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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 66, Number 27

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 9, 2011

The Power of Resurrection

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christ's resurrection is not a mere symbol of life and renewal but is the true source of a love that conquers the power of death, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The abyss of death is

filled by another abyss of even greater depth, that of God's love, so that death no longer has any power over Jesus Christ nor over those who, through their faith and baptism, are tied to him," he said during a memorial Mass Nov. 3.

The pope celebrated the memorial Mass in St. Peter's

Basilica in memory of the 10 cardinals and 118 bishops who died in the past year.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said, "New and eternal life is fruit of the tree of the cross, a tree that blossoms and makes fruit because of the light and the strength that comes from the sun of God.

"To counteract the negative power of sin, an even greater power was needed.

"The answer was the power of a love that comes straight from God's own heart, reveals the ultimate meaning of creation, and renews and guides his children along the right path," Pope Benedict said.

PREPARING FOR CHANGE

New Missal this month



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

In this week's Follow Me column, Bishop LaValley writes about the new English translation of the Mass which will be implemented in English speaking churches around the world on the first Sunday of Advent Nov. 27. the bishop acknowledges that the new wording "is going to take some time to get used to for both the laity and the priests. Catholics will need to be patient during the upcoming time of change remembering that the goal of these changes is a deeper experience of praise and worship of God and a greater spiritual nourishment of the Church."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Remembering Msgr. George M. Phillips

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. George M. Phillips Nov. 2 at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood.

Msgr. Phillips died Oct. 29 after serving as a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 71 years.

He is remembered as a parish priest, an Army chaplain, a great storyteller and a prolific writer. On the occasion of his 70th anniversary as a priest, in 2010, Msgr. Phillips wrote about his life, his faith and his vocation in 13 handwritten pages.

FULL STORY, PAGE 2

Liferight education

Speaker discusses the role of birth control, and abortion in increasing breast cancer rates

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN!



The children of St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton attended Mass Oct. 30 dressed as a saint they had learned about. Front row, from left are Madisyn Bushey, Evan Felt, Kadence Mix, Gabrielle Ott, Allison Trathen and Michael Pierce; middle, Hannah Gagnon, Archie Green, Claire Craig, Amber Cunningham, Lucia Skelly and Marva Ford and back, Meaghan Pierce, Ford Wing III, Kaitlyn Sibley, Jacob Martin, Eliza Martin, Maureen Pierce and Olivia Craig.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Reflecting on a pilgrimage, two months later, p. 12

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Box 326
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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in April and every other week in July and August by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:
(315) 608-7556

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catholic.org

**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$25
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$28
Canadian Rate: US Funds \$45

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.

Paper is printed each
Monday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Rest in peace, 'Msgr. George the Evangelist'

We're all familiar with that line from the Book of Hebrews: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

No one took that more to heart than Msgr. George M. Phillips.

Msgr. Phillips, who died Oct. 29 at the age of 96, was *our* priest from the moment of his ordination in 1940 until he drew his last breath last weekend.

As a parish priest, a military chaplain and through two decades of "retirement," he never stopped his personal work of evangelization.

In his 70's, 80's and 90's, with responsibilities as a parish priest behind him, "Msgr. George the Evangelist" authored three books – *Prodigal Daughter*, *Reflections* and *The Drummer Boy* (published just this year) and thousands of letters.

He wrote about his devotion to the Catholic Church, the Blessed Mother and the importance of bringing God into family life.

As he prepared to celebrate his 70th jubilee in 2010, I made an inquiry about sitting down with Msgr. Phillips for an interview.

While he declined a face to face meeting, he offered to answer my questions in writing.

I sent over five or six questions. The next thing I knew, I received 13 handwritten pages of legal sized paper with his responses!

In these pages, Msgr. Phillips shared the remarkable story of his life.

He wrote about his July 14, 1915 birth in his family home in Watertown ("Though we lived on Thompson Street across from *L'eglise de Notre Dame du Sacre' Couer*, when it came time for my baptism, I had to be baptized at the Irish Church across the river – St. Patrick's") through the growth of his vocation and his

life as a priest.

When Wadhams Hall opened in 1932 he was among the first young men to begin studies for the priesthood in the local seminary.

And when World War II broke out in 1941, "the call to me to become a chaplain was clear and strong"

It wasn't quite so clear and strong to the Army, though, since they did not approved the application of the underweight (6 foot, 125 pound) priest.

He tried again with the Navy and again was turned away.

But, "let the outcome be quickly told," Msgr. Phillips wrote as he described the strings pulled by a Watertown doctor who socialized with his sister-in-law, a nurse...

And, so Father Phillips was sworn into the Army and reported to the chaplains' school at Harvard University. Twenty-one years later, he left the military and returned to his life in parishes of the North Country.

But, his devotion to soldiers and their families continued.

While living at Notre Dame rectory in Ogdensburg in his later years, he organized a weekly Novena Mass to pray for the safety of the soldiers. It started at the beginning of the Iraq War and continues today.

One military mother shared her reaction to the death of Msgr. Phillips:

"My heart broke tonight when I heard of his passing. He was an awesome priest and his devotion to the military was unmatched. We will miss you Msgr. and we will never forget you. Rest now....as Christ said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

I daresay she speaks for all who knew this extraordinary priest of ours.

Rest in peace, Msgr. Phillips.



Mary Lou
Kilian

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

The Good and Faithful Servant

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Nov. 12-13

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

Both readings from the Book of Proverbs and the Gospel of Matthew speak about the faithful wife, the faithful servant.

What does it mean to be faithful?

Being faithful is the inner expression of our lives, that is, the dedication to the work of the Lord, forming and shaping each of us after His image and likeness.

The faithful wife was faithful because she expressed her life through her works of charity, goodness, and virtue. She was holy.

