Ideology obstructs beauty of family, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Families play an important role in a society's development when ideologies are not imposed upon them, Pope Francis said.

“The family is the ‘primary planter of the tree of gratuitousness,’” and when civilization “uproots” that gift, “its decline becomes unstoppable,” the pope said April 29.

“I believe that there are certain conditions for rediscovering the beauty of the family. The first is to remove from the mind’s eye the ‘cataract’ of ideologies that prevent us from seeing reality,” he said.

Pope Francis addressed members of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, who were holding a plenary meeting April 27-29 at the Vatican on the role of the family and "the challenge of love."

The family is "almost always at the top of the scale of values" for people around the world, the pope said, because "it is inscribed in the very nature of woman and man."

For this reason, marriage and the family are not "purely human institutions despite the many changes they have undergone over the centuries and the cultural and spiritual differences between peoples," he said.

But, he said, families can become "isolated and fragmented in the context of society" when they are viewed "in an individualistic and private way, as is somewhat the case in the West."

When that happens, the pope said, "the social functions that the family exercises among individuals and in the community are lost, especially in relation to the weakest, such as children, persons with disabilities and the elderly."

Instead, families must continue to be "a place of welcome," especially "where there are fragile or disabled members," the pope said. In that way, they become an example of "love and patient endurance in life's difficulties."

Follow Me: Praying for mothers, vocations

Editor's Note: In this week's Follow Me, Bishop Terry R. LaValley reflects on Mother's Day and World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Sunday, May 8, is Mother's Day and World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Clearly, a mother's faith, sacrifice and prayers are crucial in the vocational discernment of her children and grandchildren. We give thanks to our moms this day and every day for their precious vocation of motherhood.

This day we pray, too, for vocations to the consecrated life, permanent diaconate and the priesthood.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

BISHOP’S FUND APPEAL HITS GOAL

Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently announced that the 2021-22 Bishop’s Fund Appeal has reached its goal of $1.3 million. As of April 26, the Bishop’s Fund has collected $1,307,401.34 in contributions from more than 7,200 households. Pictured with Bishop LaValley are Scott Lalone, executive director of Development, Valerie Mathews, director of the Bishop’s Fund & Stewardship, and Lorraine Carney, Development Office clerical assistant. See the full story on Page 4.

NEW PREGNANCY CENTER IN WATERTOWN

Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN), a ministry of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown, will bring free services to pregnant women and new mothers in a new pregnancy and parenting center located in the parish’s Faith Formation & Family Life Center. The pregnancy and parenting center will offer pregnancy testing, first trimester ultrasounds, pregnancy counseling, parenting education and counseling, breast feeding assistance, nutrition education and referrals for support services. FULL STORY, PAGE 5
Experiencing a ‘glow up’

I recently ventured into a new hobby and purchased the equipment and supplies needed to establish an aquarium with live plants. Because I was starting out with a "nano tank," 10 gallons or less, my research and existing aquarium knowledge told me only certain types of fish and live creatures could live healthily and happily in my new 10-gallon tank.

I settled on a betta, those ornate fish often sold in cups or small containers. I purchased a small, mostly light-colored male betta with bits of pale red and blue in his flowing tail and fins. While bettas are sold in those small containers for a reason (they are often aggressive toward other fish, especially other fish of their species), they don’t thrive in them.

After a ride home in the cup holder of my Jeep, my little betta boy was acclimated to the water in his new 10-gallon home, a tank which had been filled with plants and cycled to ensure it had all the healthy bacteria needed to keep the water safe for him.

After two days in his new home, my betta boy’s fins and flowy tail started to change. A band of bright red formed around the edges. A day or two later, blue started showing up more prominently inside the red outer edges. As I write this, his tiny betta body is showing more hints of blue, especially when he gets mad about something and "flares." He barely looks like the same fish.

That’s a ‘glow up.’ These fish need good, healthy environments to show their true beauty and be the best they can be.

While the change is striking, quick and visible in bettas, aren’t we – people – the same? Our environments can influence how we behave and who we become.

If we’re surrounded by negative people or people who live unhealthy or sinful lifestyles, it makes it easier to be negative and make unhealthy or sinful decisions. When we surround ourselves with people who are on the journey of faith with us and are blessed by God with healthy, positive environments, it makes it easier for us to be the most beautiful versions of ourselves, closer to the versions of ourselves God calls us to be.

God has blessed me with a good environment surrounded by people of faith and people modeling good decisions – family, friends, colleagues, associates... It’s helped me “glow up” in a lot of ways. I pray we all find those opportunities and environments.

Considering the Holy Spirit

The Feast of Easter ends the celebrations of Holy Week as we rejoice in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. As a Church, this celebration continues for several weeks – our Easter Season. This liturgical season reminds us of the many resurrection stories in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles.

