Follow me: Time with those who make ‘schools of prayer’

This is a favorite time of the year for me as our priests gather in Lake Placid for prayer, relaxation and fraternal support. Our Spiritual Retreat this year was held from May 20-23. Reverend Gerry Blaszczak, S.J. led us in reflection of “The Psalms: Our School of Prayer.” Our deacons and their wives joined us on the 23rd and remained the next day for their annual Deacon Assembly.

On May 21st, we gathered at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid to celebrate the Funeral Mass for Msgr. Peter Riani.

Pope: God’s word can tear down divisive walls

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – When the Holy Spirit speaks to men and women through the word of those who evangelize, it ignites a power strong enough to break down the barriers that divide the human family, Pope Francis said.

When human words are purified by the Holy Spirit, they can give life and create communion, the pope said May 29 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“When the Spirit visits the human word, it becomes dynamic, like ‘dynamite,’” that is, it is capable of igniting hearts and breaking up patterns, resistances and walls of division, opening new paths and expanding the boundaries of the people of God,” he said.

Beginning a new series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles, the pope reflected on the first chapter in which Jesus commands his disciples “to wait for the gift my father promised.”

The gift of “baptism in the Holy Spirit” that was given to the disciples, the pope said, is the same gift that awaits all Christians and “allows us to enter into a personal communion with God and participate in his universal salvific will.”

The Holy Spirit, he added, is given to Christ’s followers “free of charge” and, like the apostles who waited in the cenacle, Christians must wait for this gift to come “in its due time.”

“The Risen One invites his followers not to live anxiously in the present, but to make a covenant with time, to know how to wait for the unraveling of a sacred history that has not been interrupted but rather is advancing, to know how to wait for the ‘steps’ of God who is the Lord of time and space,” the pope said.

Encouraging the crowd gathered in the square, Pope Francis invited them to pray with patience and perseverance, which overcomes "loneliness, temptation and suspicion" and opens their hearts to be in communion with God.

"Let us also ask the Lord for patience in waiting for his steps, in not wanting to build his work on our own and instead remain docile by praying, invoking the Spirit and cultivating the art of ecclesial communion,” the pope said.
It's changed everything, even a tire

A priest and a deacon were changing a tire...

It sounds like the set-up to a bad joke, but the joke was on me when I left the diocesan staff Christmas party to find a tire on my vehicle had gone flat.

As I pulled my spare tire and jack from the trunk of my Jeep, Father Doug Lucia kindly removed the items from my hands, got down on one knee and started changing the tire. He was soon joined by Deacon James Crowley, chancellor of the diocese.

The pair had me back on the road in a matter of minutes.

While I sincerely appreciated their kindness, the situation struck me as a bit odd. Before accepting my current position, my career path traversed only secular areas.

A year ago this week, I officially became editor of this newspaper. Just a year ago, I wouldn't have been able to imagine a situation in which a priest and a deacon would be serving as my emergency mechanics.

A lot has changed in a year. After a career in competitive settings – with newspapers and large, corporate employers, I'm now part of a team of people who love the Lord and share a common mission.

Instead of competing, I get to collaborate with and learn from my colleagues at the chancery, the priests, deacons and religious of the diocese, the newspaper's contributing writers and photographers, and the people I meet while covering events and conducting interviews around the diocese.

Instead of a setting where each person is looking to better their own position, I now work where people care about and support each other.

Only three months into my employment, I was struck by unexpected and significant health problems.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the diocesan staff made extraordinary accommodations to allow me to continue to work. Colleagues went to extremes to help me – opening doors, carrying items for me, moving offices so I could have a downstairs space...

No, it hasn't all been sunshine and roses, but in terms of my professional life, this year – with all its growth, challenges, love, support, humor, tears, odd moments, failures and successes – has been the most rewarding in my professional life.

This job has been a blessing. It's changed everything. Even a tire.

Grateful for ‘congratulations,’ Holy Spirit

Today, I begin with words of gratitude to so many for honoring me on my Jubilee year – 60 years since my ordination as a priest. I am truly grateful to the Lord for his goodness to me. I must tell you that one of the first who sent congratulations was one of the first people I met as a priest. As I arrived at my very first assignment after ordination, she was an elementary student at St. James Parish in Gouverneur.

We have remained friends all these years.

Each year at the Presbyteral Assembly, the spring meeting of all the priests of the diocese with our Bishop, we dedicate one of the evenings to honor the year’s Jubilarian with a special Mass. So, this year, my class – those with whom I was ordained with – were one of the Jubilarian classes to be honored. Three of us in the class met each other on the first day of seminary at Wadhams Hall and have ministered together in this diocese all these 60 years.

I must add my gratitude today to the people of my parish who now remembered me, as well as many former parishioners from the other parishes where I have served. And I want to offer my thanks to my own family who have supported me all of these years.

I must add my prayers of gratitude to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – for choosing me to share the gift of priesthood and blessing my priesthood with happy assignments and constant support.

Now as this year’s Liturgical Year moves toward Pentecost Sunday, I celebrate with joy the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles.

In many ways, the story of Pentecost is my story. In those days, the apostles were together in the Upper Room. They have experienced the resurrected Jesus. Yet, they are still not ready to bring to people the message of Jesus. They were still afraid; they were afraid until they received the power of the Holy Spirit.

This makes me think back to my early days as a priest. I realized I needed the power and support of the Holy Spirit to make me ready to truly become a priest. I must tell you about my first pastor, Father Bailey. He had been one of my professors at Wadhams Hall – an excellent teacher of English and public speaking. He was a strong influence on my readiness to preach through those speaking classes. During my year with him as a young priest, he continued that influence. He was truly a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Like every priest, the Holy Spirit has been a very powerful part of my life – leading, guiding and challenging me. I am grateful to the Holy Spirit and for the many gifts of the Holy Spirit that made me who I am. Each time I explain the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to a Confirmation class, I must stop and offer a prayer of gratitude to the Holy Spirit.

