Pope: Praise God for the gift of creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-Human beings are called to praise God for his gift of creation, not be predators out to plunder the earth and all it contains, Pope Francis said.

In a message sent July 8 to participants of an Italian conference on the consequences of deforestation in the Amazon, the pope said the current situation in the South American rainforest "is a sad paradigm of what is happening in many parts of the planet."

It is "a blind and destructive mentality that prefers profit to justice; it highlights the predatory attitude with which men and women relate to nature," he said. "Please do not forget that social justice and ecology are deeply interconnected."

According to its website, the international forum sponsored by the Laudato Si' Community, an association inspired by the pope's encyclical on the environment, reflected on the Amazon as "the key to 'ecological conversion'" in order to obtain a "better understanding of integral ecology and obtain the knowledge of living in harmony with creation."

The conference took place in the central Italian town of Amatrice, which was devastated in 2016 after a 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck the region. Amatrice was the hardest-hit town, accounting for 234 of the estimated 290 deaths, according to the Italian Civil Protection office.

In his message, the pope said the conference's location was "a sign of hope" as well as a "sign of closeness to so many brothers and sisters who still live at the crossroads between the memory of a frightening tragedy and a reconstruction that is slow to take off."

Regarding the conference's theme, the pope said deforestation and exploitation of the Amazon and its inhabitants has brought thousands of men and women to their knees and forced them to "become foreigners in their own land, deprived of their own culture and tradition and broke the balance that united these peoples to their land for millennia."
I tried to get out of doing it.

When I was hired for this job, I actually asked if writing this column was optional. I didn’t want to do it. Much to my dismay, I was told it’s required as part of my duties.

Even now, if someone approaches me and comments on my column, I note that it’s my least favorite part of my job; the part I struggle with most.

Why? I could say it’s because it’s hard to come up with fresh content every week (or every other week in summer). I could say it’s because, before this job, I had minimal experience writing in the first person. Those are both factors in why writing this column is difficult, but it’s not the big reason I struggle.

I struggle because I don’t feel qualified to offer insights about trying to be a disciple of Christ when– due to my sinfulness, doubts and personality defects – I fail so regularly at it. I don’t feel worthy.

One day, I relayed this struggle and these feelings of unworthiness to a wise priest. His response? “Yet here you are. You answered the call, and you’re doing it. Worthy or not.”

I thought of that as I watched more than 60 people from around the diocese become commissioned as lay ministers.

These are people who answered when God called them to serve Him and their parishes in particular ways.

I know a few of the people who were commissioned. They’re outstanding people; people who live their lives in ways that reflect Christ to others, but none of them are perfect. They have their struggles, their doubts and their sins. Yet here they are, answering God’s call. Worthy or not.

It struck me that we have a God who is so amazing, He can do amazing things through even broken and struggling people. It struck me that despite that, it’s so easy to hear God’s call and say, “me, Lord? It can’t be. I’m not smart enough. I’m not talented enough. I’m not good enough. I’m simply not enough.”

Thank you, commissioned lay ministers, for answering God’s call. Thank you for serving God and your communities.

And thank you for reminding me that we’re all called to say “yes” to the Lord when we’re called, not when we feel worthy of it.

May God bless you and your ministries.

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Powerful lessons in the July Gospels

This week, I could not help but notice that the Gospel readings for the Sundays during the month of July put together a powerful message about Jesus. They give us a magnificent picture of the Jesus who came to live among us.

These readings give us a good understanding of how to live as Jesus taught us to live. Each of these Gospel readings are from the same chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 10. I would like to share some of these ideas with you, today.

As this chapter begins, Jesus chooses 72 disciples to visit places that he planned to visit personally. Jesus instructed them to prepare the place and the people to receive Jesus. Now, in our present time, you and I are part of that group of 72 – all of us. As Catholics, I believe that we all have been called to prepare our world to receive Jesus. This, we now call a vocation – we are called and guided each day by the Lord.

I believe in vocation – the presence of the Lord in my life – that led me, as it does so many others, to choose a religious vocation. This was a call that led me to choose to become an ordained priest. This is the call that leads many to choose to become a deacon. This is the call that leads many to choose to become a religious sister or brother.

The Second Vatican Council reminds us that everyone of us has a vocation – a call from God, a purpose in life, not just the priests or religious, but all of us dedicated to the Lord, Jesus. Everyone has a life of eternal value. Everyone has a vocation. Like those 72, we are called to be disciples of Jesus. We are called to lead lives that leads others to the Lord, lives that prepares others to find the presence of our God.

On one of the Sundays this month, the Gospel reading presents to us the familiar parable of Jesus, the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Remember, these parables are powerful stories that Jesus tells us. They didn’t really happen. Jesus carefully puts them together as a story to teach. The Parable of the Good Samaritan is Jesus’ message for us to realize the importance of compassion for a good Christian. A man is robbed and beaten and left. He is ignored by a priest and a Levite. In Jesus’ story, a Samaritan, one of that group that were considered unworthy, even enemies by the Jews, is the one who helps the injured man. Jesus makes it clear to us as his disciples that we should be compassionate like the Good Samaritan who helped someone in need, uninterested whether it is a friend or foe. Being like the Good Samaritan is being compassionate like Jesus.

One other message in this Parable. The priest and the Levite who pass by are on their way to the temple for religious rituals. However, they know that if they as much as touch the injured man, they would not be allowed to participate in prayer. They decide to go to the temple. Jesus criticizes them. In this, he teaches us that compassion and reaching out to help others is more important for his disciples than even prayer.

We read on another Sunday about Jesus’ visit to a family, Martha, Mary and Lazarus. This family comes up often in the Gospels as friends of Jesus. It is good for us to realize that Jesus was close to friends and to families. Jesus speaks of us as his friends. He wants to be part of our lives as a friend. He wants us to approach him as a friend in love and peace.
Commissioned ministers urged to be kind, listen

The following is the homily delivered by Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the Commissioning of Lay Ministers held June 30.

In this Sunday's Gospel from Luke, we heard that Jesus sent some messengers on ahead into a Samaritan village to help prepare there to welcome Jesus. But they refused to welcome Him. So, James and John asked: “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them? Jesus turned and rebuked the two.” It seems that the people back in the time of Jesus had problems being hospitable. Some, even his closest disciples, suffered from a serious deficiency in just plain kindness.

Some things never seem to change. Today, there is so much contention and confrontation. Verbal missiles, fists or other lethal weaponry are hurled towards those who don’t see things our way. So many want to call down fire from heaven. There is no small amount of meanness and anger expressed on social media. The evening news abounds with examples. Our government is so polarized, we can’t talk civilly, let alone work together, for instance, towards immigration reform. Innocent people, meanwhile, suffer terribly because we won’t listen.

That’s the world in which we are called to minister today and it’s not all out there, far from home. At times, we may find divisiveness in our communities, our families, our parishes. Sadly, sometimes even in our own diocesan planning process when important decisions need to be made, a few of us might find it difficult to dialogue.

