there.

“Edmond Guggenheim had donated the property and the main dorm building was there,” said Father Arthur J. LaBaff, who was instrumental in the camp’s founding. “He was still using the lodge. He only allowed seminarians and religious women to use the property. I wanted to use the center – then it was called Casa de Loa – for youth ministry. I wrote to Mr. Guggenheim’s secretary. The response was, ‘Mr. Guggenheim doesn’t want young people.’”

The facility was used to train seminarians to speak Spanish for mission work in Mollendo, Peru.

Then, in March 1972, Guggenheim died at age 84, leaving the camp property to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

“Bishop (Stanislaus J. Brzana) said, ‘you can open a summer camping program,’” Father LaBaff remembered. “I had three weeks to organize it and $3,000.”

Father LaBaff said he wrote to the priests of the diocese to announce the camp’s creation and to seek their support in promoting the camp.

“It was wonderful how the priests responded,” Father LaBaff said. “We had 60 campers – for the first week of camp and every week after.”

The camp opened with a staff comprised of Dan Benware, Mark Bennett, Tom Killian, Mary Lou Dupré (now Killian), Tom Schnedeger, three former religious sisters, a waterfront director and a camp physician, Dr. John Murphy.

“We had the waterfront and the dorms, and we took the kids up Mount Baker, we walked to the fish hatchery, we showed films we checked out at the library at night, and we started the volleyball court,” said Father LaBaff. “We did four weeks of camp, six days of camp each week. We’d get done Saturday at noon, and we’d immediately start washing the floors, cleaning the bathrooms and cleaning the kitchen. The staff had to do it all, and it had to be done in a hurry.”

The reaction to the first year of camp was positive, Father LaBaff said.

“We wanted to give young people a good experience of church and liturgy,” Father LaBaff said. “Even if they got into high school and college and wandered away, we wanted them to remember these good experiences and come home. And many did.”

Father LaBaff noted many of the youth participants were invigorated in their faith by their camp experience and returned to their home parishes to start youth programs and youth groups.

The efforts to involve campers in liturgy was bolstered by Father Peter Butler, who, working with Father LaBaff, created the camp’s initial liturgy workshop series.

“We wrote different workshops for each day of the program,” Father LaBaff said. “The youth fully participated in the liturgy. They did the readings, they sang. The waterfront was always wonderful, but liturgy has always been the center of everything at camp.”

While the camp has operated under a number of different directors and staff over the year, Father LaBaff said it’s always made a difference.

“Camp has been a great source of vocations – to priesthood, religious life and family life,” he said. “A lot of people in this diocese who are active in ministries, active in their parishes attended camp. When I first arrived here in Clayton, I was approached by a parishioner, Donna Orvis. She said to me, I was at the first week of Guggenheim. Now, she’s a trustee of the parish and a commissioned lay minister. There are stories like that all around the diocese.”

Camp Guggenheim will continue to impact lives when it begins this year’s youth camp sessions, starting June 30. For registration or more information, go to rcdony.org.

An early Camp Guggenheim staff poses for a staff photo. Pictured are (front row, from left) Mary Dicks, 1977 camp director, Dick Demers, Karin McDermott, Mary Lou DuPre Kilian, (middle) Father Tom Moody, Jayne Honer, Gwen Cote, Tom Kilian, (back) Tom Pominville, Father Pat Ratigan, Sue (last name unknown), Paula Martin and Dave Wisniewski.

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Registration is still open for the 2019 Camp Guggenheim season! Visit www.rcdony.org for information and registration.
Weekly sessions begin June 30!
Bishops' meeting: actions called a 'work in progress'

Baltimore (CNS) — The gathering of U.S. bishops June 11-13 in Baltimore was anything but business as usual.

“The spring meetings are usually more pastoral, and the November meeting has a heavier agenda,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, who said this meeting had a “sense of urgency” and momentum to it, both in the smaller group gatherings and when the bishops were all together.

“We were here for specific task ... and by God’s grace we will move forward,” he said during a June 12 news conference.