So, a quick look at the Catechism: Do you remember the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? (1) Wisdom – understanding life from God’s point of view; (2) Understanding – the Holy Spirit allows us to grasp the deeper meaning of the truths of our Catholic faith. (3) Counsel – the gift of prudence; guiding us to judge how to act well in the Lord’s Spirit. (4) Fortitude – Courage to live a right and proper way of life. (5) Knowledge – understanding the meaning and purpose God has for each one of us. (6) Piety – ready and willing to serve God out of love. (7) Fear of the Lord – understanding the greatness and awesomeness of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit transforms us with these gifts.
Time with those who make ‘schools of prayer’

This is a favorite time of the year for me as our priests gather in Lake Placid for prayer, relaxation and fraternal support. Our Spiritual Retreat this year was held from May 20-23. Reverend Gerry Blaszczak, S.J. led us in reflection of “The Psalms: Our School of Prayer.” Our deacons and their wives joined us on the 23rd and remained the next day for their annual Deacon Assembly.

On May 21st, we gathered at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid to celebrate the Funeral Mass for Monsignor Peter Riani. It was fitting that the Mass took place on the same day that, sixty-four years earlier, his classmates and he were ordained to the priesthood. Monsignor Poissant, in his homily, captured beautifully how Monsignor Riani’s priestly ministry proclaimed the joy of the Gospel: “He is Risen!”

This year’s honored Jubilarians include: Sixty years: Fathers Philip Allen, William Muench, Joseph Sestito and Monsignor Lawrence Deno; Forty years: Fathers Vincent Freeh, MSC, Vincent Jazmines, Steven Rocker and Gerry Blaszczak, S.J.; and Twenty-five years: Father Christopher Carrara. On May 26, I was happy to participate in another celebration of a Jubilarian who celebrated his Golden Anniversary as a priest and the tenth anniversary of his installation as the Bishop of Syracuse, Bishop Cunningham.

At our Jubilee Dinner in Lake Placid, I reminded our priests of the varied ministries our honored guests have provided God’s people through the years. All embrace parish ministry and many have offered additional service to the Church such as: missionary ministry in our Peruvian Apostolate and in the Pacific Islands; leading and strengthening our Catholic schools; ministry to those serving in the Armed Forces; teaching, coaching, and writing inspirational articles for our North Country Catholic; teaching in the seminary and serving as chaplain to emergency services personnel; and so much more. You can see why this is a favorite time of the year for me. We are blessed!

This year I enjoyed speaking to both our priests and deacons together. I reviewed our efforts to address the Diocesan Pastoral Priorities that were promulgated five years ago. I also shared some of the statistics that were collated and recently sent to the Holy Father as part of our Quin­quennial Report. This Report provides the Pope with an overview of the pastoral activity of the Diocese of Ogdensburg from January 2011 through December 2018. In November, I will join the other bishops of New York State in the ad limina visit with Pope Francis in Rome. Items in the Report may be topics of discussion with the Holy Father and/or his advisors who head the several Dicasteries that we will visit.

The time I spend with our deacons and their wives is always an inspir­ing occasion as they share the joy of their vocations of Marriage and Holy Orders and offer me very helpful counsel in light of their ministry in the parishes. Every year I leave the Deacon Assembly feeling so grateful for their faithful discipleship and helpful insights.

A common characteristic of all those with whom I gathered these several days, was that they love their Catholic faith and have a deep desire to share the joy of the Gospel. These are essential ingredients that enable a parish to be a place where a seeker can find God, learn how to pray and celebrate our faith in a worshipping community. St. John Paul II referred to our parishes as “schools of prayer.” I thank God for our deacons, their wives and our priests for making our parishes schools of prayer. In our parishes and in our homes, school is always in session because we are truly blessed with such disciples in our midst. We are blessed!
Rosary Crusade honors Mary, unites participants

By Eileen Greenwood
Contributing Writer

CARTHAGE – It was a warm and clear spring evening on May 17 when a crowd gathered at St. James Minor Church to pay homage to the Blessed Mother at the Family Rosary Crusade.

At the event, created by Bob Renaud of Carthage, Father Donald A. Robin­son shared his thoughts in a homily that honoring Mary.

“Tonight, we embark on our 17th Annual Rosary Crusade,” he said. “It is one of our most important spiritual events of the year.”

Father Robinson also stated that this evening presented a “wonderful opportunity to put our rosaries to good use and to meditate in a special way on the life and death of Jesus.”

In his comments about the blessed Mother, Father Robinson remarked, “She calms our spirit. She leads us to her son Jesus Christ. That’s her job.”

He shared a powerful image, “Holding the rosary is not just holding beads. It is like holding Mary’s hand.”

Father Robinson’s words echoed those of Padre Pio: “Hold on tightly to the Rosary. Be very grateful to the Madonna because it was she who gave us life.”

The Annual Crusade was first held 17 years ago. Renaud, a successful artist and art teacher from Carthage, has a special devotion to our Blessed Mother, and he orchestrates the prayerful event and creates a new painting for it each year. He then donates a number of prints for the Crusade. Anyone who stays a minimum of three hours – in honor of the Lord’s passion – is welcome to take a print.

Renaud began his latest painting after receiving a personal answer to prayer that he attributes to the intercession of Padre Pio. Renaud shared some of Padre Pio’s statements about the importance of praying the Rosary throughout the evening.

“Tonight, I’d like to ponder a few of the words he left behind, at the beginning of each hour,” Renaud said.

His welcome included the quote from Padre Pio “God is merciful and will hear our prayer.”

Padre Pio was known to have said as many as 35 rosaries daily. Towards the end of his life, it was constantly in his hands.

“When he was asked one day what inheritance he wished to leave his spiritual children, he answered at once, ‘The rosary.’” Renaud recounted.

Intentions were offered with each set of Rosaries. These included but were not limited to: All life; families and the sacrament of marriage; children and grandchildren; the church; vocations; all religious; all soldiers; world peace; as well as prayers of thanksgiving.

Renaud also mentioned the prior priests he had worked with to organize the event and remembered the late Father James Maroun and Father John Cosmic. He also spoke about being inspired by a former parishioner, Alma Frezza, who had encouraged him and often said “Pray, hope and don’t worry.”