The Church’s Easter season leads us to the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, when God comes in a special way to transform the Church through the action of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit continues to bring new life to our Catholic Church.

Let us take some time today to consider the Holy Spirit. Each time at Mass when we pray the Nicene Creed, we proclaim our faith and belief in the Holy Spirit. “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.”

St. John tells us in his Gospel account of the last Supper that Jesus promised the apostles he would send the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

I am certain you will remember the powerful scene in the Acts of the Apostles recounting the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in wind and fire. The Holy Spirit brought power and readiness, challenging the apostles to preach and teach the message of Jesus to this world. No longer would they become afraid to speak out. They would even be bold enough to risk their lives.

For us, Catholics and disciples of the Lord, we believe in the power of the Holy Spirit that comes to us through the Church’s sacraments. For us all, it begins with baptism. We are brought into the life Christ’s Church with the Holy Spirit’s call to holiness. Jesus calls us to the high ideals of holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus invites us in the Sermon on the Mount: “Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

In the sacrament of confirmation, we recognize that the Holy Spirit comes to increase and deepen our baptismal graces. Confirmation increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gift of wisdom enables us to see the world from God’s viewpoint. The gift of understanding helps us to work at knowing ourselves as part of our growth in knowing God. The Spirit pours the gift of fortitude as courage into our hearts, and we can trust that we will be prepared to stand up for Christ. The gift of reverence is an act of respect for the father who created us. The gift of fear of the Lord or wonder and awe in God’s presence can infuse honesty into our relationship with God.

In the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, in the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest prays over the bread and wine, “Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Personally, I know only too well that the power of the Holy Spirit called me and lead me to discover my vocation as a priest. Bishop Navagh called upon the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of the holy orders to ordain me so that I could minister as a priest and bring the Blessed Eucharist to people in the parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and to bring the forgiveness of sin to those in need in so many places in this world.
Praying for mothers, vocations

Sunday, May 8, is Mother’s Day and World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Clearly, a mother’s faith, sacrifice and prayers are crucial in the vocational discernment of her children and grandchildren. We give thanks to our moms this day and every day for their precious vocation of motherhood. We seek the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother for all our moms, especially those in the Ukraine who are suffering so much these days as they and dads struggle to keep their families together and safe in that terribly violent part of the world.

This day we pray, too, for vocations to the consecrated life, permanent diaconate and the priesthood. We have a strong diocesan team that is here to assist our parish families in vocation promotion. Father Chris Carrara is Diocesan Director of Vocations and Director of Seminarians, Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ, is the Diocesan Vocations Coordinator and Father Matthew Conger is our newly appointed Diocesan Associate Vocations Director. They work diligently to support, inspire and equip pastors, parishes, and families in creating a culture of vocations. We are so grateful, too, to the members of our Diocesan Vocations Society (DOV’s) for their remarkably generous support. We are always looking for new members!

Thank you for supporting our seminarians and for your promotion of Church vocations in your family and parish. Happy Mother’s Day to all our moms!

Celebrating the Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

AKWESASNE—On April 23, St. Regis Mission Church celebrated “the Lily of the Mohawks,” St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first North American Indigenous woman to be canonized, with a feast Mass and special guests.

While St. Kateri’s feast is often celebrated on July 14, Canada and some U.S. dioceses celebrate her feast day on April 17, the anniversary of her death.

Attending the event as special guests were Herman Ray, who made a generous donation of a St. Kateri Tekakwitha relic, and Karla Kozach, who presented a St. Kateri Tekakwitha banner that had been commissioned by the St. Regis Mission Altar Rosary Society. Other special guests were Sister Kateri Mitchell and Harold Caldwell (author of the St. Kateri Prayer).

“Thank you to the Mohawk Choir, Cole Phillips, the St. Regis Mission Religious Education Program, the Kateri Circle for food donations and to the Altar Rosary Society for organizing and hosting the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Feast Service and the dinner at the St. Regis Recreation Center,” the Mission parish said in a statement.

Born in 1656 in Ossernenon (Auriesville, New York), Kateri’s mother was a Christian Algonquin from Trois-Rivières, Quebec, and her father was a non-Christian Mohawk Chief. When she was four years old, a smallpox epidemic killed her parents and her brother, and left her with seriously impaired eyesight and a disfigured face.