The faithful servants were considered "good" because they used their gifts to reach out to others without any notice to themselves.

Fidelity to who we are as God's children and to what we commit ourselves as His children require constancy, consistency, courage, dedication, perseverance and sometimes heroism.

Fidelity means commitment that says we do not have to be questioned. We will do it because that is who we are.

The work that we are called to perform is a responsibility using God's gifts bestowed upon us in response to God's loving care.

Our willingness to work out the potential of God's gifts to us is a sign of our awareness of God's abundant generosity to us.

Our Catholic faith is a gift from God and He asks us to share it by our active and full participation in it.

Our practice of the faith takes work and grace. This gift is not something to hide or to bury out of fear. In our ministry of evangelization, we might question whether our faith is sufficient or strong enough.

What if we are not listened to? What if "the truth of the Gospel" turns people off or away?

With so much secularism and our religious freedoms being whittled away, we cannot let fear stand in the way. We cannot afford to bury the great treasure of our faith.

By our Baptism, we have made a commitment to be faithful to the Gospel and the Christian way of life.

The only way we can use the gift wrongly is not to use it at all.

God calls us to be prudent with the gifts given to us, guarding them carefully, yet using them well.

The Liturgy is the greatest treasure of the Church. The Church takes great care to ensure that the Liturgy, in every age, expresses the truths of our faith, strengthens the faithful in their Christian living, and through Christ and in the Spirit, offers a worthy sacrifice to the Father.

Although the form of the Liturgy may differ in various times and places, it remains a witness and treasure to an unchanged faith and an unbroken tradition. It is in the Eucharist where we are nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ to be sent forth as the Body of Christ for others.

Blessed John Paul II said, "Whoever receives Christ in the reality of His Body and Blood cannot keep this gift to himself, but is impelled to share it in courageous witness of the Gospel, in service to brothers and sisters in difficulty, in forgiveness for offenses."

How are you Eucharist to other people? Look at the rich treasure of the Church community in which you worship.

What are some treasures that are being given for the benefit of the whole parish?

FOLLOW ME

New English translation of the Mass

For several months, the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg have been invited to participate in workshops, retreats, and parish adult faith formation programs in anticipation of the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 26-27).

They have heard homilies and read articles in the *North Country Catholic* and their parish bulletins preparing everyone for some changes at Mass.

I am grateful to Father Garry Giroux, Father Albert Hauser, and Father Douglas Lucia (Vicar for Worship) for their insightful contributions, some included here, and time spent in educating us all on the new changes.

We've all heard the old saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." [Cambridge Idioms Dictionary] The current English translation of the Mass has been in place for almost 40 years and seems to have worked well.

So, why is the Catholic Church introducing a new English translation of the Mass on November 26-27 of this year?

In its desire to promote full, active and conscious participation in the Mass, the Second Vatican Council [1962-65] authorized the translation of the Mass and sacraments from Latin into modern languages.

Translators were asked to make available an English text of the Mass as quickly as possible.

Forty years ago, the strategy for translating the Mass

from Latin into English was to provide the basic meaning of the Latin rather than a word-for-word translation of the text.

It is important to remember that while there will be some significant changes in the wording of the Mass, the Structure of the Mass remains unchanged.

While this approach to translation provided a simple and understandable English text of the Mass, unfortunately many of the scriptural and theological allusions present in the Latin text did not make it into the English translation.

Years of praying and living with the English text of the liturgy, as well as advances in a number of areas of scholarship, led the Church to recognize the need for a new English translation of the Mass.

We should not be surprised that, after 40 years, a revision of the English translation of the Mass was judged necessary.

Revisions, renewals and renovations occur with regularity most everywhere.

Text books are edited and revised; scientific theories are revisited and amended and people renovate their homes in an effort to reclaim the original features and beauty of the structure.

The new translation of the

Mass has the goal of renewing and deepening the worship life of English-speaking Catholics.

It will be noticeable that the basic and conversational style of English found in the 1973 translation of the Mass is not used in the 2010 English translation.

Why?

The style of language people use is determined by the situation in which they find themselves. For example, the language persons use when speaking to their friends around the kitchen table or camp fire is different from the style of language a person would use if they were speaking to a judge in a courtroom.

A person's choice of vocabulary and their use of grammar are governed by the formality or informality of the situation in which they find themselves.

A conversational style of language is most often used in personal, individual prayer. But, public prayer, like the Mass and the sacraments, calls for a more formal and elevated style of language.

We will find the style of language in the new English translation of the Mass possessing a richer vocabulary, a stronger sense of the poetic and full of allusions to the scriptures.

Some may object to certain words in the new Eng-

lish translation of the Mass, saying, "We don't use these words at work, or in school or on the street. Why use them in church?"

People who share a vocabulary and special phrases which are particular to them fashion what is called, a speech community. There are many examples of people forming speech communities: the healthcare profes-

sion, computer techs, economists, the building trades, military and law enforcement personnel, musicians, etc. Their specific use of language bonds them together; they experience community through their shared vocabulary and speech.

The Catholic Church is a speech community. We share particular words and special phrases that are specific to us Catholics.

So, it should not be surprising that words and phrases that have been part of our Catholic speech com-

munity for centuries will be found in the new English translation of the Mass.

Change is never easy. It is said that the only humans who like change are wet babies!

Change interrupts the rhythm in our lives. Everyone likes predictability. English-speaking Catholics have been accustomed to the vocabulary, phrasing and style of the current translation of Mass for some 40 years.

It is important to remember that while there will be some significant changes in the wording of the Mass, *the structure of the Mass remains unchanged.*

The new English translation of the Mass is going to take some time to get used to for both the laity and the priests.