Renaud said he felt inspired by the Blessed Mother to create this event 17 years ago. His devotion and hard work make this annual event an evening of prayer that unites Catholics around the area and the world in prayerful devotion to Mary. Participants prayed the rosary at St. James Church and in other places in spiritual solidarity for a period of seven hours, with focus on the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Participants at the church began with Mass, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, seven hours of rosaries (21 in all), and Benediction to conclude the event. Refreshments were offered throughout the evening. Many families and groups from the area helped lead the rosaries. Renaud gave prints of his latest painting, “The Key” to anyone able to attend for at least three hours.

Verna Shack, a parishioner from St. Stephen’s in Croghan who attended with her husband, said she was able to receive three prints from various years she was able to attend and stay. Another attendant, Pauline Murphy, shared she had come to St. James on different evenings through the years and stayed all seven hours to pray the Rosary.

For more information about Renaud’s artwork, including the piece created for this year’s Crusade, visit catholicsofcarthage-copenhagen.org.
GUGGENHEIM 2019
MEET THE STAFF

I’m so excited to be at Camp for my 4th year on Staff! I’m a seminarian for the Diocese.

Two of my favorite saints are Mary and Joseph, I love the outdoors/ADK’s, talking about my faith, and I can’t wait for Guggenheim this summer to spread the joy and love of Jesus Christ to who I really care about, the youth in this Diocese!

This year is going to be so amazingly different since I “retired” from being the cook!

I’m ecstatic to see really how awesome the campers are outside the dining hall!

Can’t wait to see you campers this summer! God Bless!

Hi, my name is Katy Sherman. I spent my childhood growing up in the North Country, but I currently reside in Melbourne, Florida and my home parish is Our Lady of Lourdes. This past May, I graduated from Ave Maria University with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Physiology. I plan to pursue a career in coaching lacrosse at the collegiate level post-graduation.

This will be my fourth summer on staff and my third year as the Teen Vision co-director! Camp has always been my favorite place on earth and has had such a positive influence on my faith journey. I cannot wait to be back in the mountains for the summer! I could not be more excited to spread Christ’s love with all the campers this summer. I am ready to hike, swim, & PRAISE! Are you?

Hi, my name is Maggie Amato. I am 19 years old from Raleigh, NC. I attend Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.

I am a sophomore at East Carolina University where I am an intended nursing major.

I was a camper for 5 years and this will be my first year on staff.

I am so excited to share my love of Christ to the campers and help them grow in their faith. Guggenheim means so much to me, and I can’t wait to spend my summer here and getting to know each camper!

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

Immaculate Heart receives K-12 accreditation

Immaculate Heart Central School was recently accredited for seven more years by the prestigious Middle States Association.

What makes Immaculate Heart Central School’s accreditation stand out from the previous years is that IHC was only accredited for Grades 7-12 up until this April 2019.

When Immaculate Heart Central School changed from Immaculate Heart Central Schools, it was important that the accreditation reflect a unified K-12 school.

In the Fall of 2017, the school conducted a self-study. Then in November of 2018, the Middle States Association observation team visited Watertown for one week, meeting with IHC’s Education Council, faculty members, parents and students.

In addition, they conducted classroom observations.

MSA observes 12 key aspects of a school when finalizing their decision for accreditation: Mission, Governance and Leadership, School Improvement Planning, Finances, Facilities, School Organization and Staff, Health and Safety, Educational Program, Assessment and Evidence of Sa student Learning, Student Services, Student Life and Activities, Information Resources. MSA uses a holistic approach, examining the entire school’s philosophy and goals, its community, programs and services, facilities, and financial stability through its self-study results.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA) was established in 1887 and is a nongovernmental, nonprofit, peer-administered organization. The Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools accredits early-childhood through post-secondary, non-degree granting public, private, faith-based educational institutions including special purpose schools, supplementary education centers, learning services providers, and distance education institutions.

The MSA provides leadership in school improvement for its member schools in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa.

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### Environmental Stewardship

**Have you noticed changes in precipitation patterns?**

Climate is a term that refers to many more atmospheric features other than just temperature as precipitation patterns are a key component of climate. A stable climate tends to produce regular rainfall and snowfall patterns that sustain the many forms of life that evolved to exist in that geographic region.

As the atmospheric warms, it enhances the rate of evaporation from the surface of all bodies of water and increases the amount of moisture that can be transported by the air. As low pressure forms, the moisture is wrung out of the clouds and yields higher amounts of rain, or snow. Here in the North Country, most precipitation events have increased from 1” in the 40’s and ’50s to up to 3” in a single storm.

While 3 inch rainfall storms are still rare in our region, storms shedding 5 to 6 inches or more of rain have been occurring more frequently in many places in the southern U.S. and in similar climatic zones around the world. This has caused an increase in major flooding, especially in countries that have difficulty responding to such disasters.

The disruption of global weather patterns caused by climate change is also preventing moisture laden storm systems from moving over some regions, resulting in long-term drought for these areas.

Just like floods, drought can have serious consequences for all forms of life, including the human life that exists in these moisture starved areas.

It is nearly impossible to predict where flooding or droughts will occur over the next few decades. We can, however, attempt to reestablish more normal rainfall patterns by lowering the rate at which the atmosphere is warming. This can be achieved by reducing our carbon footprint as much as possible. Using excessive amounts of fossil fuels, or energy in general, is not only financially wasteful, but it is rapidly becoming a moral failing.

### Bishop’s Public Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 5</strong></td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadham’s Hall followed by lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church with St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown, St. Paul’s Church in Black River, St. Mary’s Church, Evans Mills, St. Anthony’s Church, Watertown, Church of the Holy Family, Watertown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 7</strong></td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Celebration Mass for Reverend Vincent Freeh, MSC’s 60th anniversary of priestly ordination at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 8</strong></td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation at the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Ogdensburg with St. Mary’s Church, Cantong, St. Raphael’s Church, Heuvelton and SS. Philip &amp; James Church, Lisbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 9</strong></td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Mass at St. Theresa’s Church in Theresa</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 11-14</strong></td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meetings in Baltimore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 15</strong></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Pastoral Council Meeting at St. Patrick’s Parish Church in Brasher Falls followed by lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 16</strong></td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation at The Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry with Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Crown Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 17</strong></td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Confirmation at St. Martin’s Church in Port Leyden with St. Mary’s Church, Constableville, St. John’s Church, Lyons Falls and St. Mary’s Nativity Church, West Leyden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 18</strong></td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral with parishioners from St. Mary’s Church in Clayton followed by lunch and a tour of Bishop’s Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Annual Seminarian Gathering with evening prayer at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake followed by dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 19</strong></td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Diocesan Finance Council Meeting followed by lunch at Bishop’s Residence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Rest in Peace