Change can be so very difficult. As newly commissioned ministers of the Church, I ask you to be particularly attentive, kind and respectful to those you encounter who are hurting, those who might express their frustration in negative ways. I know that it takes a whole lot of patience to listen. Today, more than ever, ours must be a ministry of reconciliation.

A couple married for 15 years began having more than the usual disagreements. In fact, their marriage was in crisis. They really wanted to work through it and agreed on an idea the wife had. For one month, they planned to drop a slip of paper in a “fault” box. The boxes would provide a place to let the other know about their daily irritations—their spouse’s faults. The wife was diligent in her approach: “leaving the cap off the toothpaste,” wet towels on the shower floor, “dirty socks not in the hamper,” and on and on until the end of the month.

After dinner, at the end of the month, they exchanged “fault” boxes. The husband reflected on what he had done wrong, as written on the slips of paper he read. Then the wife opened her box and began reading hers. The slips she was reading were all the same. The message on each slip was “I love you!” The crisis was over. The message of love was heard. If we could only learn to be merciful, to retrieve people’s good sides from the junk drawers of their soul. And, don’t we all have junk drawers in our souls?

Towards the end of her life, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta gave this advice, which I’m sure you’ve heard before: People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

We are so blessed because you have decided to participate in our Formation for Ministry program. You are allowing the Lord, through His Body, the Church to help equip you for discipleship. An important gift you bring to discipleship is the gift of attentive listening. The story is told of a famous author who was cared for a child by a peasant woman after his mother had died. For about eight years during this period of his life, the author was blind. Years later, he had this to say about the woman who cared for him:

This woman, Martha was her name, took loving care of me. I remember she was a big woman and she must have really loved me because I remember those eight years of blindness in my childhood as essentially a happy time of my life. I remember a lot of talk and a lot of laughter. I must have talked a great deal as a child because Martha used to say to me again and again, ‘Do you remember when you said this?’ Do you remember when you said that?” And I realized that she had been listening to me and remembered what I said. And all my life I have had this feeling about myself: that what I think and what I say are worth listening to and remembering. This is the gift she gave me! My sisters and brothers, may each of us be such a gift bearer to our parishioners. May each of our parishioners know that he or she is worth listening to, that we have welcoming ears and tender hearts.

I know that these last two years, you have been listening attentively to all that your instructors offered you as they sought to help with the renewal of your minds and hearts through instruction about our Catholic faith. I want to thank them, Catherine Russell and all the members of the Formation for Ministry and Christian Formation staff, our pastors and parishioners for their strong support.

It’s no secret the Church of the North Country will rely more and more on your ministry in the local parish. Remember that you are co-missioned—that is, missioned with your sisters and brothers, members of the one Body of Christ. We never serve alone.

Today, on behalf of the Church of Ogdensburg, with a whole lot of gratitude and pride, I send you out for active discipleship in Jesus’ Name. I want to call down from heaven the fire of Christ’s love to empower you all. Give God’s holy people the best you’ve got, no matter the situation and through it all: May God be praised... forever may God be praised!
SOLEMN VESPERS FOR THE BLESSING AND COMMISSIONING OF LAY PASTORAL MINISTERS

AT THE COMMISSIONING

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and most of the 64 newly commissioned lay ministers gather in front of St. Mary’s Cathedral after the Solemn Vespers for Blessing and Commissioning of Lay Pastoral Ministers on June 30. The names, parishes and ministries of the newly commissioned lay ministers are listed below.

Lay ministers from 23 parishes commissioned

**CARTHAGE SITE**
- The Roman Catholic Community of Brownville and Dexter
  - Edward J. Queal – Liturgical Ministry
  - Theresa A. Queal – Liturgical Ministry

- St. James Minor Church, Carthage
  - Anna Margaret Archer-Runge – Catechetical Leadership
  - Susan M. Gibbs – Parish Life and Outreach
  - Lori A. Hanno – Parish Life and Outreach and Catechetical Leadership
  - Nicholas R. Hanno – Parish Life and Outreach and Catechetical Leadership
  - Joseph Margrey – Liturgical Ministry
  - Joanne M. Norrgard – Liturgical Ministry
  - Judy H. Nye – Liturgical Ministry
  - Brandon J. Olley – Catechetical Leadership
  - Monica M. Olley – Parish Life and Outreach
  - Michelle L. Wojcikowski – Youth Ministry
  - Thomas D. Wojcikowski – Youth Ministry

- St. Mary’s Church, Copenhagen
  - Michael Joseph Arsenault – Parish Life and Outreach
  - Sadie L. Shettleton – Parish Life and Outreach

- St. Mary’s Church, Evans Mills
  - Tammie M. Eggleston – Youth Ministry
  - Cathy Anne Voos – Catechetical Leadership

- St. Francis Solanus Church, Harrisville
  - Julie Chartrand – Youth Ministry

- St. Peter’s Church, Lowville
  - Sarah Jane Neddo – Catechetical Leadership

- Church of the Holy Family, Watertown
  - Charles N. Childs – Liturgical Ministry
  - Anne M. Segebarth – Catechetical Leadership
  - Gary E. West – Liturgical Ministry

- St. Anthony’s Church, Watertown
  - David Buskey – Parish Life and Outreach
  - Kathi Buskey – Parish Life and Outreach

- St. Mary’s Church, Copenhagen
  - Sarah Buskey – Youth Ministry

**LAKE PLACID SITE**
- The Catholic Community of Holy Name and St. Matthew, Au Sable Forks
  - Henry Coolidge – Liturgical Ministry
  - Holly Coolidge – Liturgical Ministry
  - Norman W. Hatch – Liturgical Ministry

- The Roman Catholic Community of Keeseville, Keeseville
  - John LaHart – Liturgical Ministry

- St. Agnes Church, Lake Placid
  - Marcia Bugbee – Parish Life and Outreach
  - Kristen Clark – Parish Life and Outreach
  - Bernadette Clarke – Liturgical Ministry
  - Ann M. Hearden – Liturgical Ministry
  - Sandra E. Izzo

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Commisioned lay ministers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

St. Augustine's Church, Peru
Lisa M. Tarbell – Parish Life and Outreach
Dwane Bast – Catechetical Leadership
Kristen Bast – Parish Life and Outreach

St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh
Janice Tobin – Liturgical Ministry

St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake
Stuart Darrah – Parish Life and Outreach
Tracy Darrah – Parish Life and Outreach
Claudia A. Fennell – Liturgical Ministry
Robin Hogan-Law – Parish Life and Outreach
Jimmy Law – Liturgical Ministry

St. Peter's Parish, Massena
Patricia A. Badlam
John C. Kozsan – Parish Life and Outreach
Sylvie Marion – Parish Life and Outreach