Catholics will need to be patient during the upcoming time of change remembering that the goal of these changes is a deeper experience of praise and worship of God and a greater spiritual nourishment of the Church.

May that be our experience.



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking an Executive Director of Development/ Executive Director of the Foundation.


The Executive Director works to enhance the financial resources that serve the current and long-term needs of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, its affiliated institutions and parishes. The Executive Director assists the Bishop of Ogdensburg in articulating the mission of the Diocese and ensures the integrity and efficacy of Diocesan fundraising. Applicants must have a Bachelor Degree in Fundraising or Business Administration or Associates Degree in Business with a minimum of 5 years of experience in professional fundraising. Knowledge of the Catholic faith and its beliefs is required. Excellent written and oral communication skills are essential. Applicants must be proficient in professional fundraising software. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg,
P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669
or e-mail to ksnover@dioogdensburg.org.

Deadline for application is November 28, 2011.

A copy of the job description is available on the diocesan website at www.dioogdensburg.org.

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NCC



Bette Hartzell, left, secretary of Liferight of Watertown and Joan Boulio, right, president, are shown with Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, president of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute and guest speaker of the educational presentation sponsored by Liferight Oct. 22 in Watertown.

Liferight holds educational session on cancer, abortion

By Colleen Miner
Staff Writer

WATERTOWN - Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, president of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute spoke about the connection between birth control pills, abortion and breast cancer Oct. 22 at a luncheon sponsored by Liferight of Watertown.

The 50 participants also heard testimony from three Women involved with Silent No More Awareness ministry.

Dr. Lanfranchi, a breast surgeon, said that 75% of reproductive-age women are taking birth control pills. These are the same drugs as hormone replacement therapy.

The hormonal pills stimulate the growth of breast cells so quickly that cell mutations result, Dr. Lanfranchi said. These mutations often turn into breast cancer.

It used to be that only nuns got breast cancer, according to Dr. Lanfranchi. This was because nuns had no children and it was before the introduction of the birth control pill and legalized

abortion. The greatest protection against breast cancer is a full-term pregnancy and lactation.

When a pregnancy is terminated by induced abortion in the 1st or 2nd trimester (or premature birth before 32 weeks gestation), the woman is left with more places for breast cancer to start, Dr. Lanfranchi explained. Type 1 and Type 2 breast lobules are present during this time in the pregnancy and have not advanced to the Type 3 and Type 4 lobules which are cancer resistant.

Type 1 lobules are where ductal cancers start which account for 85% of all breast cancer. Type 2 lobules are where lobular cancers start which account for about 12% of breast cancer.

So, it can be said that the single most important person protecting a woman from breast cancer is her child. Consequently, when a pregnant woman finds out she has breast cancer, the worst thing for her to do is to have an abortion, the doctor said.

Dr. Lanfranchi shared statistics:

Half of all women who have an abortion will have another. One in 10 new cancers diagnosed worldwide is breast cancer. 10% of women never have children. There was a four-fold increase in breast cancer (36% increase) between 1973-2000 due to birth control and abortion. Yet, women are not told about the most preventable cause of breast cancer, she said.

After lunch, three women shared their abortion experiences to explain why they are "Silent No More."

Elvia Cherniak, Brasher Falls; Nancy Belzile, Willsboro and Dale Barr, Cornwall, Ontario shed light on the horror they experienced because of abortion, the after-effects known as Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS) and the help that is available for those who are suffering from an abortion. All three are former Rachel's Vineyard retreatants.

Further information is available from www.silentnomoreawareness.org, www.rachelsvineyard.org, www.abortionbreastcancer.com or bcpinstitute.org.

God has done
great things
for us!

*As recipients of God's bountiful
gifts, we are called to:*

*Receive
those gifts gratefully,*

*Cultivate
those gifts responsibly,*

*Share
those gifts in justice and love,*

*And return them with increase
to the Lord*

Stewardship Weekend
November 12 & 13

**Please contact your local parish
to learn how you can share your
gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure.**

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS



PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN

The Diocesan Council of Religious held its annual meeting with Bishop LaValley Oct. 22 at the Bishop's House in Ogdensburg. Shown, front, from left, are St. Joseph Sister Annunciata Collins, Bishop Terry LaValley, Servite Sister Rita Mary Morrisette, Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, episcopal delegate for religious; and Mercy Sister Janet Peters; back, Sister of Charity of St. Louis Sister Bernadette Ducharme, St. Joseph Sister Constance Sylver, Sister of the Cross of Chavanod Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa, Grey Nun Sister Joan McElwain, St. Joseph Sister Norma Bryant, Ursuline Sister Sheila Murphy, Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Frances Barnes and St. Joseph Sister Barbara St. Andrews.



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Photo by Betty Steele



Regardless of the Seminary,
whoever was the Bishop,
the call remains the same.
Dear Fathers, thank you for
saying "yes" to His call to
"Follow Me."



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2010 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL.... OUR FAITH, OUR FAMILY

Good Samaritan Fund aids flood victims

By Msgr. John R. Murphy
Moderator of the Curia

Each year Bishop LaValley assists with a modest financial gift people in all corners of the North Country with pressing financial problems. Pastors each year ask for financial help for people in their communities who are fire victims, who have extraordinary medical expenses for sick children, or who cannot meet heating costs.

Over the course of the last year, floods have devastated several communities and areas within the Diocese of

Ogdensburg. This year an extraordinary number of requests for financial help to be given to flood victims have been received.

One pastor in the eastern part of the diocese requested assistance for nine families or individuals in his broader community. This was part of the Church's response to the victims of Tropical Storm Irene.

In a majority of these instances, the home that was being helped had children in the family.

The Bishop of Ogdensburg receives requests throughout each year for financial help to be given to

people faced with extraordinary need as a result of more typical emergencies that occur more routinely.