The bishops typically meet twice a year as a body. The spring meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is usually in June at different locations each year, and sometimes it is a retreat. The fall meeting in recent years has always been in Baltimore. This year’s spring meeting was switched somewhat last minute to the Baltimore location where the bishops were not the only ones in the hotel space but were adjacent to other conference gatherings.

The other time a spring bishops’ meeting was almost entirely devoted to the church crisis was the 2002 meeting in Dallas, just months after the church was reeling from a clergy sexual abuse crisis that made headlines in The Boston Globe.

But where that meeting focused on misconduct by priests, this year’s meeting looked at responding to the misconduct of some bishops and the failure of some bishops to properly address abuse.

Since their two general assemblies last year, the bishops have been confronted with an overwhelming need to prove to U.S. Catholics that abuse within their own ranks won’t be tolerated. They were hit with allegations last summer that one of their own, former Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, had committed abuses over decades. Then just a week before the spring meeting, details emerged from the Vatican-ordered investigation of retired Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, highlighting financial and sexual improprieties.

Names of both bishops came up during the assembly at different points, when the bishops spoke about protocols to put in place to make sure these incidents wouldn’t happen again.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, opened the meeting June 11 by saying: “We begin the sacred work this week of purging the evil of sexual abuse from our church.”

But just the week before, he had faced his own accusation, which he strongly denied, of having mishandled an accusation of sexual misconduct case against his former vicar general.

The bishops also had the weight of unfinished business upon them in this spring’s gathering: policies and procedures in response to the abuse crisis that they had put aside at last year’s fall general assembly at the Vatican’s request. They also had a new, but related, item: their plan to implement Pope Francis’ norms issued May 9 to help the church safeguard its members from abuse and hold its leaders accountable.

Although the bishops passed all the abuse measures before them, none of them said these actions would hit the reset button for the church. In closing remarks, Cardinal DiNardo acknowledged that the steps they had taken were a “work in progress.”

They voted to implement the norms contained in the pope’s “motu proprio” on responding to sexual abuse in the church and they also approved all of their own measures including a promise to hold themselves accountable to the commitments of their “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” including a zero-tolerance policy for abuse.

“We, the bishops of the U.S., have heard the anger expressed by so many within and outside the church over these failures,” that document said, adding: “The anger is justified; it has humbled us, prompting us into self-examination, repentance and a desire to do better, much better. We will continue to listen.”

In other votes, the bishops approved actions they can take when a retired bishop resigns or is removed due to sexual misconduct with adults or grave negligence of office, or where subsequent to his resignation he was found to have so acted or failed to act.” They also approved the implementation of an independent third-party system that would allow people to make confidential reports of abuse complaints against bishops through a toll-free number and online.
Protecting seal of confession called essential

SALEM, Ore. (CNS) — When Ethan K. Alano walks into the reconciliation room at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Salem, he bares his soul before God and goes into detail about his sins during confession. Alano’s trust in the priest is solid.

He is certain that anything he says in the confessional is confidential, allowing him to air his sins in complete specificity so that he may receive a just penance, reaffirming his relationship with the Lord.

That penitential confidence is a centuries-old rite in Catholicism and protecting it from governmental intrusion goes beyond tradition, religious freedom and church law, said Auxiliary Bishop Peter L. Smith of Portland, who also is a canon lawyer.

It disenfranchises the sacrament if the faithful believe there is the slightest possibility that civil authorities could compel a priest to reveal what they have shared in the confessional, Bishop Smith told Catholic News Service in a May interview.

In the confessional, "people encounter the mercy of God," he said. "They encounter God's forgiveness of them, but they also encounter the Lord helping them to live their lives more fully as he calls them to. So, that's what we should experience in the sacrament of reconciliation."

It's the humanitarian benefit for the individual and society that has motivated the church in making the priest-penitent privilege absolute.

So much so that the Code of Canon Law states the penalty for a priest who violates the seal of confession is automatic excommunication, which can only be lifted by the pope himself.