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

- **June 5** – Rev. Charles Donaher, O.S.A., 1984
- **June 7** – Rev. Anthime Constantineau, 1942
- **June 11** – Rev. Lawrence K. Brady, 1993
- **June 15** – Rev. Francis C. A. Cornish, 1960
- **June 17** – Rev. Thomas J. Thotumkal, 1992

### 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, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com.**

**Phone: (518) 651-2267, Night: (518) 569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-293-4200.**

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**Missouri could be first state where no abortions can be performed**

ST. LOUIS (CNS) – The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has told Planned Parenthood officials it will not renew its St. Louis clinic’s license when it expires unless the clinic makes changes to comply with various state health regulations.

Just hours before the license was to expire May 31, St. Louis Circuit Judge Michael Stelzer issued a temporary restraining order allowing the clinic to stay open until June 4. Planned Parenthood had sought the court action and Stelzer issued his order after a May 29 hearing on the matter.

The Planned Parenthood clinic is the only abortion facility in Missouri. If it closes, Missouri will be the first state without an operating abortion facility since the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling on Roe v. Wade in 1973. Women who want an abortion would have to go to the neighboring state of Illinois.

CBS News May 28 quoted Planned Parenthood officials as saying that the state health department had informed them May 20 that the facility might lose its license.

According to the news report, state health officials said the clinic must provide state-mandated counseling services, conduct an additional pelvic exam on a woman prior to performing her abortion and resolve what health officials described as “deficient practices” by doctors at the clinic.

Dr. Leana Wen, Planned Parenthood’s CEO, said the possibility the clinic might close is “a real public health crisis,” adding: “Abortion care is health care. Period.”

Meanwhile, Parson signed into law the Missouri Stands for the Unborn Act May 24. It bans abortions on or beyond the eighth week of pregnancy.

Set to take effect Aug. 28, the law provides an exception in cases of medical emergencies, but there are no exceptions for rape or incest. Doctors who perform abortions after eight weeks face five to 15 years in prison. There is no punishment for the mother.

With the ban, the state’s lawmakers “have taken a giant step forward for the pro-life movement,” said St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson. “We need to continue to show persistence and determination in proclaiming a culture of life.”

On May 28, the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri announced it will seek signatures to put a referendum on the 2020 ballot to repeal the new law. The organization has until Aug. 28 to gather 100,000 signatures to place the issue on the ballot for an up-or-down vote.

If the organization gets the needed signatures, the law will not take effect as scheduled and voters will decide its fate. A “yes” vote would mean the ban becomes law, while a “no” would mean it doesn’t.
Volunteers ready Camp Guggenheim for season

By Jessica Hargrave
Contributing Writer

SARANAC LAKE—It was a weekend of spring cleaning at Camp Guggenheim.

A group of volunteers spent the weekend of May 18-19 at the Saranac Lake camp getting it ready for children and families. The camp opened for retreats on Memorial Day weekend, while youth camp starts in June.

Volunteers washed the many windows that make up the lodge, which offers a picturesque view of lower Saranac Lake and the surrounding Adirondack mountains, while others dusted, vacuumed, mopped, organized the kitchen, and cleaned bathrooms. A similar scene could be seen over in the camp’s mess hall.

Gary and Darcy Ziemer, parishioners of St. James Church in Cadyville, rolled up their sleeves to help in the preparing the lodge for guests.

“We stayed here last summer, there were four or five couples here, so we enjoyed the weekend here and just wanted to pay back,” said Gary Ziemer.

Some made Camp Guggenheim cleanup a family day of service. Fritz and Annie Wentzler, along with their five children, have attended Family Guggenheim for the last six years, and were happy to give back to the camp that means so much to them.

“It’s one of our three highlights of the year, Christmas, summer vacation to Maine, and Family Guggenheim,” said Fritz Wentzler.

Daniel Tromblee and his son Jacob Tromblee, 15, of Saranac Lake, volunteered, cleaning much of the boathouse. Jacob’s time volunteering was put toward his service hours needed to make his Confirmation at St. Agnes’ Church in Lake Placid.

With the harsh winters the Adirondacks endures each year, the volunteer weekend typically includes some outside work, as well. “There’s always something that needs to be fixed, like a tree cut out of the road,” explained Deacon James Crowley, chancellor for the diocese.

Deacon Crowley added that while major repairs aren’t usually part of the volunteer clean-up weekend, regular maintenance is critical to the camp operations. “Most of the buildings now have metal roofs,” he said. “We did that two years ago. The roofs that have shingle roofs like the lodge and the original buildings, we try to preserve. Those were done about five years ago.”

As many North Country homes have been threatened by high water levels in recent years, Camp Guggenheim is no exception. The boathouse was heavily damaged when snowmelt caused Saranac Lake to rise to devastating levels in 2017.

“The front of the boathouse was sagging into the lake,” said Deacon Crowley. “We had to spend a fair amount of money to replace all the piers across the front and rebuilt some of the ones underneath. I’m very impressed with that repair.”

Originally two hunting camps owned by the Guggenheim family from 1917 to 1963, Edmond Guggenheim left the camps to the Diocese of Ogdensburg in his will in memory of his second wife. Mr. Guggenheim had hoped the camp could be used as seminary, however Wadhams Hall was already under construction. After discussion it was decided a camp for children would be created along with keeping the lodge for retreats.

Youth camp at Camp Guggenheim opens to children with one-week sessions starting June 30. The first five sessions are designated for youth ages 12 to 15, while week six is just for youth ages 16 to 18.

Family Camp offers three weekend sessions, with the first starting August 15. Family Camp allows families to participate in fun workshops and activities together.

There’s also time for paddle boat rides, relaxing on the beach and hiking.

Camp Guggenheim is sponsored and operated by the Diocese of Ogdensburg Office of Youth Ministry with the support of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Bishop’s Fund.