Our Ladies Parishes, Ogdensburg
Lorraine Carney – Catechetical Leadership
Lil Dailey – Catechetical Leadership
Angela Morley
Mark E. Sovie – Liturgical Ministry
Mary Wood – Parish Life and Outreach

The Roman Catholic Community of St. Mary, Potsdam
John Andrikut – Parish Life and Outreach and Liturgical Ministry
Suzanne Francis Smith – Parish Life and Outreach

St. Mary's Church, Waddington
Debra Lynn Gainey – Youth Ministry
Matthew J. Gainey – Parish Life and Outreach
Mary O’Horo Loomis – Liturgical Ministry
Anne Marie Young – Youth Ministry

WADDINGTON SITE

St. Mary's Church, Brushton
Troy J. Deno – Catechetical Leadership

The Roman Catholic Church of St. Mary, Canton
Cathleen E. O’Horo – Liturgical Ministry

St. Regis Mission, Hogansburg
Dr. Rose-Alma J. McDonald – Catechetical Leadership
Caroline Peters – Youth Ministry

The Catholic Church in the High Peaks

"THE WORLD DOESN'T NEED WHAT WOMEN HAVE, IT NEEDS WHAT WOMEN ARE!"
~ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS (EDITH STEIN)

St. Agnes of Lake Placid and St. Brendan of Keene
congratulates our five new parish ministers.

St. Agnes Church
Marcia Bugbee, Kristen Clark, Bernadette Clarke, Sandra Izze

St. Brendan Church
Ann M. Hearden

Tammie M. Eggleston of Evans Mills receives a certificate from Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin to note her commissioning as a lay minister in Youth Ministry.
Bishop announces new parish, diocesan roles

The selection of Fr. Doug Lucia as the next Bishop of Syracuse by Pope Francis is a great blessing for Syracuse and an honor for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Bishop Terry R. LaValley is pleased to announce the following assignments in light of the Bishop-Elect’s departure.

All assignments are effective August 1.

Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Evans Mills and St. Paul’s Church in Black River is appointed Pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Waddington and St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid.

Msgr. Aucoin will remain Episcopal Vicar for Education and the New Evangelization.

Father Vicente F. Jazmines, currently Chaplain at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg, is appointed Pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Evans Mills and of St. Paul’s Church in Black River.

Father Garry B. Giroux is appointed Judicial Vicar of the Diocese. He remains Pastor of St. Patrick’s Church in Brasher Falls, Visitation and St. Raymond in Norfolk and St. Andrew’s Church in Norwood.

Father Christopher C. Carrara is appointed Director of Vocations and Director of Seminarians. He continues his responsibilities as Vicar under the new title, Vicar for Clergy. Fr. Carrara remains Pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of Morris-town, Hammond and Rossie.

Deacon Kevin T. Mastellon is appointed Director of Permanent Deacons. Deacon Mastellon remains Deacon Assistant at St. Patrick’s and St. Anthony’s Churches in Watertown. Deacon Mastellon can be reached at his new diocesan email: kmastellon@rcdog.org.

Dr. William Amorelli and Father James W. Seymour are appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the Living Stones Planning Committee.

Msgr. Robert Aucoin

Prior to his current assignment in Evans Mills and Black River, Msgr. Aucoin served as pastor of St. Anthony’s and St. Patrick’s in Watertown. He has previously served as pastor in Potsdam and Colton, Madrid, and Alexandria Bay and Redwood. He also served as an administrator in Lake Placid and Norwood, chaplain at Fort Drum, rector at St. Mary’s Cathedral, and parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown.

Msgr. Aucoin has also served as a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central, principal of Seton Catholic School and Immaculate Heart Central, president of Mater Dei College and rector of Wadhams Hall Seminary College.

In addition, Msgr. Aucoin has filled a number of diocesan roles, including chancellor, episcopal vicar for Diocesan Services and director of the Family Life Department.

A Massachusetts native, Msgr. Aucoin studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph’s Apostolic School in Watertown with the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. He completed his novitiate with the religious order in Canada and attended Laval University in Canada and Gregorian University in Rome.

Msgr. Aucoin was ordained March 14, 1970 as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart in Rome. In 1973, he was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He has served as assistant pastor in Malone and Tupper Lake, and pastor in Ogdensburg.

Father Garry Giroux

A native of Massena, he received a bachelor’s degree from Wadhams Hall Seminary-College and a master of divinity degree from Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., before his ordination May 1, 1976 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Giroux later earned a master’s degree in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame and a JCL degree in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America.

He has served as assistant pastor in Malone and Tupper Lake, and pastor in Louisville, Constable, Westville and Potsdam.

Father Christopher Carrara

Born in Brooklyn, he attended Paul Smith’s College and Dowling College before studying for the priesthood at Wadhams Hall Seminary and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York.

He was ordained May 14, 1994 at St. Mary’s Cathedral by Bishop Paul S. Loverde.

Prayerful best wishes on the occasion of your commissioning as a Lay Minister for the Sick and the Homebound.

Your faith, commitment and skills are a blessing for our parish community.

St. Patrick’s Parish of Brasher Falls, NY

Continued on Page 7
New roles
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at Holy Family in Watertown, St. Bernard’s in Saranac Lake, St. Henry’s in Natural Bridge, St. Rita’s in Deferiet and St. James Minor in Carthage; and pastor at Holy Name in Tupper Lake, St. John the Evangelist in Lafargeville and St. Mary’s in Clayton. He then served as administrator at St. Mary’s in Glenfield, St. Peter’s in Lowville and St. Hedwig’s in Houseville for a year before becoming pastor of those parishes in 2010. He remained in that role until 2017.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon

Deacon Mastellon was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 2003. He has been assigned to St. Patrick’s Church in Watertown for 15 years and from 2007 to 2017 was the parish Pastoral Associate. He currently teaches Homiletics in the Diocesan Formation Program for Permanent Deacons and presents workshops and lectures in parishes for Lectors.

Deacon Mastellon was raised in Cambria Heights, in Queens County. He attended parochial grammar and high schools in Queens and graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science from Potsdam College in 1970. His post-graduate studies have been at Notre Dame University, SUNY Oswego and Pontifical College Josephinum.

Deacon Mastellon is a member of the Bishop’s Council of Deacons and is the immediate Past-President of the Society of St. Lawrence, an organization of the Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He currently serves on the Diocesan Finance Council and has served on a special Task Force studying Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership in the Diocese, on the Census Committee of the Diocesan Envisioning process and the advisory group to the Bishop for the recent Capital Campaign.

Most of his professional career was in broadcasting. Deacon Mastellon retired as General Manager of WWNY-TV7 in Watertown after 30 years as a broadcast journalist and manager.

Kathy, his wife, is a commissioned lay minister at St. Patrick’s and founder of the parish Elizabeth Ministry Chapter. They have been married for 48 years. Their daughter, Patricia Aumell, is the Director of Music Ministry at St. Patrick’s and is the artistic director of Stage Notes, a theatrical company for aspiring high school performers.