The punishment is that severe because penitents must be able to confess their sins in specificity in order to be reconciled with God and trust that the priest will honor confidentiality of the confessional, said Father Thomas V. Berg, professor of moral theology at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers, New York.

The sanctity of the seal of the confession frequently prompts priests to assert that it’s an easy choice to make when deciding if they will obey a civil law that would compel them to reveal information heard in the confessional or face church penalty and eternal damnation.

"I would never, ever allow them to force me to tell them anything I heard in the confessional," said Father Lawrence C. Goode, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in East Palo Alto, California. "Certainly, I'd be willing to go to jail over it."

Elected officials in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Chile have in recent years proposed laws that would compel priests to violate the seal of confession to report cases of child sexual abuse disclosed in the confessional.

While priests, bishops and Catholic leaders are especially sensitive to the need to bring those who sexually abuse children to justice — given the scandals that have dogged the church in recent years, they object to any violation of the priest-penitent privilege in the confessional.

From a canonical viewpoint, the priest serves as a liaison between the penitent and God in the confessional and any information he hears doesn’t belong to him and therefore is not his to reveal, said Dominican Father Pius Pietrzyk, a canon and civil lawyer who teaches at St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California.

Historically, the church has affirmed the inviolability of the seal frequently, from the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 through the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

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"Clearly, the ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation is part of the mission entrusted by Christ to the apostles," said Father Ronald T. Kunkel, theology professor at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Illinois, near Chicago. "So, reconciliation began as a process where those who had been baptized, but had fallen into serious sin after baptism, could be reintegrated into the community and receive the Eucharist.

In the early centuries of the church, reconciliation was a public process, Father Kunkel told CNS in an April interview.

"People were in what was called the Order of Penitents, very much comparable to the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), so they were publicly identifiable as persons who were undergoing this period of penance in order to be fully reunited with the community," he said.

"And, they were only allowed to go through that process once in their lifetime."

In the sixth century, when monks from Ireland began to travel throughout continental Europe, they brought with them their penitential practices of the church, which included individual, repeatable confession.

That model became popular and after some resistance it was accepted throughout the church, Father Kunkel said.

It allowed confession to be private, confidential and frequent, he said.

Elected officials who craft legislation frequently don’t understand the true nature of confession and see it as a get-out-of-jail-free card for penitents, Bishop Smith said.

However, if the priest is acting within the true spirit of the sacrament, he helps guide the penitent to making restitution if the sin has wronged someone else and he can withhold absolution if he doesn’t believe they are truly sorry for their offense, he said.

"One of the most important things and probably overlooked about confession is that it’s a human need," Father Berg said. "For centuries it has been the trust and the certainty of the laity that is the one place they could relieve conscience of anything."

Weekly confession for Elizabeth E. Santamaria of Palo Alto, California, has provided her with the serenity and stability she says she needs as she and her husband prepare for the birth of their first child later this year.

"Because I go to confession about once a week, I'm routinely examining my conscience in preparation and the counsel I receive from the priest as he gives me my penance is invaluable," Santamaria said in a May interview with CNS. "Not only does it unburden me of my sins, I believe it makes me a better person and a better citizen of the world."

Confession shouldn’t be confused with psychotherapy, said Father Timothy J. Mockaitis, pastor of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Salem, Oregon.

"It’s not a place for long-term counseling," Father Mockaitis told CNS. "But, the priest will offer spiritual counsel."

That spiritual guidance is what Madison Richter-Egger of Omaha, Nebraska, has come to depend on in her regular confessions, to keep her emotionally and morally grounded.

"When I’m the most honest and raw with what’s happened in my life in the past month – or however long it’s been since my last confession – is when it’s most fruitful for me," Richter-Egger said. "I don’t know where I’d be without it. It’s really important to me."
DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS
Houseville — Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of July to be held.

Date: July 7
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: 315-348-6260 for more information.

ST. LAWRENCE
BREAKFAST BUFFET
Norwood — St. Andrew's Church to have an Independence Day Breakfast Buffet.