Not uncommonly, he is also called upon to help people when natural phenomena cause damage to property or seriously restrict the income of North Country residents.

During the 2009-2010 program year, a total of 83 households (families or individuals) were assisted by Bishop LaValley with gifts from his Good Samaritan Fund. Already since July 1 of this year, 45 households have been helped.

The Bishop's Good Samari-

tan Fund is assisted each year by the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal.

Your generosity this year will help Bishop LaValley and the Church in the North Country respond with generosity and love to North Country neighbors at times of critical need.

Your prayerful support for the Christian charity accomplished through the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund will be appreciated.

Your gifts to the 2011 Bishop's Fund Appeal provide much needed support to Bishop LaValley's outreach to North Country residents in serious need.

Bishop's Fund supports NFP services

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Director, Natural Family Planning

Sometimes a coincidence is not a coincidence at all, but the expression of a single truth. For example, the posters for national NFP Awareness Week this year carried the words: "God's love. Our love. Our family." Meanwhile, in our diocese, the theme for the 2011 Bishop's Fund is "Our Faith, Our Family."

Both themes connect the great mysteries of divine love and human love. They remind us that God created us in love and for love, in his own image. They remind us that God so loved the world that his only Son became man for our sakes. They remind us that God who is love is our destiny, and that human happiness depends upon accepting and living his love in our lives. Human love is designed to mirror God's love in a particular way in the married vocation, where husband and wife are called to image the free, total, faithful, fruitful love of the Blessed Trinity: the human family thus reflects the community of three divine Persons, loving one another eternally.

The human family does

not exist apart from the divine family, nor apart from its presence in the Church. Natural Family Planning helps couples to shape their families in a way which accepts the plan of God and honors his presence in their marriages.

Drawing on the richness of John Paul II's Theology of the Body, NFP is rooted in the truth of the human person, and of the demands and joys of becoming one in Christ. NFP respects the bodies of man and woman, as well as the gift of fertility; it is open to life.

Honoring God as the Author of life, NFP educates couples to live in harmony with their fertility rather than suppressing it with drugs or destroying it with surgery. Such couples chose to be obedient to God's design, a choice which tends to deepen faith and enrich their relationship.

This really is good news—which our office shares in a variety of ways. Whether in the pages of this newspaper or in private conversation, whether presenting at Pre-Canas or other venues, whether teaching classes or providing follow-up consultation to clients, every effort is made to explain the constant teaching of the Church—and to equip cou-

ples to live it out. Our participation in NFP Awareness Week, sponsored each July by the USCCB, provides posters, as well as print and audio materials, to parishes across the diocese. Periodic bulletin announcements help to increase awareness of this healthy, holistic, and highly effective method of family planning.

The appeal of Natural Family Planning is not limited to a single age group or category, as our classes attest. One young couple, after the birth of their second child, needed a way to space their children—but did not want to do anything against their faith.

A woman in her 40's came, after a lifetime of contraceptive use, and was "awed, amazed, excited" to learn so much about her own body and the wonderful way that it works.

A young engaged couple who face serious medical problems came to learn NFP because "our faith in God makes us want to embrace His plan for marriage."

A student nurse whose medical training does not include natural methods came to class because she understands the dangers of chemical contraceptives—and appreciates the effectiveness and safety of NFP.

"It is so empowering for women to understand their own fertility cycles," she said. "This awareness has so many health benefits and medical applications. I am really looking forward to presenting this to my classmates—and even more, to being able to offer this knowledge to patients in the future."

One couple recently came to NFP class after the birth of their sixth child. They are grateful to God for their beautiful, healthy, children. Their faith is strong, and they are making every effort to pass it on to their active young family. Given the demands on their time and resources, they are not looking to add to their family at this time. But, having previously resorted to contraception and sterilization (followed by reversal), they feel that they have found the better way.

One of the great privileges of NFP ministry is the opportunity to meet and to teach couples and individuals like these, people of great faith and great love.

On their behalf, and our own, we thank the many faithful members of our diocesan family whose generosity to the Bishop's Fund makes possible this essential ministry.

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Nov. 11 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 12 – 4:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 13 – 1:30 p.m., Harvest Mass at St. Peter's Church in Lowville.

Nov. 14-17 – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Meeting in Baltimore, MD.

CORRECTION

The final paragraph of the 11.2 Young Catholic Voice column by Tracy Leonard was missing. It follows: "*No matter what we do for work (our calling) - whether clergy, religious or secular members, let us strive to serve Christ, emulating the example given to us by our priests. In the end, let us keep in mind that what makes our calling important is not us or our "work," but the one who calls us.*"

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information: Sister Ellen Donahue, phone, 315-393-2920 ext. 403. Upcoming programs:

Nov. 17 - 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Chazy

Rest in Peace

Nov. 10 – Msgr. Francis M. Kenny, 1954; Msgr. Raphael A. Hoffman, 1968

Nov. 11 – Rev. Victor VandenHende, 1939; Rev. Edward O. Hervieux, 1947

Nov. 13 – Rev. S. A. Vollmer, 1931; Rev. Victor Van den Hende, 1939; Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, 1942

Nov. 14 – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

Nov. 15 – Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C., 1980; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

At audience, pope prays G-20 summit will help world's poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI prayed that a summit of the leaders of countries with the world's largest economies would find ways to overcome the current economic crisis and promote real development. At the end of his weekly general audience Nov. 2, the pope issued a special appeal to the leaders of the G-20 nations scheduled to meet Nov. 3-4 in Cannes, France. "I hope the meeting will help overcome the difficulties, which -- on a global level -- block the promotion of an authentically human and integral development," the pope said. The G-20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. The agenda for the Cannes meeting aimed at finding ways to coordinate economic policies to reduce global imbalances between rich and poor; strengthening the regulation of financial markets; and promoting development in the world's poorer countries despite the global crisis. In view of the Cannes summit, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace released a document Oct. 24 calling for the gradual creation of a world political authority with broad powers to regulate financial markets, rein in the "inequalities and distortions of capitalist development," and promote development and the common good. In his main audience talk, Pope Benedict spoke about the day's feast of All Souls and the need for Catholics to live in a way that really makes clear their belief in eternal life.