Inspired by Jesuit missionaries, Tekakwitha was baptized on Easter Sunday 1676 and assumed the name Kateri, likely in honour of St. Catherine of Siena. The following year, due to persecution in her community, Kateri escaped to Kahnawake on the St. Lawrence River opposite Tiohtiàke (Montreal). She had a strong devotion to the Eucharist and a deep concern for others. She died on April 17, 1680.
OGDENSBURG – Bishop Terry R. LaValley is pleased to announce that the 2021-22 Bishop’s Fund Appeal has reached its goal of $1.3 million. As of April 26, the Bishop’s Fund has collected $1,307,401.34 in contributions from more than 7,200 households. At this time, an additional $34,860.22 remains to be collected in pledges promised. Any funds received over the goal will be used to provide emergency grants to individuals and families in need through the bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

“I join my prayers of gratitude with those of the many individuals and families of our North Country who have benefited from the generosity of our donors,” said Bishop LaValley. “I am deeply grateful to the faith-filled folks across the diocese and beyond who so generously support this vital annual appeal. We truly are a Family of Faith in Action here in the North Country! The support of our family of faith has a far-reaching impact through the ministries and programs that depend on the annual Bishop’s Fund Appeal. I also wish to extend my deep appreciation to our pastors whose strong leadership and personal sacrifice supports this critical appeal each year.”

Bishop also expressed gratitude to the Bishop’s Fund team of Valerie Matthews, Scott Lalone and Lorraine Carney for their diligence and strong pastoral support.

The Bishop’s Fund Appeal, through the generosity of so many, continues to provide the following programs and ministries of the Diocese of Ogdensburg: Education of Seminarians; Family Life Ministry; Natural Family Planning; Respect Life Ministry; Formation for Ministry Program; Office of the New Evangelization; Continuing Education and Formation of Priests; Priests’ Graduate Studies; Vocations; Permanent Deacons; Deacon Formation; Tuition Assistance Program; Campus Ministry Program; Matching Gifts to Catholic Schools; Department of Faith Formation; Youth Ministry; Young Adult Ministry; Guggenheim Center; Department of Worship; and the Bishop’s Good Samaritan Fund.

If you have made a pledge to this year’s Appeal, we encourage you to complete your pledge before June 15. If you have not made a gift or wish to make an additional gift, donations can be mailed to: The Bishop’s Fund Appeal, PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or made online at rcdony.org/bfa.
Parish ministry creates pregnancy center

WATERTOWN – Blessed Sacrament Parish in Watertown is about to inaugurate a pregnancy and parenting center in Watertown.

Walking with Moms in Need (WWMIN) is the parish’s ministry that will bring the free services to pregnant women in the parish’s Faith Formation & Family Life Center (former IHC intermediate school on South Massey Street in Watertown). The pregnancy and parenting center will offer pregnancy testing, first trimester ultrasounds, pregnancy counseling, parenting education and counseling, breast feeding assistance, nutrition education and referrals for community support services.

Program volunteers include a certified licensed midwife, three retired maternity nurses and office staff. All services are free, but there are equipment and supply expenses.

“It is time to raise funds to sustain our ongoing services and needs,” said Kathleen Mastellon, the founder of the parish’s WWMIN ministry. “We love the baby bottle fundraiser concept and brought it to Father (John M.) Mickey (Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament) for his consideration. Father liked it, and off we go!”

Each of the Watertown churches – Holy Family, St. Anthony’s and St. Patrick, which are linked to make up Blessed Sacrament Parish, and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – will receive 50 bottles to be distributed to parishioners beginning on Mother’s Day.

“We love the baby bottle fund raiser concept and brought it to Father (John M.) Mickey (Demo, pastor of Blessed Sacrament) for his consideration. Father liked it, and off we go!”

“Over the weeks between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day,” Mastellon explained, “we hope folks will add their loose change to the bottle. Then they can return the bottle to church by June 18 filled with coin, currency or a check to support Watertown’s Walking with Moms pregnancy and parenting program.”

Walking With Moms In Need is supported by the parish Elizabeth Ministry Chapter which is co-located in the Family Life Center.

“The resource shelves are stocked with baby blankets, baby clothes, diapers and wipes thanks to parishioner generosity to the local Elizabeth Ministry Chapter,” said midwife Joyce Wilder who co-founded the pregnancy and parenting center. “We have an exam room set up to provide first trimester ultrasounds. An ultrasound will enable moms to hear their babies’ heartbeat and see the child growing in the womb.”

“In addition to following Christ’s call to serve those in need, the new services also promote life. “From a pro-life perspective, that sound and view of life in the mother’s womb, particularly if the pregnancy is unplanned, is a game changer,” Wilder said. “Many lives will be saved!”

Proceeds from the Baby Bottle fundraiser will also help provide funds for the WWMIN parenting education series.

The Catholic Bishop’s Respect Life Committee reminds us: “A child’s first experience of God is through the love, examples, and teachings of the parents. For those in difficult life situations, it can be tough to have the time and energy to teach God’s love. For those of us blessed to be in a time of peace in life, let us open our hearts and be an example of God’s love to those who need it most.”

“We pray people will respond favorably to the Baby Bottle campaign,” Mastellon concluded. “It is an easy way to support our work for life.”

House to celebrate Mass for Sister Jean Beyette

A Service of Remembrance and Mass will be celebrated for Sister Jean Beyette, SA at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer (7270 Star Road, Route 190, Ellenburg) on Friday, May 20 at 5 p.m.