Date: July 4
Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Cost: Adults, $7; Child 6-12, $5; and under, Free
Features: Get your tickets for our 50/50 Raffle

TRIP TO SEE YANKS
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 and 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.

BLESSED IS SHE
Norwood — Women's group "Blessed is She" to offer workshop.

Date: July 13
Time: 5 p.m.
Place: St. Andrew's Church hall
Topic: "Just Show Up: You Need Others and They Need You"
Features: There is no cost to attend. Dinner will be served, please feel free to bring a dish if you wish.
Contact: RSVP to Sara by July 10 by calling or texting 315-212-7565 or email narrow56@gmail.com

DOVS LUNCHEON
Norfolk — DOVS (Diocese of Ogdensburg-Vocation Society) Luncheon to be held.

Date: July 17
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center
Features: Darcy Fargo, editor of the North Country Catholic, will be talking about Understanding Autism and Creating Welcoming Faith Communities. Open to the public and free of charge.
Contact: Please register by calling Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Mary Enslow at 315-268-1016.

WEAVING: COSMOS, EARTH & SOUL
Ogdensburg — A two-day retreat to be held.

Date: Aug. 2-3
Place: Wadhams Hall
Features: Celtic spirituality nurtures a sense of the closeness of the natural and the spiritual. In a series of talks and rituals, participants will be invited to deepen their understanding of our physical and spiritual connections to the universe and the Earth. Presenters are Aileen O'Donoghue, St. Lawrence University professor of physics, author & contributor to the monthly magazine, Living Faith and DeLores Hall, Retreat Director, Ottawa, Ontario.
Cost: Suggested offering is $120.
Contact: For more information or to register, contact 315-212-6592 or sbethssj@gmail.com, or 315-212-0954 or mamoriell@twcnyr.com

177 PROJECT
Canton — An Evening of Adoration and Music to be held.

Date: Sept. 17
Time: 7 p.m. to 9
Place: St. Mary's Church
Features: Come join us as we adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with worship music provided by Catholic musician, Lee Roessler. This event is free and open to all.
Contact: Amanda at 315-386-2543 or conklin@canon.edu for more information. For additional information visit www.177project.com

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DIOSCEAN EVENTS
2019-2021 FORMATION FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM
The 2019-2021 Formation for Ministry Program begins September 2019. Information sessions to be held.
Schedule: June 20 at St.
Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11
Bartholomew's Church, Old Forge at 6:30 p.m.
Features: If you feel a desire to give more to your parish, we urge you to speak with your pastor about becoming a commissioned lay minister.
Contact: For more information about the program, please contact Cathy Russell at crussell@rcdony.org

SUMMER DISCERNMENT WEEKEND FOR MEN
Saranac Lake — Summer Discernment weekend is for men to be held.
Date: July 5 at 5 p.m. to July 7 at noon
Place: Guggenheim Main Lodge
Features: Participants should bring sleeping bag (or bed), towels, toiletries, casual clothes, swim trunks, & sweatshirt. Overnight retreatants must be age 18 and over.
Contact: Father Doug Lucia at dlu­cia@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

DAY OF RECOLLECTION
Saranac Lake — In conjunction with the discernment retreat there will be a Day of Recollection 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 dlu­cia@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 Maria Kinch at 315-323-2572 or through the Facebook page, "MY COLLEGE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE? MATER DEI ALUMNI."

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PILGRIMAGE
Isle LaMotte, VT - Knights of Columbus, families and friends from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in the 71st annual pilgrimage to St. Anne’s Shrine.
Date: July 21
Schedule: The pilgrimage begins with the celebration of a 12:15 p.m. Mass by Bishop Terry R. LaValley, following Mass, Bishop LaValley will join the pilgrims for a picnic lunch on the shrine’s beautiful grounds. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at 3 p.m.
Features: All pilgrims are invited to the picnic lunch and if practical asked to bring a dish to share. The Knights of Columbus will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages. LUNCH is also available in the shrine’s cafeteria.
Contact: For more information please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

STEBENVILLE 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 dleader@rcdony.org 315-323-0827 and visit Family Life Office at www.rc­dony.org.