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AT THE ASSEMBLIES

Priests of the diocese gathered for their Spiritual Retreat in Lake Placid May 20-23, which included celebration of the Jubilee Mass to honor Father Christopher C. Carrara, who celebrated 25 years since ordination; Father Vincente F. Jazmines and Father Stephen R. Rocker, who celebrated 40 years; and Father Philip T. Allen, Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno, Father Vincent T. Freeh, Father William G. Muench and Father Joseph N. Sestit, who celebrated 60 years.

Matthew Conger, Leagon Carlin, Douglas Schirmer and Carter Pierce, seminarians from the diocese, served at the Jubilee Mass, held as part of the priests’ Spiritual Retreat May 20-23.

Father Douglas J. Lucia addresses the priests and deacons of the diocese at a luncheon shared as the priests’ Spiritual Retreat ended and the Diaconate Assembly began.
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The Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA.

The CDA is unique among universities in the United States — even among Catholic universities.

“The teaching of the University should be faithfully Catholic, conformed in all things to the creed of the Church and the decisions of the Holy See.” This was the first principle set down by the founders of The Catholic University of America as the foundation of all our work and guide for all future action.

At a Glance
The Catholic University of America is unique as the national university of the Catholic Church and as the only higher education institution founded by the U.S. bishops. Established in 1887 as a papally chartered graduate and research center, the University began offering undergraduate education in 1904.

Distinctions
As the only national university of the Catholic Church in America we seek to combine a strong Catholic identity with a rich intellectual experience steeped in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

WWW.CUA.EDU
Knights to get new look

TORONTO (CNS) — A long-standing tradition will end this summer as the Knights of Columbus discard the ceremonial capes and plumed chapeaus of its fourth-degree members.

July 1 will mark the end of a 79-year era when the Knights change the ceremonial Color Corps regalia long associated with the fraternal Catholic order. The Color Corps, which acts as an honor guard at religious and civic functions, is distinguishable by its official regalia of tuxedo, cape, chapeau, white gloves and sword.

The preferred dress for fourth-degree members worldwide will no longer include the cape and chapeau. The new uniform will be a jacket and beret. The ceremonial swords will continue to be part of the uniform.

It’s all part of the Knights’ efforts to attract new members, particularly younger men, said Dale Heffernan, Ontario state deputy for the organization.

The Knights have undertaken extensive research in how to attract new members and have heard one constant from men as to why they won’t join the order.

“If I had to wear that regalia, I wouldn’t join the Knights,” is the refrain Heffernan said he has heard often.

Heffernan said some misconceptions exist about the uniform. Many believe all Knights must wear the regalia, but it’s only for fourth-degree members, and even then you don’t have to wear the regalia,” he said. “You could become a member, be a fourth degree and never buy a uniform. ... You’re just not part of the color guard.”

The uniform of the fourth degree has undergone several changes since it was adopted in 1900. But it has remained relatively the same since 1940, consisting of a plumed chapeau, a tuxedo, a cape and a ceremonial sword. The modernized version will be a blue blazer with the fourth-degree emblem, dark gray slacks, a blue tie and a black beret.

In 2017, the international Knights’ board of directors unanimously voted to adopt a new uniform for the fourth degree. The new look debuted at the 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis that year. The vote came after three years of testing and discussion within the membership. Board members believe it will open the doors to a new generation of Knights.

The move has been met with significant resistance, much of it from Canada, Heffernan said. That included an online petition that garnered almost 10,000 signatures “to reconsider the consequence of this proposed change and keep the existing regalia of the Fourth Degree Assemblies that the Knights and the rest of the world has come to recognize and love.”

Heffernan understands and sympathizes with those seeking to keep tradition alive.

“You’re always going to have the diehards who are going to wear the old regalia,” he said. “If I was 80 years old, I’m not going to go out and buy a new uniform.”

The Knights have recognized this, and the old regalia has not been outlawed. Members pushed for a grandfather clause to allow Knights, particularly older members, to continue to wear the old regalia and it was granted, he said.

While there has been resistance, there has also been significant buy-in, Heffernan said. Overall, Knights numbers are stable, even growing worldwide, with almost 2 million members across the globe.

“It’s not holding people back from becoming fourth-degree members,” Heffernan said.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

New evidence in high court’s census case may impact outcome

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An expected vote from the U.S. Supreme Court on the added U.S. citizenship question in the 2020 census could hit a potential twist with newly submitted evidence that could influence the court’s decision.

Material discovered on the hard drive files of deceased Republican strategist Thomas Hefler shows that he played a key role in the decision to add the citizenship question as a means to create an advantage for whites and Republicans in future elections. During oral arguments before the Supreme Court during April 23, defendants of the citizenship question stressed that it was being added to protect minority voting rights. In a May 30 statement, the Justice Department called this new development “an unfortunate last-ditch effort” to derail the Supreme Court’s decision. Dale Ho, a lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Union who argued on behalf of the census challengers before the Supreme Court, sent the justices a letter May 30 about the new findings. He said the New York Immigration Coalition had filed a motion with a federal judge in New York over this new evidence saying it contradicts testimony by government officials and representations by lawyers.

USCCB releases pope’s book on devil, tools to combat evil

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a new book by Pope Francis’ teachings on the history of the devil, “his empty promises and works” and “how we can actively combat him.”

Titled “Rebuking the Devil,” the book is meant for a wide audience and “shows us how to recognize the tricks of the enemy, avoid his traps and defeat his efforts through the power of God in Jesus Christ,” said a May 29 USCCB news release.

The book is $12.95 and now available for purchase through the USCCB’s online bookstore. “In this important book, Pope Francis tells us how to use powerful tools of spiritual combat against the devil,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Communications. Those tools, he said, include “the word of God, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, participation in the sacraments, fasting, prayer and the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, through the most holy rosary.”

Louisiana governor signs pro-life ‘heartbeat bill’

BATON ROUGE, La. (CNS) — Louisiana’s Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Catholic, signed into law a measure that makes nearly all abortions illegal in the state once the fetal heartbeat is detected, which could be as early as six weeks. “As I prepare to sign this bill,” Edwards said in a statement late May 30, “I call on the overwhelming bipartisan majority of legislators who voted for it to join me in continuing to build a better Louisiana that cares for the least among us and provides more opportunity for everyone.”