Sister Jean served as the director of the House from 1984 to 2007. She served the Lord and her order, the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, with great dedication to the mission of the House of Prayer, making many friends in the North Country over the years of her service.

All are welcome. A small reception will follow.

For more information, please call the Adirondack House of Prayer at 518-594-3253 or Sarah Anderson at 518-534-9976.

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**Funeral Mass planned for ‘Colonel’ Ose**

A Mass of Christian Burial for William C. Ose Sr. will be celebrated at St. Cecilia’s Church in Adams on Friday, May 6 at 11 a.m. Burial will follow in the parish cemetery.

Calling hours will be from 4 to 7 p.m. at Carpenter Stodley Funeral Home in Belleville on Thursday May 5.

Commonly known as Bill and preferably called the Colonel, Ose passed away peacefully on Thursday April 21 at his residence in Adams.

Bill was born on January 25, 1939 in Huntington, Long Island, New York, the son of Alfred Ose Sr. and Mary Beck Ose. He attended Bentley School of Business where he studied to become an Accountant and started his adulthood in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1963, he entered the United States Army, where he proudly made his career serving our great nation. After nearly 30 years of service, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Hence, where he widely used nickname, “Colonel” was started. During his time at Fort Drum, he was very proud of his duty as Protocol Officer. After retiring, he started his real estate operation, with the mentorship of Tony Root. Colonel Realty as he named it, was very active throughout the 1990s and early 2000s.

On September 13, 1970, he married the true love of his life, Janet Kaercher. Together he and Janet lived across the state before residing and raising their family in Adams Center and Adams. Janet left us too early in life, passing on February 25, 2003, a void that Bill still felt upon his passing.

He later remarried Jill Cunningham on October 21, 2006. Jill passed on February 9, 2018. The Colonel was a true American Patriot. He loved his country. Bill was a devoted Catholic and an extremely active member of the Knights of Columbus. Not only was he active in many leadership roles in his local K of C Council, he served the state level in the capacity of State Warden. Bill was the founder of an annual bus pilgrimage, traveling to the Saint Anne’s Shrine in Isle La Motte, Vermont, since 1994, of which he organized each year including 2021. Bill was also a member of the Adams American Legion.

Bill loved sports. Particularly, a good horse race. Bill was a New York Giants fan and a Syracuse Basketball follower. He loved a scratch off ticket and a win four, he always had a hunch, or so he thought!

The Colonel’s true love in life aside from his wife Janet, was his family. He leaves behind his son, William C. Ose, Jr. (Mary) and daughter, Amy M. Ose (David). His grandchildren, J.W. Allen (Tatum), Jake Allen (Tyler), Dominick Sprague, Marris Ose, and Harrison Ose. Tatum’s daughters Jaelyn and Olivia. His beloved siblings, George Ose and Elizabeth “Betsy” Ose. His ex-in-law of whom he greatly cherished, Mike Allen. Bill is also survived by 16 nephews and 6 nieces, all of whom were loved and cared for by him.

Bill was also predeceased by his parents, Mary Beck Ose and Alfred Thomas Ose, Sr. along with five of his seven siblings: Carolyn (Ose) Duffy, Joseph Ose, Alfred T. Ose Jr., Robert Ose, Lorraine (Ose) Banning.

Bill leaves behind many special friends. Three in particular who he spoke with daily and all of who helped Bill: Jim Mischuk, Rose Morgan, and Gene “Homer” Kardelis. It would be dismissed to not thank the great care from Molly at Dr. Williams' office and Molly's staff over the years. The help from John Besse and the Fort Drum pharmacy. The family is very grateful for the help and care that Tatum provided to Bill over the last two years, she was extraordinary.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Bill's honor to St. Cecilia's Catholic Church, 17 Grove Street Adams, New York 13605 or the South Jefferson Rescue Squad, P.O. BOX 126 Adams, New York 13605.

Online condolences may be made at www.carpenter-stodley.com
Pope wants annual audit of safeguarding measures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis asked his safeguarding commission to provide an annual audit of what the church is doing to protect minors and what needs to change, as well as to urge bishops’ conferences to set up special “centers” where victims can be heard and find accompanying treatment toward “healing and justice.”

The annual audit “report will be a factor of transparency and accountability and – I hope – will provide a clear audit of our progress in this effort,” he told members of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors April 29.

“Without that progress, the faithful will continue to lose trust in their pastors, and preaching and witnessing to the Gospel will become increasingly difficult,” he said.

The pope addressed the commission’s plenary assembly, which focused on how to best continue assisting the pope and the local churches in promoting best practices in safeguarding strategies, implementing guidelines and accompanying survivors.

Commission members also were looking into how they will work within the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, according to Pope Francis’ reform of the Roman Curia, a change that goes into effect June 5.