MARRIAGE BUILDING WORKSHOP
Norfolk — Marriage building workshop to be held.
Date: July 27
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center
Features: All those interested in building/maintaining strong Catholic marriages. The theme will be: Loving Authentically: Creating Thriving Relationship in Trying Times. The speaker will be Dr. Maura Fehlner.
Contact: For more information registration contact Stephen Tartaglia, Family Life Director at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1420 or visit rcdony.org/relationships.

ALTAR SERVER GATHERING
Ogdensburg – Altar Serving Gathering to be held.
Date: Aug. 16
Schedule: 10 a.m. Registration and Catholic Tours; 11 a.m. Presentations; 12 p.m. Mass with Bishop LaValley at Cathedral; 1 p.m. Picnic and tour of Bishop’s House.
Contact: Register by contacting Shanye Lippincott at slippincott@rc­dony.org or by calling 315-782-3620 by Aug. 9

FAMILY GUGGENHEIM
Saranac Lake — Registration is open for Family Guggenheim 2019.
Date: Session 1: Aug. 15-18; Session 2: Aug. 22 — 25; Session 3: Oct. 11-13
Features: Pray and play with other faithful families; enjoy the beautiful mountains and lake, beach time, engaging workshops, and liturgies. Families of all sizes and ages are welcome!
Contact: For information contact Beacon Henry and Dayna Leader, Family Guggenheim Directors dleader@rc­dony.org 315-323-0827 visit https://www.rc­dony.org/family-life/family-guggenheim.html
Celebrating the gift of the Eucharist

Today, we celebrate the greatest gift Jesus left to us—the precious treasure of His Divine Presence. He left us His own Body and Blood as daily nourishment for our souls, love to warm our hearts, courage to share our daily crosses. When He solemnly commanded us to “Do this in remembrance of me,” He gave us the food to nourish both ourselves and the world around us.

The first reading tells us about a very successful rescue mission. Abraham, who is neither a military man nor a king, with only a couple of hundred men, bravely rescues his nephew, Lot, who has been taken prisoner by a conspiracy of foreign kings. Another king, Melchisedek of Salem, is so grateful for this action that he invites Abraham to a royal banquet, offering him bread and wine, and a special blessing. Melchisedek, incidentally, is also a priest. Abraham, in turn, shows his gratitude by making a covenant with this priest, offering him a tenth (a tithe) of all his property. We can easily see why no one ever forgot this holy meal.

The second reading is also an important one, for it’s the first sacred writing to speak of what Jesus did at the Last Supper, and to tell us of the very words Jesus spoke in instituting the Holy Eucharist. Of course, later, the Gospels would tell us the full story of that sacred night. Jesus tells us that He himself will be the very food of sacrifice for the salvation of the world and commands the apostles to do this over and over until the end of time.

All four Gospels contain the great story of the multiplication of the loaves of bread and a couple of fish that fed over five thousand. Jesus “took, blessed, broke, and gave” the food on that hillside, just as he would later do in the Upper Room. Through the Eucharist, we ourselves are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. “That they all may be one as you Father in me, and I in them.”

Today’s feast is a time for stirring up both our belief in Eucharist, the humility to receive it worthily, and the conviction that it is, by its very nature, the power of Christ’s divinity that must be shared. As it unites us with the One who satisfies all our yearnings for love and fulfillment, so we must let that power flow through us to a world more desperately in need of God than ever before.

Reflections on people and pets

I love animals, especially dogs. I cringe when I hear stories of animal abuse, and I think more should be done to crack down on puppy mills that put profit above decent care. Our rescue dog, Molly, was a genuine sweetheart who stole our hearts and ruled our house for more than 15 years.