The Mastellons have three grandsons.

### Rest in Peace

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

- **July 20** - Rev. Francis Leo Desrosiers, 1956
- **July 25** - Rev. Simon Wallace, M.S.C., 1941

### Bishop’s Public Schedule

- **July 17** - Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- **July 19** - Noon – Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral
- **July 20** - 6 p.m. – Installation Mass of Reverend Todd E. Thibault as Pastor of St. Edmund’s Church in Ellenburg Center and St. Bernard’s Church in Carthage
- **July 21** - 12:15 p.m. – Mass at the 71st Annual New York State Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage at St. Patrick’s in Watertown
- **July 23** - 4:30 p.m. – Mass for Youth Camp at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake
- **July 24** - 10:50 a.m. – Mass at St. Joseph’s Home in Ogdensburg
- **July 27** – 4 p.m. – Farewell Mass for Bishop-Elect Douglas J. Lucia at St. Mary’s Cathedral followed by a reception at the Knights of Columbus in Ogdensburg
- **July 28** - 8 a.m. – Mass at the Church of the Assumption in Gabriels
- 10 a.m. – Mass at St. Bernard’s Church in Saranac Lake
- **July 29** - 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral

### Environmental Stewardship

**Green Apple Award recipients for 2019**

Pope Francis reminds us of our need to take care of our “common home – the earth.”

This year, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the Bishop of Ogdensburg and other interested students to submit an application to receive the Pope Francis Green Apple Award for their school/class or individual student. This is a collaborative endeavor to:

1. encourage action steps to 'care for God's Creation'
2. share these activities among the schools and parishes in our Diocese.

This year, nine Green Apple Awards were bestowed. Here are a few of the

- **SCHOOL:**: Augustinian Academy
  - CLASS: PreK-8th Grades
  - TEACHER: Linda Carney
  - PROJECT: Planting the Seeds

1. School gardening project, planting, tending, developed irrigation system and harvested
2. As a result of gardening project continuing and improving, students are more mindful of waste. Students learned to collect, sort and use organic waste to raise worms. Students learned to become good caretakers or stewards of their own homes, reminding them that God created us to care for all of his creation.

- **SCHOOL:**: Immaculate Heart Central
  - Senior High
  - CLASS: Grade 11 & 12 Marine Science
  - TEACHER: Christine Missert
  - PROJECT: Explored Earth’s Natural Water Resources

Students constructed aquifers to determine how clean water would be collected for daily use, recreation and agriculture.

Students also investigated marine habitats and constructed water sampling nets

More Green Apple Award winners will be featured in the Environmental Stewardship column in future editions of the North Country Catholic.

### Congratulations to John Andrikut & Suzanne Smith

on your commissioning as lay ministers for our parish.

The Roman Catholic Community of St. Mary’s, Potsdam

### 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
Congratulations to
David Buskey
Kathy Buskey
Sarah Buskey

On your commissioning as Lay Ministers.
We are very blessed to have your ministry among us!

from the Pastor and Parishioners at St. Anthony’s Parish, Watertown, N.Y.

Mass of Christian Burial held for Deacon Bateman

A Mass of Christian Burial for Deacon Francis F. “Spike” Bateman, age 91, of Ogdensburg, was held on Saturday, July 6, at St. Mary’s Cathedral, with Rev. Joseph Morgan officiating.

Deacon Bateman passed away on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at Claxton Hepburn Medical Center surrounded by his loving family.

Deacon Bateman is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his children, Steven Bateman and his wife, Kathryn, of Lisbon; Pamela Louise Lepcio and her husband, Paul, of Sherburne; Kathleen Ann O’Neill and her husband, Dennis of Glastonbury, Connecticut; Barbara Richardson and her husband, Dale, of Ogdensburg; Janice Lincoln and her husband, Jerry, of Ogdensburg; Scott Michael Bateman and his wife, Patricia of Niskayuna; Kevin Bateman and his wife, Pamela, of Ogdensburg; Frank Bateman and his wife, Sharon, of Waddington; Matthew Bateman and his fiancée, Krissie Austin, of Clifton Park; and Mark Bateman of Troy; 15 grandchildren, Nathan, Nicole, Jacob, Krystian, Ashlee, Arika, Lisa, Joseph, Jillian, Stephanie, Justin, Emily, Francis, Kathleen and Michael; and nieces, nephews and cousins. He is predeceased by his parents, Francis and Elsie Bateman; a sister, Patricia Russell; and his first wife, Barbara Bateman.

Spike was born on February 8, 1928, in Ogdensburg, the son of Francis B. and Elsie (Baker) Bateman. He graduated from Ogdensburg Free Academy in 1945 and the Bentley School of Accounting and Finance in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1947. Spike entered the United States Navy in 1950, serving during the Korean Conflict aboard the U.S.S. Washburn. He was later honorably discharged in 1952 with the Korean Service Medal and enlisted in the Navy Reserves, where he served until the age of 60.

Spike married Elizabeth “Betty” Mathews on July 24, 1965, at Notre Dame Church, with Monsignor A.D. Charbonneau officiating. Spike was first employed by George Hall Company and then served as the Controller at Hobart & William Smith College in Geneva. Spike then went on to work for Ogdensburg Trust Company as a Trust Officer in 1968 late retiring after twenty years of service.

Deacon Bateman was ordained on October 4, 2003 at St. Mary’s Cathedral by Bishop Costello and served the Catholic Community for 15 years as a Deacon in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He helped many families through his capacity in the diocese and his role through the bank.

Deacon Bateman was a member of the Ogdensburg City Council, Ogdensburg Rotary Club, American Legion, VFW Post 2936, Our Lady’s Outreach Ministry and a director for Showtime for the Knights of Columbus. He also served on the Ogdensburg Free Academy School Board, Claxton Hepburn Medical Center Foundation Board, St. Joseph’s Home Board and the Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Board.

He enjoyed golfing, reading, crossword puzzles, jellybeans, and gardening.

Donations may be made in Deacon Bateman’s memory to Our Lady’s Outreach Ministries, 214 Morris St, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.
Heart Work Camp gives teens chance to serve

By Darcy Fargo
Editor

SARANAC LAKE – Thanks to the efforts of 250 teens and their adult chaperones, 85 worksites – mostly private homes and churches – were cleaned, improved and inspired during the Catholic Heart Work Camp held June 23 to 29.

Now in its fifth year in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, this year’s Catholic Heart Work Camp drew participants from around the northeastern U.S. Many of the participants traveled to North Country Community College, the home base for this year’s camp, with their youth groups and chaperones.

“Everyone is on a team,” said Angela Bashaw, a parishioner of St. Mary’s of the Fort in Fort Covington and one of the camp’s managers. “Teams are usually five to six teens and at least one adult. We mix all the kids up, so they don’t just stay with the groups they came with. They meet people from other groups, the work together, and they form new friendships.”

Each day at camp starts with a morning Mass and breakfast. Then the teams head to their work sites.

Work sites were identified working with the local Catholic parishes, social service organizations and through social media. The youth, grades 9 through age 21, performed a wide range of tasks, including cleaning, painting, yard work and stacking firewood.

In addition to performing much needed labor, the youth participate in ministry, as well.

“We emphasize the ministry isn’t just the work, it’s also visiting residents, having conversations,” said Jocelyn Kelly, a parishioner of St. Mary’s of the Fort in Fort Covington and a camp manager. “A lot of the homeowners are lonely. Yes, the work getting done is important, but the intangible stuff is perhaps more important. These young people are a witness to their faith by serving others and being the hands and feet of Christ. That’s what they emphasize here, and we see it happen.”

The work has a profound impact on some of the homeowners.

“The homeowners on one of our worksites were resistant when we first arrived,” said Francesca Durant, a chaperone who traveled to the camp with a youth group from Glastonbury, Connecticut. “They did not seem happy to see us, even though they signed up for this. But they kept kind of warming up, then warming up a bit more. By the end, he was sitting with us, and he asked each kid questions. At the end, he told us, ‘I said yes to having kids come do chores. I didn’t know they’d bring so much joy. You watch TV and see violence, racism, bullying and problems with teens. You give me hope for the future.’”

“The kids blew his mind, and he blew the kids’ minds sharing that with them,” added Tim Dunne, also a chaperone from Glastonbury, Connecticut. “I was thinking about it. This isn’t us doing this. We’re just reflecting a bigger light. We just hold the mirrors.”

It also had a profound impact on the teens and their chaperones.

“We did multiple sites today,” said Kirk White- man, who attended the camp chaperoning a group from Killingworth, Connecticut. “One of the homes was a tough case. It was in really bad shape. The kids were just so sad to see it. I told them it was a good reminder that they need to count their blessings. And it was a blessing that they were here to touch these people with their actions.”

“For the last three days, I’ve been at a house owned by a resident whose granddaughter lives with her,” said Colin Luca, 18, of Glastonbury. “It was mess. Yard work hasn’t been done in a year. Now, the yard looks great, the cabinets are painted, as are the walls in the kitchen. The ceiling is painted. Missing tiles were replaced in the ceiling. It feels great to see how much of a difference we made. It also made me feel like I have everything I need. It made me more grateful.”

“One of the sites we went to was house where there had been hoarding,” added Jack Kantor, 17, also of Glastonbury. “We cleaned the space and made it livable again. It was a big change, and the resident was very emotional seeing the change. It feels good to see how we can help others. And it made me appreciate what I have and how I live.”

After the work is completed for the day, the youth returned to North Country Community College, where they would have an opportunity to shower, eat dinner and participate in night programs, which included Adoration, talks and skits, music and other activities.

“This has been a great location,” said Luca, who was on his fourth year at Catholic Heart Work Camp, each year at a different site. “The area is beautiful. The campus is really nice, and the food has been really great. This is the best place we’ve been.”

Catholic Heart Work Camp hopes to return to the diocese next year, though dates and locations have not yet been finalized.

To learn more, visit heartworkcamp.com.
A Solidarity in Faith. Partners in Prosperity.

Bishop Antoine Chbeir Maronite Diocese of Latakia, & Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Diocese of Ogdensburg

www.semerarophotography.com
Missionary by nature

By Father Jay Seymour

In October, we celebrate Extraordinary Mission Month. The theme is “Baptized and Sent: the Church of Christ on Mission in the World.” As we lead up to the celebration the Mission Office will feature occasional columns written by religious and clergy reflecting on their work in the Mission Lands as they too, were baptized and sent.

It has been quite a while since I have written a Mission Column but prompted by our persuasive Mission Director, Sister Mary Ellen Brett, and on the inspiration of Pope Francis who has designated October 2019 “Extraordinary Mission Month,” I have again taken to typ-

ing.

We pray the Creed every Sunday and are reminded that our church is “universal.” I had a wonderful experience of that universality during my eight years of serving as a missionary in the Ogdensburg Peruvian Apostolate. I went quite naive, perhaps thinking I would be the great evangelizer fulfilling the mandate in Mark 16:15, but it didn’t take long to realize that I was the one being evangelized by a simple faith-filled people. One of my great evangelizers was Julia, the cook at our parish house who was hired years before by one of my predecessors at the mission in Peru. Father George Maroun. Julia was a single mother with three small children who escaped to Mollendo from a difficult and abusive life in another city. She arrived with few material resources but with a determined spirit, a strong faith and a compassionate heart.

Julia was a wonderful cook, but the priests were not the only ones that she fed. She was always at the front lines on special occasions when treats of hot chocolate and sweet bread were given to the children, when supplies were distributed and when meals provided by the mothers’ clubs.

Julia was instrumental in the parish obtaining land for a center in one of the outlying areas of the city. Her vision was to provide a safe site where needy children could be attended to. It started as a simple building where meals and supplementary teaching could take place and developed into a true center with a separate kitchen, bakery, medical post and building where mothers’ clubs, children and other groups could gather.

Memories of Julia and of my days in the mission were reignited recently when I got an unexpected call from her daughter, Vilma, who was visiting California for a conference. Years ago, I was Vilma’s padrino for her First Holy Communion and now she is a professor at the university in Arequipa, Peru. Vilma traveled East for a brief visit to Lowville in January where she had her first experience with snow, and what an experience it was! She updated me on Julia who is still evangelizing with her volunteer work at a center for the elderly.

Vatican II remind us that the church is “missionary by nature” and that “we exist in order to evangelize.” Obviously, that applies not just to people who travel to other countries but to all Christians; to ordinary people like Julia and to people like you and me. This “Extraordinary Month of Mission” is an opportunity to remind ourselves wherever we are, in whatever situation we find ourselves, “This is mission.”
CONGRATULATIONS, NEWLY COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS

Stuart Darrah
Tracy Darrah
Claudia Fennell
Robin Hogan-Law
Jimmy Law

WELL DONE
GOOD AND
FAITHFUL STEWARDS!
CONGRATULATIONS

From the pastor and
parishioners of
St. Bernard’s Church,
Saranac Lake

The pastor and parishioners of
St. Mary’s in Waddington
extend prayerful best wishes to
our new commissioned
lay ministers

Debra Lynn Gainey
Matthew J. Gainey
Mary O’Horo Loomis
Anne Marie Young

St. Peter’s, Plattsburgh, is blessed on the occasion of
Janice Tobin’s
commissioning by Bishop LaValley
and joining the parish’s dedicated and committed Lay Ministers.

Henry Coolidge
Holly Coolidge
Norman Hatch
John LaHart

CC of Holy Name &
St. Matthews, Au Sable Forks
St. Margaret’s Parish, Wilmington
RCC of Keseville
CONGRATULATIONS, NEWLY COMMISSIONED LAY MINISTERS

Congratulations Edward and Theresa Queal!

For becoming newly commissioned Lay ministers for our parishes.

The Parishes of Immaculate Conception in Brownville & St. Andrews in Sackets Harbor

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Congratulations on your commissioning for Catechetical Leadership for our parish.

Thank you for all that you have done!

From the Pastor and Parishioners of St. Mary’s Church, Brushton & St. Augustine’s Church, North Bangor

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To our newly commissioned Lay Ministers:

Lorraine Carney
Lil Dailey
Angela Morley
Mark Sovie
Mary Wood

We ask God’s blessings on them and their families, as together we journey in faith!

St. Mary’s Cathedral and Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg

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The Catholic Community of St. Mary’s, Evans Mills offers sincere congratulations and thanks to

Tammie Eggleston
&
Cathy Anne Voos

and look forward to your ministry in our community in the years ahead.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO JULIE CHARTRAND WHO IS COMMISSIONED AS A LAY MINISTER FOR OUR PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS SOLANUS

We thank Julie for her many hours of study and dedicated work preparing to become a Lay Minister. Julie has dedicated her service to the parish for many years, especially in organizing, teaching and sharing her faith with the youth of the parish. She also ministers to the sick and homebound and is a special minister of the Eucharist. She will continue to serve the parish is these outreach ministries as she generously and faithfully fulfills the invitation of Jesus in today's Gospel as he says to her "Come follow me."

WE THANK JULIE FOR HER GENEROUS RESPONSE TO THE LORD IN GIVING HERSELF IN HIS SERVICE AS A LAY MINISTER.
ADIRONDACK

SUMMER RETREAT
Saranac Lake – A summer retreat will be held for adults. Come aside to the mountains and rest awhile with the Lord.

Date: Aug. 9-11
Place: Guggenheim Lodge, Saranac Lake

Features: The theme will be “Exploring a Spirituality of God’s Creation through the Seasons,” as inspired by Ecclesiastes 3:1, “There is a season for everything...” Retreat will include presentations, with opportunities for personal and group prayer with time for sharing. Presenters are Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ, faith formation educator; Tom Kalinowski, former biology teacher and author of two nature books; and Father Paul Kelly, celebrant for Mass on Saturday afternoon.

Cost: Suggested offering is $150. For tenting or commuter options, the suggested offering is $100.

Contact: For more information, or to register, call 315-212-6592 or email sr-bethjsj@gmail.com.

CLINTON

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Plattsburgh – Champlain Valley Right to Life is looking for volunteers for the Clinton County Fair.

Date: July 16 – 21
Contact: For more information please call 518-593-6024

INDOOR YARD SALE
Chazy – Sacred Heart will be holding its Annual Indoor Yard Sale.

Date: July 27
Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Features: Something for everyone. Refreshments will be served.

Contact: For more information call 518-846-7650

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Plattsburgh – St. Peter’s Church will have the 24th Annual St. Peter’s Golf Invitation.

Date: Aug. 2
Time: 12:30 p.m. shotgun start
Place: Adirondack Golf Club
Cost: $65 for non-Adirondack members, $50 for Adirondack members, $25 for awards dinner only (not able to dine with us subtract $25 from total)
Features: All proceeds will benefit youth programs sponsored by St. Peter’s Church.

Contact: John Mockery at 518-578-4927 or 518-562-4179 for more information.

JEFFERSON

EVENING OF SACRED MUSIC
Clayton – An evening of sacred music to be held.

Date: July 21
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church

Features: Different arrangements of well-loved hymns, such as Amazing Grace and Be Still My Soul. Featuring St. Mary’s and St. John’s Combined Choir, Turning Point/Islanders Men’s A Capella Chorus, Kathryn Amore-Ingerston, conductor, and Cathy Harruff, accompanist. There is no admission charge, but guests will have opportunity to contribute to St. Mary’s Music Ministry Fund. A reception will follow.

Contact: For more information, contact St. Mary’s parish office at 315-686-3398.

FAITH AND ECOLOGY
Clayton - Dialogue on our Common Home and its Ecological Future to be held.

Date: Aug. 7
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church

Features: Insights from science as well as reflections on Pope Francis’ Laudato Sí: On Care for Our Common Home will be presented by Dr. Curt Stager, author and Professor of Natural Sciences at Paul Smith’s College in conjunction with Dr. Gerry Gacioch, MD., Chief of Cardiology at Rochester General Hospital Heart Institute and NYS Catholic Climate Ambassador. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. This event is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph Social Justice Committee and the Watertown Faith and Ecology Group.

Contact: For more information call St. Bethany Fitzgerald, 315-212-6592

LEWIS

FAVS LUNCHEON
Norfolk – DOVS (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Sociology) Luncheon to be held.

Date: July 17
Time: 11:30 a.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/registration contact Stephen Tartaglia, Family Life Director at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1420 or visit rcodny.org/relationships.

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 LaValle at Cathedral; 1 p.m. Picnic and tour of Bishop’s House.

Contact: Register by contacting Shane Lippincott at slippincott@rcodny.org or by calling 315-782-3620 by Aug. 9

GOLF OUTING
Canton – Golf Tournament to be held.

Date: Aug. 31
Time: Shotgun start at 1 p.m.
Place: St. Lawrence University Golf Course

Features: Free Admission. The choir will be performing an all new program of religious, jazz, pop and patriotic music.

DOVS PILGRIMAGE
Ottawa – DOVS to go on pilgrimage to Notre Dame Cathedral with Bishop LaValle.

Date: Oct. 2
Time: Leaving Malone at 7 a.m., Potsdam at 7:45 a.m. and Ogdensburg at 8:15 a.m.

Contact: For more information please call pilgrimage coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

ST. LAWRENCE

QUEEN OF HEARTS
Canton – Queen of Hearts Game coming to the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall, Mineer Street

Features: All pilgrims are invited to the picnic lunch and, if practical, asked to bring a dish to share. The Knights will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages.

Contact: For more information please call PILGRIMAGE Coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

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/registration contact Stephen Tartaglia, Family Life Director at (315) 393-2920, ext. 1420 or visit rcodny.org/relationships.
On Saturday, June 29, St. Patrick’s Parish in Colton celebrated the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul at St. Paul’s Oratory in South Colton. Father Stephen Rocker, pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish in Colton and St. Mary’s Parish in Potsdam, celebrated the Mass along with Father Andrew Amyott and Father John “Jack” Downs. Also assisting were Deacon Richard Burns, seminarian Lukas Gruber, altar servers Bethany Vaisey, Nathaniel Smith, Dillon MacDougall, lector Betty Connelly, organist Jarrett Larson, cantor Rebecca MacDougall, gift bearers Shea Charleson, Lexis Williams and Hayley Murray. Following the Mass, a procession took place to the Sacred Heart Shine where Rebecca MacDougall and Jarrett Larson led the congregation of approximately 150 parishioners in song and Father Rocker gave a blessing. Following an ice cream social occurred, at which Father Rocker’s 40th anniversary as a priest was celebrated. (Right) Special guests present were members of Fr. Rocker’s family, including his brother, Larry Rocker, his sister-in-law, Jennettie Rocker, and his niece, Mary Jo Rocker.

FW: News Item: The Canton Knights of Columbus donates two new Basketball MVP plaques to St. Mary’s School. The old plaques had not been updated for the last twelve years. Sixth grade teacher Maryann Augenstein researched the winners for both the boys and girls so the plaques could be updated.
2020 census will not inquire about citizenship

WASHINGTON (CNS) – In a July 11 announcement from the Rose Garden, President Donald Trump said he was ending his efforts to add a citizenship question to the census and would instead direct federal agencies by executive order to provide data about the country’s citizens and noncitizens to the U.S. Commerce Department.

“We are not backing down on our effort to determine the citizenship status of the United States population,” Trump said, in a move that ended a legal battle that had continued even after the Supreme Court’s decision to block the question was announced more than two weeks earlier.

Although the Justice Department announced July 2 it would no longer argue to have the citizenship question added to the 2020 census, the Trump administration continued to look at all possible options to get the question included.

A federal judge in Maryland who heard one of the lawsuits on the citizenship question had given White House officials until midday July 5 to provide a credible reason for including the question.

The Justice Department’s decision not to move forward with the question – "Is this person a citizen of the United States?" – came in response to the Supreme Court’s decision to block it from the questionnaire and amid pressing deadlines to begin printing the forms, which started July 1.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement that he strongly disagreed with the high court’s ruling over the planned additional question and President Donald Trump tweeted that it was a "very sad time for America when the Supreme Court of the United States won’t allow a question of ‘Is this person a Citizen of the United States?’ to be asked on the #2020 Census."

He also said he asked the Commerce and Justice departments to "do whatever is necessary to bring this most vital of questions, and this very important case, to a successful conclusion."

Earlier that day, the U.S. bishops praised the Supreme Court’s decision June 27 to block the Trump administration’s citizenship question stressing that "the inclusion of a citizenship question must ensure genuine reasons" for it.

The 5-4 ruling – written by Chief Justice John Roberts and joined in part by the other justices – sent the case back to a lower court saying the administration’s reason for adding the citizenship question "seems to have been contrived."

The day the decision was announced, President Donald Trump tweeted that he was asking his lawyers if they can “delay the census, no matter how long” until the "Supreme Court is given additional information from which it can make a final and decisive decision."

Trump told reporters July 1 at the White House: “It’s very important to find out if somebody is a citizen as opposed to an illegal.”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ statement on the high court’s decision said: "All persons in the United States should be counted in the census regardless of their immigration status." It also reiterated its previous statement on the issue by stressing that "questions regarding citizenship should not be included in the census. We hope that this view will prevail, whether by administrative action or judicial determination."

The statement was issued by Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration.

The census case hit a potential twist in late May, a month after oral arguments, when newly submitted evidence from the files of a deceased Republican strategist put the citizenship question in another light: as a means to create an advantage for whites and Republicans in future elections.

Then in late June, a federal appeals court in Maryland allowed a lower court to study the background of these files.

The government had asked the Supreme Court to rule on the census dispute by the end of June, so that it can finalize the census questionnaire and get the forms printed in time for distribution next year.

During oral arguments about the added census question in April, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said: “There's no doubt people will respond less” to the census questionnaire with a citizenship question, a point which she said "has been proven in study after study."

Justice Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh said citizenship questions were common in other countries and had been on the U.S. forms over the years.
Focusing on hospitality, extending a hand

This Sunday we celebrate the theme of hospitality. How far should we extend ourselves when a stranger knocks at our door? In today’s first reading, Both Abraham and Sarah respond quickly to provide shelter as well as food and drink for the three strangers. In that fierce desert country, the laws of hospitality were carefully observed. Notice that Abraham showed no hesitation; he ran to involve Sarah and his servants and his whole household to make the strangers feel at home. He was totally gracious. Abraham’s generosity is rewarded by the promise that Sarah, his wife, will bear a child in her old age. Because of their advanced age, they must both have been incredulous at the news. Inside the house, Sarah laughed! But the strangers brought with them a Divine promise.

In the Gospel, Mary and Martha warmly welcome Jesus to their home for a meal. Martha immediately goes to the kitchen to prepare the food. The laws of hospitality would demand food and drink for Monsignor the three strangers. Paul E. Whitmore that a male member of the household should entertain a male guest. Instead, Mary fulfills that role. Luke is quick to note that Jesus approves this apparent departure from custom. When Martha asks the Master to rebuke Mary and send her back to the kitchen, Jesus rebukes Martha instead for being more concerned about the dinner than about the spiritual message He has to impart.

For all time, He establishes the superior role of contemplation to action. Note that in today’s Church, the role of women has become more and more prominent and welcomed.

The theme of hospitality is even found in the second reading. St. Paul suffered much for his extending God’s hospitality even to the Gentiles. We remember how Paul quarreled even with Peter over the question of extending full courtesy of eating with those who were uncircumcised.

We have wonderful examples of overtures for unity with other Christian churches, especially with the Orthodox, by our recent popes, from Pope John Paul II through Pope Benedict, and now from Pope Francis. Surely this is the will of God.

Do we really take to heart the words of Jesus? If our prayer time fails to provide us with inspiration for our daily living, then is there too much of Martha in our lives, and not enough of Mary.
NEW YORK (CNS) – With a shared-economy premise that’s no doubt meant to be timely and an odd-couple pairing as hoary as David Letterman’s beard, “Stuber” (Fox) takes viewers for a spin. But the result is no joy ride.

In fact, only a few detours in the direction of strengthening family bonds and the prioritizing of emotional connections over casual hook-ups save this supposedly comic journey from going off the map entirely.

Unable to drive after outpatient eye surgery, aggressively macho police detective Vic Manning (Dave Bautista) is forced to call an Uber when he suddenly gets a lead on the whereabouts of Tedjo (Iko Udais), the psycho drug dealer he’s been obsessively pursuing ever since the pusher killed his partner. Stu (Kumail Nanjiani), the timid driver who responds, finds himself essentially hijacked by his belligerent passenger.

Unwillingly drawn into the chase – and into some perilous crimefighting – Stu discovers he has more physical courage than he imagined.

Impatient, inconsiderate Vic, meanwhile, learns some life lessons from his sensitive temporary chauffeur. The most prominent of these involves Vic’s previously neglectful relationship with his grown daughter, successful artist Nicole (Natalie Morales).

Stu is all the more anxious to be rid of Vic because he has an appointment with Becca (Betty Gilpin), a pal he would like to make his girlfriend. The two once shared a roll in the hay and, with Becca feeling vulnerable after discovering her callous boyfriend has been cheating on her, Stu is hoping history will repeat itself.

Perhaps under the influence of the myriad dangers through which he’s passing, however, Stu comes to the insight that his deep feelings for Becca are incompatible with such offhand encounters. That’s both an unusual realization for a Woody movie to reach and a refreshing one.

All too soon, though, it’s back to the usual drill of lowest-common-denominator humor. Thus, because – as we all know – men’s private parts are hilarious, Vic and Stu’s itinerary necessarily includes a stop in the changing room of a male strip club.

The film contains considerable harsh violence with gore, torture, much sexual humor, including a sight gag involving a glimpse of full male nudity, about a half-dozen uses of profanity, a couple of milder oaths and distasteful jokes. As a result, moviegoers of sense will likely emerge from director Michael Dowse’s often irritating buddy picture feeling Styft.

The Catholic News Service classification is L – limited audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

**AT THE MOVIES**

**STUBER**
OBITUARIES

Au Sable Forks — Joyce F. Changelo, 92; Mass of Christian Burial June 27, 2019 at Holy Name Church.

Brasher Falls — Eugene F. LaMay, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 2, 2019 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton — William L. Casey, 62; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton — Lisa A. (Tavernier) Chapman, 52; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in Sandhill Cemetery, Dickinson.


Carthage — Mary A. (Brady) West, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chazy — Donald H. LaValley, 85; Mass of Christian Burial July 3, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton — Robert J. Bennison, 81; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church.

Clayton — Robert J. Moschelle; Mass of Christian Burial July 6, 2019 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Croghan — Elaine M. (Lydaker) Thayer, 76; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2019 at St. Stephen’s Church.

Crossett — Donald J. Barber, 79; Mass of Christian Burial July 15, 2019 at St. Joseph’s Church.

Hogansburg — Wayne A. Thomas, 74; Mass of Christian Burial July 11, 2019 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Brenda May (Casey) LaRose, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Hogansburg — Beatrice E. (Sequin) Halpin Lawless, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Mary C. Bernier Ashley Sansourc, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 12, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Houseville — Helen T. (Smykla) Niezabytowski, 94; Mass of Christian Burial July 5, 2019 at St. Hedwig’s Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Rita Marth (Smith) Hartson, 98; Mass of Christian Burial July 9, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

Lake Placid — Margaret Ella (Strack) Lewis, 90; Mass of Christian Burial July 13, 2019 at St. Agnes Church.

Madrid — Catherine M. Kelly, 92; Memorial Services July 5, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Massena — William Gardner, 75; Funeral Services July 6, 2019 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Jerry J. Witkop, Sr., 80; Mass of Christian Burial July 20, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morristown — Ann Grady Doyle; Memorial Mass July 5, 2019 at St. John’s Church.

Norfok — Sally M. (Baker) Blair, 64; Mass of Christian Burial July 10, 2019 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitacion Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Nancy L. (Mariea) Boland, 71; Funeral Services July 9, 2019 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Hammond.

Ogdensburg — Michael W. Jerome Sr., 69; Funeral Services July 7, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — Brenda May (Casey) LaRose, 78; Mass of Christian Burial July 8, 2019 at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Sincere congratulations to our newly Commissioned Lay Ministers. We are proud of your wonderful accomplishment and know that with our already Commissioned Lay Ministers you are making a difference in our parishes.

We are so proud of all of you and your ministry to build up the Church as Intentional Disciples.

St. James Minor Church, Carthage
Anna Margaret Archer-Runge
Susan M. Gibbs
Lori A. Hanno
Nicholas R. Hanno
Joseph Margrey
Joanne M. Norrgard

St. Mary’s Church, Copenhagen
Michael Joseph Arsenault
Sadie L. Shuttleton
LEAD event urges participants to share stories

by Eileen Greenwood
Contributing Writer

ALEXANDRIA BAY – "It’s about being where your feet are and being a real presence to the person in front of you," said Julianne Stanz, the speaker at a LEAD event held in Alexandria Bay at the Edgewood Resort on June 25 and 26.

Stanz told the assembled group that we must be willing to develop our own faith stories through personal reflection and prayer, and then be willing to share it with all we meet. Looking to Jesus as model, Stanz noted that we are called to share our story one on one, and in small groups.

She noted that while Jesus did preach to large groups of people some of the time, our most effective way to evangelize is one at a time.

Stanz introduced herself and shared her own faith stories throughout the two-day event. A native of Ireland, she became a United States Citizen after living in this country for 17 years. "Ireland is my homeland," she said. "America is my heartland."

She has written three books, one due to be published shortly. Currently she is the Director of Office of New Evangelization in the Diocese of Green Bay, where she lives with her husband and three children.

She shared her story of meeting her husband and was very willing to give personal witness to the challenges and the joys of raising children in the Catholic church.

"Lead with who we love," she said. "God created you to be a beautiful person, and to be all you were intended to be. Lead with that."

She quoted St. John Bosco's words "It's not enough to love. People have to feel that they are loved."

The secret to balancing all we must do, Stanz said, is to focus on Jesus, Others and Yourself.

How do we do that? Stanz said we begin with the kerygma: the story of our faith – Jesus Christ loves you and died to save you. This is central to our faith and the tool we use is storytelling.

Stanz told the assembled group that wherever we serve and whatever we do, meeting people where they are and sharing "the Jesus story" is a way to engage them and lead them in the direction we wish to go – creating authentic personal relationships with Christ.

During the two days at the conference, the participants were led by Stanz through exercises focused on strengthening relationships with Christ. Participants were led to create their own prayers. They identified their strengths and our areas in need of improvement.

Participants listened to witness stories and shared their own. They worked together in small groups and learned how to use intercessory prayer to connect with and to be Jesus to one another.

Participants then shared their ideas in small and large group conversations.

In all of the activities, Stanz's message was clear: The mission is to create disciples of Jesus.

"Disciples are friends and followers of Jesus," she said. "Make a friend. Be a friend. Share your friend with others. Religion is a way of life, not a subject."

Stanz also spoke of the need to show our children that we are a Eucharist people, and that the gift we have should be looked forward to each Sunday. Speaking prayer during mass with enthusiasm and participating with a joyful heart in song and in response is role modelling for our children. She noted that we sometimes forget that all we do is seen by our children, and children do not miss much.

Stanz shared a personal story of carrying her three-year-old son forward during Communion. As is often the case, folks were moving slowly, expressionlessly up the aisle toward the priest. Finally, her son shouted out, "Come on people. Let’s get movin’ for Jesus!"

His enthusiasm was a true expression of the gift that awaits us at Communion, and how we should look forward to receiving that incredible gift each time, Stanz said.

Those in attendance said they benefited greatly from Stanz's presentation.

"Her presentation, knowledge, and insight on Developing Disciples for Christ was truly inspiring," said Deb Mullin, a catechetical leader. "I loved how she included humor, passion, and storytelling in her presentation. There is importance in sharing our story because our stories touch the hearts of those we tell them to."