Maryknoll called the gift of mission US church has given to world

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Maryknoll is the gift of mission that the church in America gave to the universal church, and will continue to give, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick told more than 1,800 participants at a festive Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Oct. 30. The Mass celebrated the centennial of the group formally known as the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. "The church in the United States is a generous one, not because we give generously of our funds, but because we give generously of our faith," he said. Cardinal McCarrick said the men and women of Maryknoll recognize that when you have something as precious as the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you can't keep it to yourself. The gift of mission is meant to be given to one another. Cardinal McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, was the main celebrant of the Mass that marked the official end of Maryknoll's yearlong centennial commemoration. He was joined by 56 priests and eight bishops in a two-hour service rich with symbolic reminders of the lands catechized by Maryknoll missionaries since 1911. Maryknollers carried the flags of 47 mission sites in the processional. They represented countries in Asia, Africa, North, Central and South America. The processional cross held relics of Maryknoll founders and missionaries.

Cardinal calls religion teachers critical to new evangelization

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The cardinal recently selected by Pope Benedict XVI to play a key role in the October 2012 world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization told high school religion teachers Oct. 28 that solid catechesis, confidence in the faith and sharing the faith are critical elements to carrying out the work of the new evangelization.

"You are on the front line of the new evangelization -- an effort that mirrors so clearly the work of the early church and the first disciples," said Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington to a conference of Catholic high school religion teachers as part of High School Principals Association professional development day at a local Catholic high school.

"The new evangelization is not a program. It is a mode of thinking, seeing and acting," Cardinal Wuerl said. "It is a lens through which we see the opportunities to proclaim the Gospel anew. It is also a recognition that the Holy Spirit is actively working in the church."

Pope Benedict named Cardinal Wuerl as the relator, or recording secretary, of the 2012 synod. As recording secretary, he will be primarily responsible for preparing a thematic report for discussion at the opening of the Oct. 7-28 synod and another report summarizing speeches given in the first phase of the synod's general assemblies.

In his address, the cardinal told the religion teachers how important it is that they communicate a confident message of the "offer of an encounter with Christ, an invitation to faith, and another way to live."

He acknowledged the barriers to such an encounter as identified by Pope Benedict XVI - secularism, materialism and individualism - but noted, "Increasingly, I find young people who are open to the Gospel message. These are people who find that the world does not have all of the answers, or even significant answers."

"The missionaries in the first evangelization covered immense geographic dis-

stances to spread the good news," he said. "We, the missionaries of the new evangelization, must surmount ideological distances just as immense, oftentimes before we ever journey beyond our own neighborhood or family."

The next day at a Mass he celebrated as part of the archdiocese's Multilingual Catechetical Day, the cardinal told nearly 900 catechists and religious education leaders that "part of the challenge of our ministry is to help those entrusted to our care understand that it is in the church that they encounter Christ in his word and in the sacraments. ...

"Too many people have little familiarity with the wisdom of God," he said. "Many have simply drifted away... Yet there are also positive signs of our young people searching for more."

We are experiencing that even in the face of a diminished appreciation or understanding of the content of the faith there is a longing of the human spirit for God," Cardinal Wuerl said.

Religious leaders targeting Senate to preserve foreign aid

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - With the Senate preparing to take up the appropriations bill for foreign aid, Baltimore Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden called to mind some of his more vivid encounters with recipients of such assistance and how it affected their lives.

Bishop Madden, vice chairman of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, spoke to reporters on Capitol Hill Nov. 2, as he and other religious leaders prepared to meet with senators, hoping to persuade them not to cut

the kind of foreign assistance that keeps people in fragile circumstances alive.

While working in the Middle East for the Pontifical Mission for Palestine and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association from the mid-1990s through 2005, Bishop Madden explained, part of his responsibilities included overseeing part of the church's response to emergency situations.

"With the closure of the Gaza Strip (Israel built a barrier across the area between 1994 and 1996), I can see the faces of the people who received food. CRS through USAID was able to bring food into this area," Bishop Mad-

den told Catholic News Service. "I can see the faces of people who had no food, in addition to being bombed regularly," as Israel and Palestinian forces battled over the territory.

Such personal encounters with the people who are helped by U.S. foreign aid would provide background for his lobbying efforts on the Hill, Bishop Madden said.

The Senate was to begin consideration Nov. 3 of the appropriations bill that includes the budget for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations. The bill was scheduled for a final vote the following week.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Housekeeping to do before Advent begins!

We're getting close to the end of this Church Year.

There are just two weeks left before another Advent begins - and what an exciting time this will be, with changes in the wording of our Mass for both priest and people!

But we have some housekeeping to do before then, and before God calls us to the final judgment—and our own particular judgment as well.

How should be prepare?

We find a good key word in today's second reading from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians when he speaks of the "Day of the

Lord."

The image is a bit frightening, because we don't know when that day will come, nor what it will really be like.

We do know that it will call us to an accounting for how we've lived out our promises, promises made in Confirmation, to love the Lord our God and our neighbor.

Will it be like that dream vision of St. John that was read to us on All Saints' day?

Now that was really exciting, with everyone washing their garments in the blood of the lamb, receiving the Seal of Salvation on their

foreheads, and singing praises to the Lord of Lords.

Will you and I be with those saints that come marching in?

As we read this, it's with a sense of relief that we still have time to set things in order! (Pardon me for jumping the gun, but it reminds me of the way that old Scrooge felt on Christmas morning!)

I still have time alter my final accounting! No matter how young or how old we may be, the message is clear.

Today is the first day of the rest of our lives, and every day from now on is meant to be active and productive—no slouching around.

No resting on our laurels!

The focus for all our tomorrows is found in the Parable of the Talents in today's Gospel.



**Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore**

NOV. 13

33rd Sunday of the Year

READINGS

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

While we may not know for certain whether we should identify with the person to whom the Master gave five talents, or two talents, or one talent, we probably can make a good guess. It really doesn't matter, because the master's expectations for each of his servants was the same: make the best use of whatever talents I have given you. Just don't bury them!

By thinking and praying and asking for advice, you'll come up with some good ideas on how to invest

them.

Every day is a day to labor for the truth, to give loving service to the poor, and to praise the Lord - through the Mass and Divine Office, through private prayer and private reflection, perhaps with a friend.

Today may be the only day left me to reconcile with someone whom I have offended, or who has offended me, to atone for some wrong, to go to visit an elderly cousin, to play with my grandchildren.

How precious are my talents and the time given me to use them.

If I consider this day as perhaps my last, then my talents will be used, and the benefits for myself and others multiplied beyond belief.

And it's all because I have developed the habit of taking each day as precious, This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

With joy in the opportunities of today, we need never fear the final Day of the Lord.

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AT THE MOVIES

IN TIME

By John P. McCarthy
Catholic News Service

The dystopia sketched out in the sci-fi thriller "In Time" (Fox) is intriguing and, theoretically at least, more than a little chilling.

In the near future, each member of society has been genetically engineered to stop aging when they reach 25, after which they'll live for only one more year unless they can add more time to their biological clock.

With seconds, minutes, hours and days serving as currency, the wealthy can live forever while the less privileged must hustle to acquire time by any means necessary.

An LED display on each person's forearm reveals how much time remains before they expire. Units of chronology are up- and downloaded via scanners and can be transferred between individuals when they clasp arms in a particular way.

The population is segregated into "time zones" according to how much time citizens have left. Mobility between the zones is severely restricted, and the cost of living is kept artificially high.

This economic system pits elites against the majority, and, though the rich also fear accidental death, everyone must be vigilant to avoid being robbed of their most precious resource.

It's a scenario ripe for exploitation in every sense, and yet a good premise does not a good movie

make.

More stylish than substantive, "In Time" suffers from artificial execution and a pun-heavy script.

Feeding on contemporary dissatisfaction with the world economic system, it offers a morally praiseworthy response to the challenges it imagines -- but can't shake an absurdly glossy, unreal air.

"In Time" plays like a magazine fashion spread with a social conscience. Think H.G. Wells meets designer-turned-director Tom Ford.

Writer-director Andrew Niccol, who penned the script for "The Truman Show," dwells on surfaces and tries to distract viewers from analyzing the details of his premise by sprinkling in dialogue that demonizes Darwin and evolutionary theory.

Overall, the effort amounts to slick posing and doesn't have much emotional or intellectual heft.

Justin Timberlake plays hero Will Salas, a factory worker in a ghetto sector called Dayton, located east of downtown Los Angeles, where the have-nots scrounge for minutes to stay alive. After protecting a wealthy stranger from thugs, Will receives a gift of

time and, suddenly flush, makes his way into the precinct of New Greenwich where he encounters mogul Philippe Weis (Vincent Kartheiser) and his daughter Sylvia (Amanda Seyfried).

Suspected of murder and guilty of disrupting the economic balance, Will is pursued by the de facto police in the person of a "Time-keeper" named Raymond Leon (Cillian Murphy).

Eluding capture by kidnapping Sylvia, Will returns to Dayton and the fugitive pair launches a crime spree aimed at redistributing wealth.

"In Time" has its heart in the right place, that is, on the side of those seemingly unable to change a system that takes advantage of them (in contemporary parlance, on the side of the 99 percent). It should be lauded for championing an altruistic hero who puts the notion of charity and philanthropy into action, albeit with a Robin Hood twist.

Unfortunately, it's impossible to shake the idea that "In Time" is just an excuse for Hollywood to make a



CNS/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Vincent Kartheiser, Justin Timberlake and Amanda Seyfried star in a scene from the movie "In Time."

film in which no one over the age of 30 need be cast.

The film contains non-graphic action violence, including gunplay, a suicide, a glimpse of rear female nudity, several nonmarital sexual situations, at least one instance each of profanity and rough language, several

crude terms and some innuendo.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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ADIRONDACK

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid — St. Agnes School will be having a Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Baked goods, donuts, new gifts, crafts, toys, wreaths, trees, holiday plants & lots of raffle items. Vendor space is available, please call 518-523-3771 for information.

CLINTON

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville — The RCC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold a harvest dinner

Date: Nov. 13

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 6-12, \$5; Children under five, Free; Take-outs, \$9 call 561-5039.

Features: Raffle will be at 6 p.m. Grand prize is \$1500, second prize is an Apple iPad. Other prizes: cash and gift certificates. Country store, silent auction.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT GIFT FOOD FAIR

Champlain — St. Mary's Academy will be having a Christmas, Craft, Gift & Food Fair.