A day earlier, in 79-23 vote, the state House approved the so-called “heartbeat bill.” The state Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill May 6. It has no exceptions for rape or incest but would allow abortions only to prevent a pregnant woman’s death or in cases of “serious risk” to her health. It is expected to be almost immediately challenged in the courts. “I know there are many who feel just as strongly as I do on abortion and disagree with me — and I respect their opinions,” Edwards said in a statement issued shortly after the bill was passed, but he added that his support for the pro-life bill was consistent with his overall pro-life approach to addressing poverty, immigration and many other social issues. “As governor, I have been true to my word and my beliefs on this issue,” he said. “But it is also my sincere belief that being pro-life means more than being pro-born.”
**SUMMER RETREAT**
Saranac Lake — A summer retreat will be held for adults.
**Date:** Aug. 9-11
**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake
**Features:** Facilitated by Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ
**Contact:** 315-212-6592 or sr-bethssj@gmail.com

**FALL RETREAT**
Saranac Lake — A fall retreat will be held for adults.
**Date:** Sept. 13-15
**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake
**Features:** Facilitated by Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ
**Contact:** 315-212-6592 or sr-bethssj@gmail.com

**FABRIC FUNDRAISER**
Ellenburg — The Fabulous Fabric Fundraiser in support of the House of Prayer is back by demand.
**Date:** June 8
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
**Place:** Our Lady of the Adirondack House of Prayer
**Features:** 75% off all fabric, notions, craft supplies! Light refreshments and wonderful conversation included! Come and stock up for your fall and holiday craft season!
**Contact:** Call 518-236-6016 (Carol) or 518-579-6949 (Jeanette) for more information.

**BAZAAR & FESTIVAL OF CARS**
Moosers 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 form and information from Greg Lombard at 518-561-5039.

**CASH RAFFLE**
Plattsburgh — Seton Catholic to have a $10,000 Cash Raffle.
**Date:** Drawing will be June 20
**Cost:** Tickets are $10 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. If you win a smaller prize your ticket will go back into the drawing.
**Contact:** Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin at spellerin@setonknights.org or 518-561-4031 ext. 2012 to purchase your tickets today.

**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.

**HEALING MASS**
Clayton — St. Mary’s to have their Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault 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 Sacrament 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 — Augustinian 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

** foster parent classes**
Watertown — Do you have room in your heart and your home? Foster Parent Classes to be held.
**Date:** June 11
**Time:** 6 p.m.
**Place:** The House of the Good Shepard
**Contact:** Visit website at watertownfostercare.com or call Jessica today at 315-782-8064 x4031

**Golf Tournament**
Watertown — The 4th Annual Frank Caprara 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; Singles - $195/player. Includes Golf, cart, skins, mulligans, dinner buffet, prizes, a chance to win 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 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

**177 Project**
Canton — An Evening of Adoration and Music to be held.
**Date:** Sept. 17
**Time:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
**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@cantony.org for more information. For additional information visit www.177project.com

**FFM commissioned lay ministers’ retreat**
Ogdensburg — The FFM Commissioned Lay Ministers’ Retreat to be held.
**Date:** June 7-9
**Place:** Wadham Hall
**Cost:** $10
**Features:** Theme will be “The Coming of the Holy Spirit.”
**Contact:** To register for this event, simply go to: https://www.rrcdony.org/formation/commissioned-lay-ministers/retreat-registration-wadham-s-hall.html

**2019-2021 formation for ministry program**
The 2019-2021 Formation for Ministry Program begins September 2019. Information sessions to be held.
**Schedule:** June 4 at St. Cecilia’s Church, Adams at 6 p.m.; June 12 at St. Joseph’s Church, West Chazy at 6:30 p.m.; June 20 at St. Bartholomew’s Church, Old Forge at 6:30 p.m.
**Features:** If you feel a desire to give...
Students for Life holds educational days

By Colleen Miner
Director, diocesan Respect Life Office

Students for Life of America headlined two days of teaching for dioce- san teens May 17 at IHC in Watertown and May 18 at St. Bernard’s Church in Saranac Lake. The efforts were coordinated through the diocesan Respect Life Office.

“The Youth Buses for Life were registered for the National Students for Life Conference held the day after the DC March for Life, but a snowstorm prevented us from participating,” said Colleen Miner, coordinator of the Youth Buses for Life yearly pilgrimage. “Roads in Pennsylvania and New York were being closed by the governors, so we had to leave the DC area sooner than anticipated.”

When Miner shared the news with Kate Maloney, Northeast coordinator of Students for Life, Maloney offered to come to the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Since the two Youth Buses for Life originated from Watertown and diocese, the days were planned for those locations. Thirty-five Immaculate Heart Central School students were among the 56 who traveled on the Western Youth Bus for Life, so the first day of Maloney’s visit was planned for IHC.

The day began with an assembly for the whole school, conducted by Maloney. Bishop Terry R. LaValley attended the assembly entitled “Pro-Life Apologetics.”

Maloney also taught the morning religion classes, and there were two information tables set up for lunchtime, with materials from the Respect Life Office and Students for Life.

Saturday’s Teen LIFE Day was a Leadership conference planned around the Students for Life five pillars: converse, convert, confront, advocate and support. SFLA strives to create effective and well-rounded student groups to fight abortion on multiple fronts.

The day included presentations by Dr. Jan Patterson (Gianna of Albany), Kathleen Gallagher (NYS Catholic Conference), Nancy Belzile (40 Days for Life and Silent No More Awareness) and Kitty St. Denis (Plattsburgh Pregnancy Center).

Maloney led a Pro-Life Jeopardy game with the students, as well as sidewalk-chalking with messages of hope for those in an unexpected pregnancy.

There were information tables: the diocesan Natural Family Planning and Respect Life offices, Gianna of Albany, 40 Days for Life, Silent No More and Students for Life.

Eucharistic Adoration was held in the side chapel throughout the day. Half-hour time slots of prayer were filled by parishioners. The day concluded with Benediction at 3:30, although some students stayed and helped with 4:30 Mass. Maria and Sophia Tartaglia of Potsdam served as readers. Morgan and Megan Round-point from St. Regis Falls, and seminarian Kevin McCullough were altar servers for Mass, which was celebrated by Father Alex Guimpol.