As outlined in the apostolic constitution, “Praedicate Evangelium” (“Preach the Gospel”), the commission’s task remains providing the pope “with advice and consultancy and to propose the most appropriate initiatives for the protection of minors and vulnerable people.”

When the document was published in March, Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley of Boston, president of the commission and a member of the Council of Cardinals that drafted the constitution, said that linking the commission more closely to the doctrinal office “has made safeguarding and the protection of minors a fundamental part of the structure of the church’s central government” and would “lead to a stronger culture of safeguarding throughout the Curia and the entire church.”

Speaking to the commission members, the pope addressed a concern that the body would lose its independence now that it was within a larger dicastery.

“Someone might think that this could put at risk your freedom of thought and action or even take away importance from the issue with which you deal,” the pope said. “That is not my intention nor is it my expectation. And I invite you to be watchful that this does not happen.”

He said he did not want the commission to be like a “satellite commission,” circling around but unattached to the organization chart any longer, which had been an ongoing concern of members.

While the commission will be part of the dicastery that deals with the sexual abuse of minors by members of the clergy, the pope said, the president will be independent and appointed by the pope. “I have made your leadership and personnel distinct, and you will continue to relate directly with me through your president delegate,” who has been Cardinal O’Malley since 2014. The cardinal has also been a member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith since 2017.

The pope told the commission that he still wants them to provide “a proactive and prospective vision of the best practices and procedures that can be implemented in the entire church” and to “propose better methods to enable the church to protect minors and vulnerable persons and to assist the healing of survivors, in the recognition that justice and prevention are complementary.”

While many “important seeds” have been planted, “much remains to be done,” he said, and the reform “marks a new beginning.”

The pope told commission members it will be their responsibility “to expand the scope of this mission in such a way that the protection and care of those who have experienced abuse may become normative in every sector of the church’s life.”

This will require close collaboration with the doctrinal dicastery and all the other dicasteries of the Roman Curia for the commission’s own benefit and so “your work can enrich in turn that of the Curia and the local churches.”

Cases of the abuse of minors by clergy have been decreasing for several years, he said, at least in places where reliable data and sources are available.

The data is essential, the pope told the commission, so “I would like you, on an annual basis, to prepare for me a report on the church’s initiatives for the protection of minors and vulnerable adults.”

The aim, he said, is “to furnish a reliable account on what is presently being done and what needs to change, so that the competent authorities can act.”

He also encouraged them to help meet other “more immediate needs,” such as “the welfare and pastoral care of persons who have experienced abuse.”
ADIRONDACK

FIRST FRIDAY
PRAISE AND WORSHIP
Lake Placid — Monthly praise and worship to be held.
Date: First Friday of the month
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Agnes Church
Features: Music led by Joey and MC Izzo. Time for fellowship and snacks afterwards. Will be livestreamed as well on St.Agnes Facebook page.

EDUCATIONAL FORUM
Paul Smiths — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks will its annual Educational Forum co-hosted by Paul Smiths’ College on the urgent topic of Unpaid Caregivers—Honoring, Caring For, and Supporting them.
Date: May 18
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost: $25 registration fee includes networking lunch.
Features: Two expert keynote speakers will present. They are Alexandra Drane, CEO and Co-founder of Archangels and Beth Finkel, Director of AARP New York.
Contact: to register for the forum please visit Mercy Care’s website at www.adkmecry.org. For more information, please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care’s Education and Volunteer Training Manager at abevilacqua@adkmecry.org or at 518-523-5446.

MERCY CARE FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING
Lake Placid — Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.
Date: May 25
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Features: There is no cost for the training but registration is required. Complimentary lunch will be provided.
New Volunteers will join Mercy Care’s more than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake and surrounding areas who are helping their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier. Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate.
Contact: To register for the training, please contact Lexi Bevilacqua, Mercy Care’s Education & Volunteer Training Manager, at abevilacqua@adkmecry.org or visit Mercy Care’s website at www.adkmecry.org or call Lexi for more information at 518-523-5446.

FRANKLIN

DEVOTION AND HOLY HOUR
St. Regis Falls — All are invited to the monthly first Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour for Vocations.
Date: First Saturday of the Month
Time: Following the 4:30 anticipated Mass
Place: St. Ann’s Church

JEFFERSON-LEWIS

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER
Evans Mills — The Indian River Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.
Date: May 14
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Mary’s Parish Center
Cost: Adults, $9; Senior Citizens, $8; Children under 12, $5; under 5, Free; Sauce per quart, $5
Contact: For more information call 315-629-4678

ST. LAWRENCE

HOLY HOUR
Canton — Holy Hour for Vocations to be held.
Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 4:10 p.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Church
Features: Holy hour followed by Mass at 5:15 p.m. and confessions at 5:45 p.m.