Date: Nov. 19

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Academy Gym

Features: Unique gifts. Admission is free. There will be live holiday music. Lunch will also be served. To reserve a table call 298-8244.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ellenburg Center — Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be hosting their third Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Date: Nov. 24

Time: Noon

RSVP: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

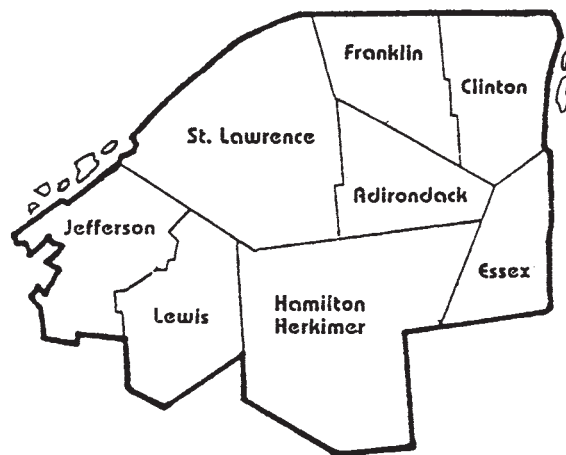
Price: Donations appreciated but not necessary

LAKE CHAMPLAIN BUS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh - The "Lake Champlain 2012 Bus for Life" will offer concerned citizens an opportunity to attend the march in Washington D.C.

Date: A chartered bus will leave the parking lot of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. for the Jan. 23 National March For Life and return to Plattsburgh early Jan. 24.

Cost: The cost of the bus is \$25 per seat.
Contact: Betty Buffett (518) 536-6640 or Karen Smith (518) 566-6229.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese." Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;
e-mail news@northcountycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

Donations: If you cannot attend but would like to donate funds for someone who can attend, please send your check or money order to St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, New York 12901. Make a notation on the memo line "Bus For Life Donation."

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE SERIES

Plattsburgh — St. Peter's Church Will hold Little Rock Scripture Series.

Sessions: Tuesdays, Nov. 8 to Dec. 6 resuming Jan. 10 to Feb. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Contact: 563-1692; sign up by Oct. 28

Cost: \$15

Features: Exploring Gospel of Mark.

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Ellenburg — A weekend retreat featuring a Watercolor Workshop set at Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer.

Date: Nov. 11-Nov. 13

Speaker: Claire Hogue-Reid

Cost: \$80 includes food and overnight lodging, \$10 deposit required

Features: Retreat will include prayer, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and learning to watercolor. Space is limited.

RSVP: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253.

'PRAY ALWAYS' RETREAT

Ellenburg — Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will hold a retreat day

Date: Nov. 19

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the option for an extended overnight retreat ending Sunday at 10 a.m.

Speaker: Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ

Donation: \$25/ day; \$65 for overnight
Features: If you spend the night, individual Spiritual direction, private prayer time, and all meals are included.

Contact: Make reservation at olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253 by Nov. 5 to reserve overnight lodging or by Nov. 13 for day retreat only.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh — Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's Adoration Chapel,

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

Theme: When Our Lord was on earth, the Gospel says 'a secret power went out from Him,' at His touch the sick recovered their health, the dead were restored to life. Well, He is still living! living ... in His adorable Sacrament." (Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity) Pray for vocations!

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

Keeseville — The Keeseville Altar Rosary Society to sponsor Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Date: Every Sunday

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

JEFFERSON

GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS

Watertown — An ecumenical bereavement meeting will be held

Date: Nov. 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: SSJ Motherhouse

Features: The Rev. Douglas Ort, ordained minister and trained counselor, will speak on the topic "Bereavement Around the Holidays".

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown - Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown — St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free;

sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75

Features: Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills — Spaghetti & Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children

under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

MYSTERY PLAYERS

Watertown - The Immaculate Heart Mystery Players will be performing this Advent Season.

Schedule is as follows:

Nov. 27: St. Cecilia's in Adams at 7 p.m.

Nov. 30: IHC in Watertown at 1 p.m.

Dec. 4: at Sacred Heart Church in Watertown at 7 p.m.

Dec. 11: St. Cyril's in Alex Bay at 7 p.m.

Dec. 18: Holy Family Church, 7:15 p.m.

More information: www.ihschools.org/webpages/mysteryplay

ST. LAWRENCE

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

Heuvelton — Msgr. Robert Giroux Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner to benefit heating assistance fund

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Raphael's Parish Center

Cost: \$7

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur — St. James School will be having a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free; Eat in or Take Out.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

Star Lake — St. Hubert's Church will be having a Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale.

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: live wreaths, floral arrangements, handcrafted jewelry, and baby items, crafts. Lunch served 11 a.m. to 1

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk — The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: Nov. 13

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; take-outs available

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16

CRAFT SHOW

Brasher Falls — The Altar Rosary Society of St. Patrick's Church will hold its 21st annual craft show.

Date: Nov. 12

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: \$1; students, \$.50; under 5, Free

Features: Luncheon and refreshments will be available.

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel

Date: Tuesday evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's has Adoration every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church.

Features: First Friday of each month is preceded by Benediction.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg - St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Nocturnal Adoration continues through the night



The Society For

The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
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Remembering the poor

From the Director's Desk:
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,
Diocesan Mission Director

This time of the year with the Fall chill in the air, it brings about reminders of having to get out our boots and heavy coats.

While the weather will and does change, the work to fight hunger and poverty in the United States and mission countries battles on.

As Catholics, we take time to reflect on Jesus carrying His cross. Reflections can lead us to remember why Jesus willingly carried His cross.

Reflections no doubt fill us with emotions as we contemplate His great love for each of us.

As Jesus met His mother while carrying His cross, Mary suffered as she watched her Son endure pain and could do nothing to help Him.

Let us pray for the many mothers around the world who see their children suffering from malnutrition and can do nothing to help them.

During difficult times, we are offered the opportunity to think about people living in poverty and carrying the cross of hunger. We are reminded of those who possibly have no boots, coats or food.

Thank you to all of you who contribute to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and other poverty and hunger alleviation efforts.