That said, I don’t think our laws should treat animals better than humans, and I’m noticing a troubling trend in that direction. State lawmakers in Albany have introduced more legislation this year to protect animals than ever before; the Senate even created a Committee on Domestic Animal Welfare. There is legislation to create new crimes of animal cruelty, neglect and abandonment. There are bills to ban egg-hatching projects in classrooms, and require instruction in the humane treatment of animals. There’s a proposal to create a court-appointed advocate to represent four-legged creatures in court, and another one requiring courts to consider the best interests of animals in divorce cases. There’s a bill to restrict the use of toxic chemicals in pet products, and there’s even legislation to allow sick animals access to medical marijuana. And that’s just a small sampling.

Again, I have nothing against animals. But should state lawmakers really be increasing protections for dogs and cats while decreasing protections for human beings? This year’s expansion of abortion in New York will allow the deaths of viable unborn infants and even helpless babies mistakenly born alive during abortion procedures. The cruelty is unmistakable. Do our elected representatives not see this?

How can they fail to see the inconsistency of safeguarding baby chicks who still reside within the egg, while celebrating the removal of protections for infants residing in the womb?

Do any of our legislators see the irony of regulating pet groomers, making sure they’re registered and adhering to basic standards of care, while abortion clinics remain unregulated and uninspected?

How can they support legislation making it a crime to confine a pig during pregnancy -- because “confinement within crates can cause significant physical and psychological trauma” -- yet disregard the very real trauma some women endure following abortion?

Some legislators and the governor are now calling for a new law to allow surrogate motherhood for profit, a bill that actually says that a human fetus shall have no rights and “shall not be viewed as a child under the laws of this state.” What shall she be viewed as – a potato, a frog, a plant? I suppose the point is that the child is really a product to be manufactured and sold, not a human being with inherent dignity and value. Perhaps if the baby were viewed as an animal, she might have some rights.

Something is out of whack in a society where animals are afforded more liberties and basic protections than innocent children. Our Church teaches that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God, from the very first moment of creation. Each one is sacred and irreplaceable, deserving of our respect and worthy of the protection of the law. Lawmakers need to get their priorities straight. And we are the ones who can move them in the right direction.
NEW YORK (CNS) - With “Men in Black: International” (Columbia), director F. Gary Gray serves up an amusing and stylish reboot of the sci-fi comedy franchise that kicked off in 1997.

While sometimes dicey dialogue and a bizarre off-screen encounter indicate his film is best for mature audiences, its restraint in other respects makes it possibly acceptable for older adolescents.

The globetrotting plot revolves around a newcomer to the titular secret agency and managed to erase with a so-called Neuralyzer according to the MIB’s usual organization.

Thus began a 20-year quest to join the team, meaning that, once she proves her potential to bigwig Agent O (Emma Thompson), M makes an avid rookie. Her first assignment, however – on which she’s teamed with respected Agent H (Chris Hemsworth) – fails disastrously.

Vungus, the royal visitor from a distant planet she and H have been dispatched to protect and entertain during a brief sojourn in London, is assassinated by two other extraterrestrials. As the duo shift their focus to hunting down the killers, suspicions grow that there’s a mole in the organization.

The head of the London office, High T (Liam Neeson), has his doubts about H’s rival, Agent C (Rafe Spall), while M begins to wonder about H himself. As scripted by Art Marcum and Matt Holloway, this is a pleasant, light-weight diversion bristling with fun gadgetry and populated by offbeat creatures, including Pawny (voice of Kumail Nanjiani), a chess piece who aids H and M while providing droll commentary on their activities.

The combat is kept thoroughly stylized and the mutual attraction between the leads never even reaches the handshake stage.

In keeping with the humorous celebration of H’s good looks that forms something of a motif in the screenplay, however, an alien female blackmails him into going to bed with her. All the audience sees of this is his disgusted reaction and quick exit from her embrace the next morning.

Thereafter it’s back to cars that turn into airplanes, motorcycles that double as rockets and a vast array of armaments for battling unruly extra-terrestrial types. The up-shot is mostly good-natured fun, though moviegoers won’t need to be zapped with a Neurolyzer to forget all about it as soon as the lights come up again.

The film contains much bloodless violence, a couple of gruesome images, implied nonmarital sexual activity, a few mild oaths and occasional crude and crass language. 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.

More than a few fans prayed for Blues to win

ST. LOUIS (CNS) – Before the St. Louis Blues beat the Boston Bruins in Game 7 on June 12 to win the National Hockey League’s Stanley Cup for the first time in the team’s 52-year history, Twitter was alive with hopes for a little divine intervention for such a victory – maybe even from St. John Paul II.

Many a tweet recalled a Jan. 26, 1999, visit the pontiff paid to St. Louis and just how comfortable he looked holding a hockey stick given to him by young people gathered for a rally at the arena that is home to the Blues, then called the Kiel Center.

At the end of the rally, which drew a crowd of 20,000, the pope also received a special jersey in the Blues’ colors – bearing the name “John Paul II” and the number “1.”

When the Blues headed to the Stanley Cup Final, Catholics of the Archdiocese of St. Louis were praying hard for their team, said a May 23 editorial in the St. Louis Review, the archdiocesan newspaper.

“Our city has caught Blues fever with fervor,” it said. “Even Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, not a native of St. Louis but no stranger to hockey as a Minnesota native, exclaimed at the end of his May 22 State of the Archdiocese address to employees: ‘Go Blues!’”

“Many people had given up on the Blues, who in January were the worst team in the NHL,” the editorial noted. “It’s a lesson in perseverance and never giving up. It’s a lesson that we certainly could apply to our lives, and especially our faith. There’s always hope. For Catholics, that hope lies in Jesus. And, for #CatholicSTL, in the Blues, too.”

The long-suffering team and its loyal fans finally got their magical moment in Game 7 with a 4-1 victory in Boston. And the celebration will continue with a parade to honor the champion team June 15 in St. Louis.
A mile marker on the marathon of life

By Molly M. Ryan

It’s that time of year once again: graduation season. The time where we gather to honor the people in our lives who have worked for years to obtain a diploma. It is a time where we share proud moments. It is a time where gratitude is shown for those who helped along the way. It is a time where we celebrate an individual’s performance.

Wouldn’t it be nice if the joy and satisfaction of graduation season could be shared all the time? That feeling of pride and accomplishment is linked directly to hard work and perseverance. Faith in yourself and the hope for better things to come are keys to making all of this click into place.

The Mission Office would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students in the Diocese of Ogdensburg during this graduation season. You and your families should all be very proud! Do not view graduation as the end but merely the next step in your progress in this thing called life. The beginning of the journey is now, not the end. You have just begun. Take the time to celebrate your milestone.

Graduation is a milestone. Graduation, if you think about it, is much like life in the mission lands. A milestone is what the mission lands work hard to get to with every moment of every day. It’s not a sprint, it’s a marathon in the mission lands. It’s a calling in the heart of every missionary. It starts with your baptism and runs with you through your life. Much like getting to graduation, it’s a long journey of hard work and small markers that lead to the big prize: the accomplishment of graduation. In the mission lands, graduation is akin to helping a community of people find their faith, getting them on their feet, showing them ways to solve their problems, and assisting them on their journey of a Christ-filled life and a better life indeed. It can mean building a school, providing healthcare, or drilling a well. Small steps or developments like these examples are what help to form the journey. The journey that leads to a better life. Much like graduation is a part of your journey that will lead to a more successful life.

So, congratulations to our graduates! Be sure to continue to work hard and be full of gratitude, faith and hope. It has worked out well for you so far. Faith, hope and gratitude is working in the mission lands every day so remember to continue to exhibit those qualities as you progress down your path. God bless you and have a happy and safe summer. May your next endeavors lead you to a life that is blessed.

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

OBITUARIES


Bombay — Yves M. Boulais, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in St. Joseph’s Cemetery.

Brownville — George J. Aubin, 96; Mass of Christian Burial June 15, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Brownville — Richard Bauter, 93; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Brownville — Darwin F. Para, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church.