Local businesses who donated to support the educational efforts include McDonald’s (juice boxes), Price Chopper (paper products), Starbucks (coffee), Dunkin Donuts (coffee, hot cocoa, donuts), Stewart’s (milk, soda), Pizza was donated by Owl’s Nest, Pizza Hut and Mr. Mike’s. The days were made possible by a grant from the Respect Life collection.

One college student in attendance indicated she is interested in starting a Students for Life Club on her campus. For more information about starting a club or hosting Students for Life, please visit: www.studentsforlife.org

Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11 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 retreat weekend for men to be held.

Date: July 5 at 5 p.m. to July 7 at noon
Place: Gugenheim Main Lodge
Features: for a time of prayer, reflection, fellowship, & recreation. Participants should bring sleeping bag (or bedding), towels, toiletries, casual clothes, swim trunks, & sweatshirt. Overnight retreatants must be age 18 and over.

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

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: Gugenheim 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 dulcia@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: Ella’s on the Bay

FEES: 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 Maia Kinch at 315-323-2572 or through the Facebook page, “MY COLLEGE DOESN’T EXIST ANYMORE? MATER DEI ALUMNI.”

STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE Steubenville – A conference will be held at 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 Daya 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 Relationships in Trying Times. The speaker will be Dr. Maura Fehlner.

Contact: For more information/reg-istration contact Stephen Tartaglia, Family Life Director at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1420 or visit rcdony.org/relations-hips.

ALTAR SERVER GATHERING Ogdensburg – Altar Serving Gathering to be held.

Date: Aug. 16
Schedule: 10 a.m. Registration and Cathedral 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 Shayne Lippincott at slippincott@rc- dony.org or by calling 315-782-3620 by Aug. 9
Invoke the Holy Spirit this Pentecost

Today, Pentecost Sunday, marks the beginning of the Church. Throughout his ministry in Palestine, Jesus spoke a number of times about this Holy Spirit. He referred to the Spirit as “the Paraclete,” and “the Advocate.” At his first appearance to all the Apostles after the Resurrection, he actually bestowed on them this Spirit, along with the power to forgive sins. Nevertheless, their full transformation came publicly before hundreds of Jews, gathered for their feast, as well as many of mixed nationality passing through. Try to imagine their experience of that first Pentecost when the Upper Room in Jerusalem shook with hurricane force as the wind of God’s Spirit and the fire of His love descended upon these twelve apostles, changing them forever. They rushed out into the streets and boldly proclaimed the truth of Christ’s life, death and resurrection. As thousands were baptized that day, the Church was born in the presence of Christ’s own mother and countless other witnesses.

Our second reading today explains the effects of that fiery force. The Spirit shows itself in many diverse gifts that are shown forth then and today in those who are teachers, healers, prophets, preachers and administrators. As the God of Love, this Holy Spirit also endows us with the strength to heal jealousies and divisions caused by these gifts. He brings to the Church the gift of forgiveness and peace.

Today, we invoke the Spirit to intensify in us His gifts of joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These are the gifts that help us in these very troublesome times to renew the Church, making it a strong and welcoming presence, enticing unbelievers to swell the ranks of the children of God, helping to conquer the forces of evil that threaten the faithful as well as our very civilization.

May the light of the Spirit enlighten with truth the falsehoods of Satan. May His fire be rekindled in all of us, overcoming our indifference and reluctance to live fearlessly as disciples of Christ in the world.

The corpse raiders

Most people recognize the importance of obtaining consent before retrieving organs from the bodies of deceased persons. They also understand the necessity of showing respect for those bodily remains following death.

Recent news stories have chronicled the troubling story of a funeral home in Colorado clandestinely taking body parts out of corpses and selling them to medical supply companies. One family was horrified to learn that their mother’s head, arms, pelvis, and parts of her legs had been harvested without their knowledge or consent. They and others are now suing the company. The funeral home had been selling body parts to places as far away as Saudi Arabia, and returning containers of ashes to the families that did not contain any actual trace of their loved ones.

The public outcry following these revelations, and the subsequent FBI investigation and legal prosecution of the funeral home directors, reminds us how easy it is to transgress important moral boundaries when we fail to respect the remains of the deceased.

Indeed, legal measures can remind us of our duties towards the dead, whether through laws that criminalize grave robbing, for example, or those forbidding the use of executed persons’ bodies for research. A few years ago, Chinese officials were timing the capital punishment of their prisoners in order to harvest their organs as soon as well-paying foreigners had arrived in Chinese hospitals to receive those transplanted body parts. International pressure quickly mounted to ban the practice.

While it is clear that we shouldn’t kill others for the purpose of obtaining their organs or body parts, it should be equally clear that when an intentional act of killing has already taken place, and a cadaver is available, valid informed consent is still required prior to harvesting bodily tissues. All ethically sound research involving human subjects is predicated upon informed consent, which needs to be given either by the donors themselves before they die, or by their duly appointed proxy, acting on behalf of, and in the best interests of, the deceased individual.

When it comes to extracting cells or organs from the corpse of a deceased child at an abortion clinic, however, these ethical requirements for consent cannot legitimately be satisfied.

Some have been tempted to argue that aborted children “would have consented” to organ donation if they had been given the chance, since those organs are no longer needed by them after death. But if the justification for harvesting fetal organs is alleged to be the implied consent of the child, this has to be characterized as a false, even violent, presumption. The activity of harvesting tissues under these circumstances would only exacerbate the original evil act that terminated the child’s life. Taking cells or tissues without consent would be a callous extension of the original desecration of his or her bodily life.

Additionally, it is important to recognize that even if the mother of an intentionally aborted child were to sign the dotted line saying she granted her permission for the baby’s cells and organs to be donated, that consent would necessarily be null and void. Because she arranged for the taking of the child’s life, she already categorically demonstrated that she does not have the child’s best interests in mind. From the ethical vantage point, she disqualifies herself from being able to provide valid consent on behalf of her now-deceased child by the very decision to have the abortion in the first place.

While the action of taking bodily tissues without consent would be a lesser evil than the act of killing, this does not lead to the conclusion that we can therefore permit or encourage fetal corpse raiding at abortion clinics simply because we some good use in mind, like pushing forward the frontiers of biological knowledge, or producing a new vaccine or even developing...
NEW YORK (CNS) – If there were an Academy Award for the most aurally annoying film of the year, "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" (Warner Bros.) would certainly be a strong contender.