Your contributions help people to receive relief from the daily crosses of hunger and poverty.

Did you know that 15.1% of all Americans are living below the poverty line? This is the highest percentage since 1993.

Give of your time to volunteer at a local agency that reaches out to the poor in your community.

Pick a meal to fast in solidarity with those who are hungry.

Let us pray for the wisdom to always remember that the poor at home and around the world are not statistics; they are our brothers and sisters.

May hope in Jesus' love for all affirm our work for justice for all people.

May we remember that by our baptism, we are all Missionaries.

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay — William A. "Bill" LaVallee, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2011 at St. Cyril's Church.

Brasher Falls — Frank Rufa, 88; Funeral Services Oct. 31, 2011 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Cadyville — Maynard F. Provost, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2011 at St. James Church.

Chazy — Catherine A. "Catteen" (Lucia) Dumar, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Clayton — Nora (Amoroso) LaChance, 53; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

Clayton — Heidi A. Loy, 50; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2011 at St. Mary's Church.

Constableville — Clayton G. Weiler, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Edwards — Marion R. (Cook) Reed, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 1, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Hermon Cemetery.

Keeseville — Christina Irene Sobol Gray, 65; Funeral Services Oct. 31, 2011 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville — Priscilla H.A. (Lashway) Tellier, 88; Funeral Services Oct. 31, 2011 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Norfolk — Sylvia E. (Pahler) Bond, 58; Fu-

nerals Nov. 3, 2011 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Charles W. Carroll, 71; Funeral Services Oct. 29, 2011 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Donald J. Lemieux, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2011 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Redford — Warren J. Wood, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2011 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Ticonderoga — Anthony J. DeFranco, 95; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2011 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Tupper Lake — Ronald D. Poirier, 52; Funeral Service Nov. 4, 2011 at Holy Name Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery, Tupper Lake

Watertown — Frances B. (Sarama) Chartrand, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 31, 2011 at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

West Chazy — Alexander L. Bechard Sr., 95; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

West Chazy — Gilberte C. "Ma Lussier" Lussier, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Plattsburgh

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

Two months later: reflecting on a pilgrimage

By Andrew Lauria
Contributing Writer

World Youth Day 2011 was one of the single most incredible experiences of my life. My trip to Spain in August taught me a major lesson about life; how to let go.

I had been on a pilgrimage before but forgot the great difference between a vacation and a pilgrimage. You go on a vacation to lose yourself, a pilgrimage to find yourself.

After two months of joyous reflection, I think I am just beginning to realize the importance of this life lesson.

I almost forgot that I it all started with a simple 'yes'.

The first line of my journal from Spain said this:

"It is 10:01 a.m. in London's Heathrow Airport. I am with my brother and it has been an exhausting trip so far. Pilgrimages are never easy because the evil one tries always to get his way. But we are relentless. We are totally committed to our Faith and to this journey. Even though we still aren't there, we will make it. The Lord has blessed and ordained this trip and His will shall be done."

There is an old saying that goes "God never gives us more than we can handle". This is very true but often I forget it.

Staring at the ceiling in Heathrow Airport was one of those times.

As I sat next to my brother (our flight was separate from the group) in a waiting



This week's Young Catholic Voice writer, Andrew Lauria of Plattsburgh, was also the photographer who captured this picture of the pope as he arrived in Madrid for this summer's World Youth Day.

area full of uncomfortable couches, I came to an intimate realization that I had nothing left to give God or anyone else. I had been so overwhelmed that I was totally drained.

I was not even frustrated, I was just empty.

The previous two days had been impossibly long and spiritually some of the hardest to bear.

I remember receiving the phone call from Deacon Thomas Higman the day before we were set to depart informing me that he and I were now in charge of the trip because our faithful leader, Father Bryan Stitt, could not make it.

I had helped Father Bryan organize the trip since the beginning but I had never

intended to lead it.

In complete shock, I did a quick survey and realized that I theoretically knew what was going on but had no idea what I was getting myself into.

But stronger than the uncertainty was my "yes" that I told Father Bryan and so with Deacon Tom at my side, I put my complete faith in God and together we stepped into history.

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It was not until my "yes" to God through Father Bryan that I realized the spiritual reality of this particular pil-

grimage.

God never gives us more than we can handle but He likes us to be strong.

There is not enough room in this article to identify and explain all of the obstacles that I faced just getting to my layover in London where I wrote my first journal entry.

Some of the highlights include our bus being stuck in flooded streets so as to force me to miss my plane to London, the unfriendly airport workers who refused to help with ticketing, and the emptiness I felt without our leader, Father Bryan.

But the physical adversities were only a sign of the spiritual turmoil in which I found myself.

The real issue was not any

one of the countless problems that I faced along the way, but rather, that I did not believe that I could do it. I did not believe that I could successfully complete the enormous task of leading these two dozen young adults to a foreign country and through an experience of which I knew almost nothing about.

I did not believe that I could do it but, for the first time in my life, I *did* believe that He could, the God that blessed and ordained this incredible trip.

I just had to let go.

Like a budding plant in the springtime, each day spent in Madrid was like a single petal opening to reveal the full flower of trust that was blooming in my heart.

Amidst every obstacle, adversity, problem, and pain, none was ever a barrier to the eternal reality of God's love for me manifested in my World Youth Day experience.

If it was through the companionship of my good friend Deacon Tom, the amazing witness of our pilgrim group, or the stunning sunshine that permeated all of Madrid, God never hid His face. The Lord was faithful and He gave me peace in my heart, a peace that I could not create and the world cannot give.

Looking back, I realize now that no matter what the task in life, God will never leave me.

He is faithful to his promises forever. I just have to remember to say "yes" and then let go.

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