ROSAry WITH DEVOTIONS
Ogdensburg — The Legion of Mary will pray the rosary with devotions for first Saturday.
Date: May 7
Time: 8 a.m.
Place: Notre Dame Church, Ogdensburg
Features: Rosary with devotions

THE CHOSEN: SEASON 2
Ogdensburg — Come join the fellowship and fun while watching and discussing “The Chosen — Season 2.”
Date: 8 weeks on Wednesdays starting April 27
Time: 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Place: Bishop Brzana Hall at St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: Deacon Bill O’Brien will be streamlining the second season of “The Chosen.” The Chosen is an independent film series on the Life of Christ told through the eyes of his disciples. It is a unique way of telling the story of Jesus and is unlike anything we have ever seen before. There will be discussion after each episode with light refreshments provided.
Contact: There will be sign-up sheets at the entrances of both Notre Dame Church and St. Mary’s Cathedral entrances. Or you can call or email Deacon Bill at 315-528-0461 or billbob315@gmail.com.

LOVING AUTHENTICALLY
Ogdensburg — Program to be held that is designed to strengthen the participant’s conviction about the truth, beauty and importance of church teaching on natural law and sexual morality and to give participants a basic understanding of the ethical basis of the teaching.
Date: May 7
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Place: Brzana Hall, St. Mary’s Cathedral
Presenters: Dr. Maura Fehliner, Mr. Steve Tartaglia and Mr and Mrs. Angelo Pietropoli.
Features: Cost is free and all are welcome. Lunch will be provided.
Contact: Register at: https://www.rcdony.org/lovingauthentically. If you have questions, contact Family Life Director, Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org or call 315-393-2920.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY DEVOTION
Massena — Sacred Heart Church to have first Saturday Rosary Devotion.
Date: May 7
Time: 3:15 p.m.
Features: First Saturday Rosary Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. Confessions will be available. Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

11TH AND 12TH GRADE RELIGION CLASSES
Ogdensburg — St. Mary’s Cathedral Parish is kicking off its 11th & 12th grade religion class. Youth in the applicable grades from outside the Cathedral Parish are welcome to attend.
Date: Monthly, May 15
Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30
Place: Brzana Hall below St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: We have no curriculum; YOU will help decide what we discuss! Lots of discussion, less lecture. Games with prizes. Dinner included. Classes are self-contained units. No makeup assignments! Guests welcome! Bring a friend!
Contact: If you have questions or concerns that can’t wait, contact Deacon Jim Crowley via email jcrowley@rcdony.org or Jessica Hargrave via email jhargrave@rcdony.org.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ORDINATION TO THE ORDER OF THE PRIESTHOOD
Ogdensburg - You are cordially invited to join in the Ordination Liturgy for the Ordination to the Order of the Priesthood of Deacon Leagon James Carlin.
Date: May 21
Time: 11 a.m.
Place: St. Mary’s Cathedral
Features: A Reception will immediately follow the Ordination downstairs in the Brzana Hall. The Ordination Mass will also be livestreamed at www.rcdony.org/ordination. The Ordination Mass program will be available at the same link shortly before the Ordination.

TWO-DAY EVENT CELEBRATING EUCHARIST
Lake Placid — The Department of Faith Formation invited you to a two-day diocesan LEAD event in Lake Placid.
Day 1: June 6, 7 a.m. to 8:30, St. Agnes Church. Theme will be “Music as Prayer: Its Role in Celebrating Eucharist.” Speaker will be Sr. Mary Gregory Munger, SJS. Enjoy an interactive and lively presentation involving singing, prayer and sharing. A social at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
NEW YORK (CNS) – The heist genre gets a fresh burst of frenetic energy with the animated comedy "The Bad Guys" (Universal). This high-octane, older-kid-friendly caper is veteran animator Pierre Perifel’s feature debut — and the neophyte director nails it.

Screenwriter Etan Cohen’s script, adapted from a series of books by Aussie author Aaron Blabey, introduces a criminal crew of anthropomorphized animals who have their fellow citizens of Los Angeles trembling in fear. As with the humans of the "Ocean’s 11" movies, each member brings a specific expertise to the group.

Mr. Wolf (voice of Sam Rockwell) leads the pack with a quick hand and smooth charm. His best bud, Mr. Snake (voice of Marc Maron), cracks wise even as he cracks safes.

Mr. Shark (voice of Craig Robinson) takes the prize for master of disguise. Mr. Piranha (voice of Anthony Ramos) provides muscle and overall craziness while Ms. Tarantula (voice of Awkwafina), whom the others call "Webs," expertly hacks into any security system.

When California Gov. Diane Foxington (voice of Zazie Beetz) announces that the Golden Dolphin Award will go to Professor Rupert Marmalade IV (voice of Richard Ayoade), a guinea pig Good Samaritan, the gang sees a glittering opportunity: The statuette that symbolizes the honor is, after all, nothing less than the "holy grail of thievery."