Croghan — Ellon E. Gruner, 64; Mass of Christian Burial June 13, 2019 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

Crown Point — Teresa Nadeje Sitt, 100; Mass of Christian Burial June 15, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Harrisville — Stewart B. Hooley, 61; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2019 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Hogansburg — Darlene A. Sunday, 84; Mass of Christian Burial June 11, 2019 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville — Rufus P. LaBounty, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 10, 2019 at St. John’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lake Clear — Margaret O’Grady Miller, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 6, 2019 at St. John in the Wilderness; burial in St. Bernard’s Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

Lake Placid — Britanny Ann Talley-Barney, 37; Funeral Services June 7, 2019 at the M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home.

Lake Placid — Charles Roland Daby, 91; Funeral Services June 14, 2019 at the M.B. Clark, Inc. Funeral Home; burial in the North Elba Cemetery.


Louisville — Norma P. (Beaulieu) Brewer, 86; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2019 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lowville — Christina C. (Bush) Thoma, 92; Funeral Services June 11, 2019 at the Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery, New Bremen.


Morrisonville — Lauri McKinnon, 58; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2019 at St. Alexander’s Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery, Ellenburg Center.

Moores — Charles E. “Chicago” Hemingway, 86; Funeral Services June 1, 2019 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Ann’s Cemetery.

North Bangor — Nora Jock Lamica, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2019 at St. Augustine’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Duane V. Burcume, 78; Funeral Services June 4, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Home Chapel; burial in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Colton.

Ogdensburg — Robert W. Munro, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2019 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Ogdensburg — Pamela Marie (McCabe) Roberts, 51; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru — William B. Neyer, 78; Funeral Services June 12, 2019 at the Hamilton Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh — Barbara (Backus) Abernethy, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2019 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Carolyn E. (Buck) Bird, 73; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2019 at St. Peter’s Church.

Plattsburgh — Edward F. Daugherty, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 13, 2019 at St. Peter’s Church.


Plattsburgh — Bernice V. Jerry, 96; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2019 at St. John’s Church; burial in St. George’s Cemetery, Burke.

Potsdam — Lawrence J. Lalonde, 80; Mass of Christian Burial June 7, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Potsdam — Ronald J. LaPointe, 82; Mass of Christian Burial June 12, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Rouses Point — Elizabeth Marie Rein Boire, 79; Mass of Christian Burial June 4, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Rouses Point — Bernadette Jane (Manor) Duffy, 78; Mass of Christian Burial June 5, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church.

Saranac Lake — Grace Delores Frances (Seward) Racette, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2019 at St. Bernard’s Church.

Saranac Lake — Grace Delores Frances (Seward) Racette, 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 8, 2019 at St. Bernard’s Church.


Star Lake — Jeanne (Sutton) Reynolds, 95; Mass of Christian Burial June 14, 2019 at St. Hubert’s Church; burial in Cranberry Lake Cemetery.

Watertown — Patrick M. McDermott, 70; Funeral Services June 7, 2019 at D.L. Galbaro Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — James Duncun St. Croix, Sr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial June 11, 2019 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.
(Above) Hailey Ann Hrim made her First Communion at St. Mary’s Nativity Church in West Leyden with Religious Ed Teacher Christine Stinebrickner, Father Lawrence Marullo and Deacon James Chaufty, and Knights of Columbus members Pete and Robert Kraeger. (Top right) St. Mary’s Constableville held First Communion June 2. Pictured are (front row) Faith Lieber, Evan Brinkerhoff, (middle) Rev. Lawrence Marullo, Religious Ed Teacher Christine Stinebrickner, Deacon James Chaufty, (back) Knights of Columbus John Hastwell, Pete Kraeger, Robert Kraeger and Royal Kraeger. Missing from photo is Religious Ed Teacher Kim Arthur. (Bottom right) Joseph Kraeger and Camry Domagala made their First Communion at St. Martin’s Church in Port Leyden. Knights are William Manning, Pete Kraeger, Robert Kraeger (also religious education teacher), Royal Kraeger and John Hastwell.

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