As its messy plot rambles hither and yon, the titular monster and his ilk, collectively dubbed Titans, screech with rage while one of its three principal characters, animal behaviorist Mark Russell (Kyle Chandler), is almost equally voluble in his effort to awaken everybody – the audience, no doubt, included – to the worldwide apocalypse these creatures are about to unleash. The effect is grating.

Mark and his ex-wife, Emma (Vera Farmiga), wind up on different sides of humanity’s debate about whether to annihilate the Titans or try to live in harmony with them. Their teen daughter, Madison (Millie Bobby Brown), gets stuck in the middle of their conflict.

Emma is in a position to do something about the Titans because she works for Monarch, a government agency set up to deal with the threat they pose.

Mark, who used to work for Monarch as well, is brought in to consult, presumably because, with multiple Titans answering the call of their newly active alpha, a three-headed dragon, he can predict what they’ll do next. Though an opening flashback shows us that Mark and Emma lost a son to an earlier rampage of Godzilla, any semblance of human interest gets trampled underfoot as he and the other lumbering behemoths do battle with one another, courtesy of the special effects unit. While director and co-writer Michael Dougherty’s sequel to 2014’s "Godzilla" is acceptable for most grown-ups, its weird attempt at an environmentalist theme comes across as addled. The script, penned with Zach Shields, attempts to distinguish between good Titans and their evil counterparts, and Emma becomes the spokesperson for an anti-human view both of history and of the future.

The repeated assertion in its dialogue that the Titans were "the first gods," moreover, will irk believers.

What counts in the end, of course, is not the history of religion but the vast column of flame Godzilla – whose tantrums date back to his 1954 debut under Japanese director Ishiro Honda – is able to emit at opponents. The film contains pervasive stylized violence, some of it harsh, numerous uses of profanity, a couple of mild oaths, at least one rough and several crude terms and an obscene gesture.


The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Corpse raiders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

ing an important therapy for a serious disease.

Wherever cells from directly aborted fetuses are used in research or product development, alternative and ethically non-controversial cell sources should instead be pursued, using, for example, cells obtained from routine surgeries like the removal of an appendix, or foreskin removal during newborn circumcision, or fetal remains following a spontaneous miscarriage, after valid informed consent is able to be properly obtained from the parents. Consent given after the natural loss of a pregnancy would be analogous to granting permission for an organ donation from a couple’s naturally deceased newborn.

Even though significant scientific breakthroughs may have occurred in the past using illicitly gained cells and tissues from direct abortions, this cannot ethically sanitize this approach to tissue procurement, nor justify the continuation of the practice in the future.

In fact, outlawing the use of the remains of abortion victims by scientists and researchers would be a small but highly important first step towards showing proper societal respect for the many unborn children who unjustly perish in abortion clinics today.

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

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Communications create better lives

For over a hundred years, the Pontifical Mission Societies have provided a global network of people that make the lives of the poor and forgotten a little better each day.

The early basis of communications in the Pontifical Missions was prayer. Prayer for a common cause. The efforts of Pauline Jaricot in France over 100 years ago resulted in the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Pauline initially gathered her friends and co-workers together to pray for the people of the Mission lands. Over time, she pleaded with her group to each add 10 more people to the group. Within the first year, she had over 500 “members” praying daily for the developing lands. As they evolved, their prayers and sacrifices grew and so did the fruits of their efforts.

Communication of their results was spreading throughout the Church. From France in its early days to the United States now, the USA provides more than 25% of the support sent to the Mission lands, a majority of that is spent in Africa and Asia.

This is where the effective communications come into play. Missio, in Latin means “mission of God” but it is also an online crowdfunding platform that was launched by Pope Francis in 2013 to disseminate news of the work of missionaries everywhere and the funding requests that they seek. If you visit Missio.org, you can donate or learn about a school being built in India or new wells in Ethiopia. But mostly you can be enlightened with the good works and deeds of the Church on a global scale and donate where you see fit.

Missio offers you the ability to connect with “change-makers” all over the world. This connection or communication with communities everywhere helps to make a direct and lasting impact on the lives of so many.

If Pauline Jaricot, a heroine of the Missions, was alive today, she would be so pleased. The world has transformed in so many ways, too numerous to list here. But as far as the what the Pontifical Mission Societies set out to accomplish, the ability to extend an online platform to Catholics everywhere further develops relationship across the borders despite the distance, language or circumstance. Better and more effective communications not only make the world a smaller place, but it makes it a much better place too.

Our global family of faith and fellowship is nurtured with better access to information and communication. God bless all those involved in Missio.org and working so hard to juggle the needs of so many around the world all at once. Pope Francis calls on us to become his missionary disciples. Things like Missio, make answering that call so easy. God bless!
FACES OF FAITH

Debbie and Wayne Thomas, parishioners of the St. Regis Mission Church, celebrated their 50th anniversary on May 10. The couple received a blessing from Pope Francis to honor the occasion.

Youth at St. Regis Mission Church celebrated First Holy Communion May 29. Pictured with Father Jerome Pastores are Davis Cooke, Henrik Campeau, Kinsley Thompson, Calysta Cree, Korie Herne, Gwen Bero, Bryn Bero, Coco Gibson, Kawenniishtha Cole, Tommie Sunday-Oakes, Miles Thompson, Michael Herne, and Tieryn Benedict-Brockway. In addition to Father Pastores, the youth were instructed by catechists Connie Thompson, Vicky Phillips, Debbie Thomas and Dr. RJ “Dolly” McDonald.

Samantha Watson, 8, of St. Augustine’s in Peru, stands beside her great-great-grandmother, Albina St. Germain, 108, following the Mass in which Samantha received her First Holy Communion on May 5. The pair, 100 years apart in age, were happy to celebrate the day together.

Proudly holding certificates commemorating their First Holy Communion, Lilianna, Scott, and Alivia Carter (l-r) stand with Father Ted Crosby at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy, NY on April 28, 2019. Father Ted remarked it was the first time he had ever administered First Holy Communion to triplets.