The villains are caught, however, and Foxington is all set to hand them over to Police Chief Misty Luggins (voice of Alex Borstein), a human whose obsessive desire to bag the Bad Guys has made her a bit crazy. But Marmalade intervenes, asking Foxington to let him run an experiment to see if he can transform the miscreants into do-gooders.

Thus begins a not-so-subtle lesson in character development that will delight parents. As for kids, they’ll be so diverted by the Bad Guys’ struggle to overcome their long-practiced wrongdoing, they may not even realize they’re being taught the importance of virtue and the value of true friendship.

The cast handles the light banter in the dialogue with aplomb. That may be partly due to the fact that, unusually for a cartoon, the actors were sometimes able to record simultaneously — thus making it easier to play off one another.

Some of the abundant laugh-out-loud twists and turns that will amuse preteens and grown-ups might be too scary for small fry. A case in point: the appearance of a zombie horde of mind-controlled guinea pigs.

There’s also a smattering of gastrointestinal and anatomical jokes. Additionally, a throwaway line, if not taken as a gag, could be construed as indicating that Mr. Piranha has gender identity issues.

Fundamentally, though, "The Bad Guys" delivers good values wrapped up in a funny package. It will make a rollicking treat for all but the youngest.

The film contains potentially frightening action sequences and occasional scatological humor. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

**Around the diocese**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8**

**High Peaks Resort to follow.**

Day 2: June 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at High Peaks Resort. Theme will be “Eucharist: Remember. Celebrate. Believe.” Speaker will be Tim O’Malley, Ph.D. from Notre Dame University Center for Liturgy. Mass will follow at St. Agnes Church.

**Cost:** To attend it is $30 upon registration. You are responsible for your own room reservations. High Peaks Resort offers a reduced rate.

**Contact:** To register go to www.rcdony.org/lead2dayevent

**LIFE GIVING WOUNDS RETREAT**

Saranac Lake — Retreat to be held for anyone 18 or over whose parents are no longer together either through separation, divorce, or were never married.

**Date:** June 10 – 12

**Place:** Guggenheim Center

**Cost:** $100 includes lodging, food and retreat materials.

**Features:** Topics will include anxiety, anger, sin, temptation and forgiveness. All presentations are given by trained, expert speakers who are children of divorce.

**Contact:** To register, go to rcdony.org/lifegw For more information, visit lifegivingwounds.org If you are in need of financial assistance to attend, please contact Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or startaglia@rcdony.org.

**2022 Diocesan Directories are now available!**

The Official 2022 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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SCRI P T U R E  R E F L E CT I O N S

The voice of Jesus

The Gospel this Sunday in all three reading cycles is about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This year, the emphasis is on the voice of Jesus. We can imagine how that voice must have stirred the hearts of all who were disposed to listen to it. How it must have moved people with its authority and its power to persuade. The voice of Jesus was at times so loving and at other times so challenging. It was that voice saying to Peter, “Feed my sheep” that still rang in his ears as he preached boldly to the Sanhedrin; it was that voice crying out, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” that echoed still in the heart of Paul as he and Barnabas preached in the synagogues of Perga and Antioch and Iconium. It was the voice of Jesus which drowned out the vicious lies of all those enemies of truth that tried to choke off the Good News so bravely proclaimed by Peter and Paul.

The readings during the Easter season clearly show us how gladly those great Apostles suffered persecution and even death “for the sake of the Name.” No wonder we call Peter and Paul the great pillars of the early Church. They inspired so many others not to fear contempt and bodily harm because the Holy Spirit was with them. Those who followed that voice would be rewarded with a glorious crown. No wonder that literally millions of Christians have suffered for their faith down through the ages. Millions even today are deprived of human rights, imprisoned and killed just because they are loyal to that voice of the Good Shepherd. Racial hatred, abuse of women, child slavery, and exploitation of the poor, to name but a few, are the effects of strident, angry and evil voices which constantly try to drown out the loving voice of the Good Shepherd who proclaims justice for the oppressed.

In these days of fear of the Covid, lust for power and exploitations of the innocent, and ruined lives of children, we need to make sure the voice of the Shepherd is heard loud and clear through us.

On this Mothers’ Day, we honor all our mothers living and deceased, who were loving shepherds, guiding us through the years.

CALLED TO SERVE

Faithful friends and good sports

God has blessed me with so many different experiences, challenges and opportunities, I can’t begin to thank Him adequately. As you reflect on your life, and all the stuff you’ve done, perhaps you have the same feeling.

Way on top of the pile of blessings are the people I have been privileged to spend time with, traveling this journey together. In the last couple of weeks, a bunch of people I love have died. Their deaths have shaken my memory tree and dropped some fond fruit. Among them, those who died, were some guys who brought back joyful memories of sports and the real impact each of them had on me as I wander through this part of my existence.

First among them is my younger brother, Dan. Growing up in a borough of New York City, Queens to be precise, if our daily lives were not occupied with family, church or school they were otherwise centered on a ball field of some sort. Please understand the definition of ball field to a New York City kid might be a grass and dirt plot of land that is mowed and manicured, but more likely it is a cement school yard or the street in front of our houses.

And ball, principally baseball, would take any number of forms. There was hard ball, soft ball, stop ball, something we called crosscourt which involved hitting a rubber ball as far as you could and the other guy caught it or tracked it down a hundred feet away, and my favorite, stick ball.

Stickball involved a square drawn with chalk on a building. That was the strike zone. A batter used a broomstick to hit a pitched rubber ball across the street or school yard, where the height at which the ball hit a wall across the street or the school yard fence determined the strike zone.

And we used to do play-by-play too. Whoever was batting kept up the chatter as he narrated the events...pitched ball or strike, hit, home run and so forth.

Little did I know I would be doing play-by-play on the radio many years later.

Dan was a superior athlete, but he was four years younger, so I never admitted that to him.

I wish I had.

When I moved to Watertown in the 1970s two guys helped me continue my love of sports – Glenn Gough at TV7 and John O’Donnell, a sports editor for the Watertown Daily Times. Glenn was already entrenched at WWNY when I arrived. John and I landed in Watertown at about the same time. They reported on the usual potpourri of sports, but Glenn introduced me to ice fishing and John to auto racing.

Sports was the common denominator for all three of these guys who left to be with the Lord in April. I’ll miss them.

The consolation in their passing is found in Revelation this week. “They will not hunger or thirst anymore nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the lamb who is in the center of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Deacon Kevin Mastellon ministers in Watertown. He is the Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.
Notes from Peru pilgrimage

From the Mission Office: Many of you will be familiar with Father Daniel Chapin, one of our diocesan priests who travels to South America as a missionary with the Maryknoll. For the next few weeks, we will be sharing some of his own words about his experiences on his most recent three-week pilgrimage to Peru.

As you know, I make a trip once a year to San Martin de Porres [our diocese' former mission parish] in Mollendo. I was there in January of last year, 2021. First, I spent a week in Arequipa, visiting friends. I went to Sunday Mass at the cathedral; the archbishop presided. It’s the rainy season in Arequipa in the Andes mountains. Although it had not rained in some time, it was just beginning as I was leaving.

Then it was on to Mollendo, where I spent eight days on the Pacific coast (like Lima). It is summer, with beaches packed. [Friends] Coco & Lucha Paredes took me on a tour of the ocean front. I am always amazed at the changes in Mollendo, even after a year. During the summer, it is certainly a tourist mecca, and the improved and ever-expanding infrastructure is proof.

The most important change, however, is the new pastor at San Martin, Father Gaspar Quispe. He is very friendly, outgoing, easy to be with and dialogue with. [He follows Father Andres who was transferred after 13 years in Mollendo]. He is 62, ordained at 40 and a native of Cusco, the first pastor from there in the parish’s history. Father Gaspar brings to Mollendo the experience of his many years before ordination, years spent in community organization and social service.

He moves fast and he and his assistant gave me a quick tour of the parish, including Matarani [a local town]. By the way, we were using the parish truck that was a donation from the generous faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and its Mission Office [through the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg]. I can attest that it is in good shape and we spoke of the importance of regular maintenance.

In Mollendo, at San Martin, I was even able to see the interior of the parish house for the first time in many years and all the offices, storage areas and the reception/parish hall. We even went up to the expansive roof area for a great view of the city and the surrounding area.
Dear Friends in Christ:

As spring returns to the North Country, we are grateful for the help Catholic Charities has received from our generous donors during the past year. The pandemic has been a real challenge. Individuals and families who have never been in dire need now experience poverty for the first time. With unemployment and daily poverty reaching more deeply into our North Country communities, our charitable response needs to be greater than ever.

As faithful disciples of Christ and as a Church in action, we have always worked together to respond to those in need and offer guidance through quality services designed to respect the dignity of each person. Inspired by the Gospel, the many programs and services that are offered by Catholic Charities throughout our diocese, focus on building a just and compassionate society that embraces the gifts given to us by Christ.

As we prepare to celebrate Mother’s Day 2022, we are asking for your help once again. We need our volunteers, our supporters, and our benefactors to journey with us on this continuing mission of charity and justice. It is your financial gift to Catholic Charities that provides the resources that allow Catholic Charities to respond.

Catholic Charities continues to serve the neediest and most underserved in our eight counties across northern New York. We cultivate hope through our food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless housing, migrant outreach, parenting education and financial assistance to individuals and families with the greatest of needs.

As Catholic Charities has professed for over one hundred years, we create Hope when we first provide Help.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg