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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT. 27, 2010

True faith in Christ...

Leads to work for justice, equality, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- True faith and friendship with Christ leads people to see the equality of all men and women and to work for justice and the common good, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At the end of his weekly general audience Oct. 20, Pope Benedict announced the names of the new cardinals he will create in November, but first he gave a talk about St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Talking about St. Elizabeth - a princess who lived in the early part of the 13th

century and frequently scandalized her family and the royal court by personally caring for the poor and sick and by prostrating herself in prayer - the pope was continuing a series of audience talks about important female saints of the Middle Ages.

In the life of St. Elizabeth

"we see how faith and friendship with Christ create a sense of justice, of the equality of everyone, of the rights of others and creates the love and charity from which is born the hope and the certainty that we are loved by Christ," Pope Benedict said.

150 YEARS

Celebration in Champlain



PHOTO BY SHAN MOORE

Father James Delbel, right, pastor of St. Mary's in Champlain, visits with Father Roger McGuinness of St. Joseph's Parish in West Chazy, followed by Father Jay Seymour, former pastor of St. Mary's, after the Oct. 17 celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's Church. Bishop Terry LaValley presided at the Mass. Among the special guests were several Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart who came to the parish in 1906 to run St. Mary's Academy.

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

Support for Catholic education

In his homily at the annual Superintendent's Day, held Oct. 1 in Lake Placid, Bishop Terry R. LaValley told teachers from Catholic schools across the diocese about the importance of Catholic schools.

"If there ever was a time when we need our Catholic schools, it is today," the bishop said.

The program continued after the liturgy with a keynote address on legal issues facing schools, delivered by Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler of North Car-

IN HONOR OF ST. ANDRE'



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Among dozens of pilgrims from the Diocese of Ogdensburg who traveled to the Vatican for the Oct. 17 canonization of six new saints, including Blessed Andre Bessette of Montreal were, from left, Father Joseph Giroux, pastor in Malone; Father Shane Lynch, Lake Pleasant; Msgr. Dennis Duprey, St. Peter's, Plattsburgh; Father Douglas Decker, Tupper Lake; Father Robert Decker, Star Lake; and Father Timothy Cnaan, St. John's, Plattsburgh. See page 8 for more coverage of the canonization.

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Harvest Mass set for Nov. 7

Bishop LaValley to preside at annual celebration for farmers and their

families at St. Augustine's in Peru

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS: Bishop's Fund offers tuition support.... p. 6

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Figuring it out!

In the "Tale of Two Offices" for the staff of the *North Country Catholic*, it has definitely been the best of times and the worst of times over the past couple of weeks.

The good news:

- Mary Lou and Christine are comfortably settled in two spacious offices on the second floor of the Chancery, between our friends in the Mission Office and the coffee break room!

- Our colleagues' efforts to make us feel at home have been more than successful.

- Working in close proximity to people who make so much of the Catholic news in the North Country has had a very positive effect on our work.

The not-so-good news:

The transition in the way we actually produce the pages of the *NCC* has not proceeded as smoothly as we had hoped.

The technical glitches – while certainly expected – have created a high level of frustration/anxiety in the non-technical brain of the editor.

Oh, to be 20 again in times like this....

But, bit by bit, we're figuring it out, with patient support from co-workers who really do have 20-year old brains.

And... since you're reading this,

we were actually successful in "paginating" this paper from my personal computer in the middle of a very messy office.

We hope for a bit of patience from all of you since my trial and error system could certainly have resulted in more than one error!

But, as my computer-savvy sidekick, Christine keeps telling me: "we'll figure it out."

Yes, we'll definitely figure it out in time to salute our priests - just a couple weeks after Priesthood Sunday – in our Nov. 10



Mary Lou Kilian

issue of the paper.

(Take this opportunity to thank your Favorite Father by filling out the coupon on this page and sending it back to us.)

And, we'll figure it out in time to begin a prayerful observance of all the important days creeping up on us – Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

I don't know about you but I'm really looking forward to sharing these seasons with our brand new bishop. Readers of the *North Country Catholic* have the "best seats in the house" to hear the words of wisdom from our beloved Bishop LaValley.

And we promise to keep on "figuring it out" so those words arrive in your mailbox without ever missing a syllable!

The *North Country Catholic* has moved!

But all of our contact information is the same!
Please use the information below to contact us.



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315-608-7556

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Celebrate! PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY October 31, 2010

Join the *North Country Catholic* in honoring the special priests in your life.

Priesthood Sunday 2010 is set for
Oct. 31

The *NCC* will join in the celebration in the Nov 10th issue of the paper.

We invite you to send a message to your pastor, spiritual advisor or priestly friend.

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\$250 - Half page ad

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(The *North Country Catholic* provides design services)

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FOLLOW ME

Our Catholic Schools

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Homily at Catholic School Superintendent's Day

Jake complained about how expensive the oats were that he fed to Homer, his mule. So, he began gradually to feed Homer sawdust for his diet.

If there was ever a time in our society when we need our Catholic schools it is today!

Day by day, Homer was fed less oats and more and more sawdust until, finally, it was all sawdust. Everything went fine -for a while - Jake was saving big bucks - but by the time the mule became satisfied with sawdust, he died of malnutrition.

Our constant temptation is to change our spiritual diet from the ways of God to the ways of society. Often, the changeover is a slow process. And, if we're not careful, we may get to the point where we don't recognize the difference. We become satisfied and comfortable with what society feeds us. When this happens, we become spiritually starved, malnourished, and are in real danger of becoming spiritually dead.

I mention this story this morning at this Superintendent's Day event, to point out that our Catholic schools provide a healthy diet of the ways of God in the lives of our young people. You are very much aware that our Catholic schools are places where the sacred is integrated with the secular and neither is denigrated in the process. As Catholic school educators, you serve a healthy diet to our children, a diet that produces well-rounded young girls and boys. The special character of the Catholic school and its un-



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop LaValley has made pastoral visits to Catholic schools across the diocese since his installation as Bishop of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Above he speaks to the children of Holy Family School in Malone during their celebration of the 20th anniversary of the school Oct. 4. On this page, he shares his message to Catholic school teachers at the Oct. 1 Superintendent's Day in Lake Placid.

derlying reason for existence, the reason why parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction and formation that is integrated into the overall education of the students.

This integration is crucial. A Catholic school does not insulate or isolate religion and faith from the real world, so that the only time we consider the God question is, perhaps, an hour on Sunday.

This integration and formation enables Catholic Schools to build one nation under God, as today's theme indicates. You model and teach our youngsters how to be good citizens.

You instruct our students about what it means to be persons of integrity and faith. Values, morals, conscience, right and wrong, God, respect for life, forgiveness, mercy, Jesus Christ -these are not forbidden words or foreign concepts in our Catholic school vocabulary. Within a Christ-centered environment and in partnership with families, the local parish and the community, our schools

prepare young women and men to responsibly take their place in the public square, giving flesh to the faith they profess and to the lessons they learn. The Catholic school environment nurtures those of all faiths to be caring and responsible lifelong learners whose hearts of service have a global perspective.

Our Catholic schools exist as a profound and effective arm of the pastoral mission of the Church - bringing God to all people and all people, especially the young, to God.

The school is and must always be a family, a partnership that respects the parent's crucial role in the education of their children. They cannot leave their children's minds to the teachers for a few hours a day the way they might leave their carburetor off to a mechanic.

In their document, *Declaration on Catholic Education*, the Vatican Council Fathers explained the aims of Catholic education: "That as the baptized person is gradually introduced into the knowledge of the mys-

tery of salvation, he or she may daily grow more conscious of the gift of faith they have received; that they may learn to adore God the Father in spirit and truth...and grow accustomed to giving witness to the hope that is in them, and to promote the Christian transformation of the world.

In the setting of the Catholic school there is a gradual personal formation and integration that unites each person more closely with God, which in turn affects not only personal behavior but flows into a credible witness to the grace of God within, which witness will touch people and change them and eventually result in the transformation of our society and our world." Yes, Catholic schools can build one nation after another, under God.

It is the integration of faith into the whole learning process that is the key contribution of the Catholic school, a contribution that neither public nor charter schools can offer.

As he was reflecting on

the current state of our Catholic schools, one bishop observed, "Make no mistake about it, there has definitely been a dying connected with our Catholic schools over the past thirty years, a dying that has taken its toll on pastors and principals but especially on teachers." But, can not this dying lead to a resurrection? I am convinced that this is the case.

I ask you who are Catholic teachers, principals, parents to look into your hearts to find the hope that is still within, to find there the conviction that the resurrection will come.

Recently in a pastoral letter, Archbishop Dolan of New York spoke of the mentality of some that considered our Catholic schools as being on hospice care. "Many think that the good old days of Catholic schools are over. They have served us well, but, sadly, their day is over, and twilight is here. So, the best we can do is make their passing comfortable, and hold their hand while they slowly pass into grateful memory."

Archbishop Dolan's response to that sentiment is the same as mine: **MALARKEY!**

If there was ever a time in our society when we need our Catholic schools it is today! We need well-educated faith-filled Catholics who are unafraid to give witness to our faith in the marketplace. Faith without its application in daily living is dead faith—faith masquerading, a fraud.

We need leaders, laity and youth with nerve, the same nerve that motivated the construction of Catholic schools over a hundred years ago, nerve--the virtue of courage. Sometimes I think we must stop with the attitude of throwing in the towel, but instead throw down the gauntlet!

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Annual Harvest Mass to be held in Peru

By Msgr. John R. Murphy
Moderator of the Curia

PERU - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Diocesan Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving Nov. 7 at 1 p.m.

This will mark the first time Bishop LaValley has offered this Mass as Bishop of Ogdensburg. Farmers and all who do related work are invited and strongly encouraged to take part.

Farming in the North Country is quite diverse and includes people who have dairy herds, those who raise beef cattle, those who raise other animals such as sheep and goats, vegetable farmers, fruit growers, and maple sugar producers among others. The Harvest Mass of

Thanksgiving has been held each fall in the Diocese of Ogdensburg since November 2001.

In November 2009, the Mass was offered at St. Cecilia's Church in Adams and the previous year at Notre Dame Church in Malone.

The location varies year to year so that over the course of time, the Mass can be offered in many different parts of the North Country.

Father Alan Shnob, the pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Peru, will be extending a written invitation to farmers and all who work in related fields to participate in the upcoming Mass.

Bishop LaValley is particularly enthusiastic about the upcoming event. He played an active part in developing plans for the first Harvest

Mass which was offered at Notre Dame Parish in Malone on Nov. 4, 2001.

The celebration of the annual Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving was a pastoral priority of Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito. It carried forward a renewed interest in the lives and needs of farmers developed within the Church in the North Country when Bishop Paul S. Loverde led the Diocesan Pastoral Council in a study of agriculture in the North Country in the late 1990s.

It is anticipated that local and area farmers will take liturgical roles in the upcoming liturgy at Peru.

Farmers from throughout the diocese are encouraged to take part.

A reception will follow at the parish.

SPECIAL GIFTS



The religious education children and catechists of the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk presented Father Andrew Amyot and Deacon Lawrence Connelly with a new "Children of the World" chasuble and stole. Children's Mass is celebrated every first Sunday of the month, and these were presented as a gift for the children's Masses past, present and future.

Bishop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

More and more today, we have allowed our faith to gradually be forced to the edges of society, into a corner that doesn't intrude, bother or impact anyone. Like Jake, because we think it too costly, either financially or personally, to witness our faith, to support our Catholic schools, we are gradually, as a nation, dying from spiritual malnutrition. We want to be politically correct and, in the process, be so morally wrong!

Not so, I say...not so for this one nation under God! We must be creative in our proclamation of the faith and of our support of Catholic schools.

We must not become a people who lose hope, a people with no vision. Rather, what do the economists tell us that we need most when things look the bleakest--invest your assets. So, we, too, must invest our time, talent and treasure today into building up a culture of hope for Catholic education in our

nation, starting right here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. It will mean sacrifice. It will mean creative thinking outside the box, going beyond what worked in yesteryear. But, with the power of prayer and faith-filled determination, we can redouble our efforts to ensure that the fruits of those who have been educated and formed by Catholic schools will continue to bless this nation. Participating in the Partners in Mission workshops and our attendance at events such as this today, are significant indications that the Church of Ogdensburg will never tire of searching for new ways to support our Catholic schools. Your participation is vital.

I want to express, on behalf of the entire Church of Ogdensburg, my deepest gratitude to all of you who work in our Catholic schools. I am very much aware of your tireless energy, constant commitment and real sacrifice. May God bless you all for your hope-filled ministry of love!

Parish plans Family Forum

CARTHAGE - Parishioners of St. James, St. Mary's in Copenhagen and families associated with Carthage Augustinian Academy are

taking part in a Spiritual Retreat/Mission Experience this week under the direction of Franciscan Father Francis Pompei of Buffalo.

In addition, the faithful and their guests have been invited to a Family Forum to be held Saturday beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Augustinian Academy Gymnasium

Bishop Terry LaValley will present the keynote address at the forum. Other presentations will be delivered by Father Pompei and Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, directors of the diocesan Family Life Office.

Father George Maroun, pastor in Carthage and Copenhagen, explained the purpose of the Forum:

"As your pastor, I see so many families who are hurting because of the stress, worry, fear, and unhappiness associated with strained relationships, separations, divorces, violence, emptiness and loneliness," he said. "Much of this is the result of the secular culture

of death in which we live. It affects each of our families and in turn naturally affects our parish and school families.

"We, as members of God's family can do something about all of this," he said. "We need not be victims of such evil. With God's help and the support of one another, we can transform this evil into something good and provide a culture of life for our children and the next generation of families to come.

"Make God a priority in your family and you will reap a harvest of blessings for yourselves and for our faith communities," Father Maroun said.

Registration and refreshments will be available at 9 a.m. Admission is free and includes lunch at noon and a spaghetti supper for all participants after the 4 p.m. Mass.

Further information is available from the Rectory Office at 493-3224.

WORLD HUNGER RELIEF 2010

PIZZA HUT TIPS FIGHT HUNGER

Ogdensburg - Come to Pizza Hut Tuesday, October 26th and help fight World Hunger.

Priests, religious, deacons, and other members of the chancery staff will be serving the tables from 4 to 8pm as part of the World Hunger Relief program.

All tips from the purchased meals will go to this organization. For more information go to www.fromhungertohope.com

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BUILD:

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

Teachers from Catholic schools across the diocese gather for annual Superintendent's Day Oct. 1 in Lake Placid



Jamie Burns, a teacher at St. Mary's School in Canton; and Natalie Wylie of Seton Academy present the Offertory gifts to Bishop LaValley during the Mass opening the day-long conference held in Lake Placid.



St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, greeted the Catholic school teachers and introduced the speakers at the annual diocesan Superintendent's Day, held Oct. 1 at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid.



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK
Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler of North Carolina, gave the keynote address on legal issues surrounding education.



Father John Yonkovig, pastor of St. Agnes in Lake Placid greets Barb McGee, parishioner of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh and a teacher at Holy Name School in AuSable Forks.



St. Joseph Sister Marie Cordata Kelly, principal of St. Mary's Academy in Champlain, discusses exhibit materials with Ellen Donovan of Fidelis Care, New York, one of 15 exhibitors who participated in the day.



Bishop LaValley presents Mary O'Connor of St. Mary's Academy in Champlain a certificate in recognition of 15 years of service.

BISHOP'S FUND 2010...SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS

Bishop's Schedule

Oct. 26 – 11:00 a.m., Catholic Charities Board Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Oct. 27 – 1:00 p.m., Catholic Charities Annual Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Oct. 28 – 12:00 p.m., Diocesan Staff Day of Prayer at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Oct. 29 – 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Oct. 30 – Family Forum and Mass at St. James Church in Carthage.

Oct. 31 – 3:00 p.m., Respect Life Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Oct. 27 – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

Oct. 28 – Deacon Richard Gaebel, 2008

Oct. 29 – Rev. James R. Scanlon, 1880; Rev. John Canning, 1998

Oct. 30 – Rev. Michael F. Burns, 1921; Rev. Thomas E. Owen, 1945; Rev. Peter N. Butler, 1973

Oct. 31 – Rev. James Rooney, 1863; Rev. Lucien Jean, M.S.C., 1964; Rev. Ivan G. Boyea, 1996

Nov. 2 – Rev. Thomas Walsh, 1888; Rev. John Henry Lyons, 1931; Msgr. James J. Ruddy, 1987

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri- anne Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; Fax 518-561-3003; e-mail: aycsn@westelcom.com

Support for Catholic school parents

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ
Superintendent of Schools

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has 13 elementary schools and two Junior/Senior High Schools. They are invaluable instruments for the proclamation of the Gospel and the integration of the Gospel message with the pursuit of academic excellence.

The instruction in our Catholic faith, the lived example of the community of faith in which the faith is taught, and the experiences of prayer and liturgy which express and strengthen this faith are vital components of Catholic schools.

Thus, Catholic schools are "the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people" (*Teach as Jesus Did*, #118).

Maintaining schools with outstanding academic programs infused with Gospel values and the heritage of our Catholic Faith depends upon many factors, not least of which is the financial support of parishes through parish subsidies,



the Catholic School Financial Support Program, and parents' financial commitment through tuition payments and support of fund raising activities.

The Bishop's Fund provides the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to aid parents, who meet eligibility requirements, with tuition costs. This year the Bishop's Fund allotted \$172,647 to the TAP initiative. With an additional \$8,850 from the Father Mallette Endowment, a total of \$181,497 will be distributed in tuition assistance. Four hundred seventy-three (473) students or 25% of our student population in grades K-12 will be awarded tuition assistance from these combined resources. Assistance is given according to the criteria established by the Federal Government's guidelines for free/reduced lunch or to meet a request for a special need.

The Bishop's Fund affords the faithful of the Diocese with the opportunity to con-

tribute to the wide reaching needs of the Diocesan family and to provide assistance to individuals and programs within the local parish. The Tuition Assistance Program is one example of money "returning" to the local area.

This year approximately \$59,000 will be available for tuition assistance in the Jefferson Deanery (Augustinian Academy, Carthage; Immaculate Heart Central Elementary and Junior/Senior High Schools, Watertown); approximately \$46,000 in the Franklin/Clinton Deaneries (Holy Name, AuSable Forks; St. Mary's Academy, Champlain; Holy Family, Malone; Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central, Plattsburgh); approximately \$51,000 in the Saint Lawrence Deanery (St. Mary's, Canton; St. James, Gouverneur; Trinity Catholic, Massena and St. Marquerite D'Youville, Ogdensburg); approximately \$26,000 in the Adirondack/Essex Deaneries (St. Agnes, Lake Placid; St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake and St. Mary's Ticonderoga).

In *Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium*, the United States Bishops state, "Young people are a valued treasure and the future leaders of our Church. It is the responsibility of the entire Catholic community – bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and laity – to continue to strive towards the goal of making our Catholic elementary and secondary schools available, accessible, and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children."

Contributions to the Bishop's Fund are one way that the "entire Catholic community" of the diocese can help to make a Catholic education available and affordable to the parents who have access to a Catholic school for their children.

When you help children to receive a Catholic school education through the Tuition Assistance Program of the Bishop's Fund you are helping them to receive an education that will address the whole person.

Not only will they have the opportunity to be a part of a school community which will give them the human knowledge and skills necessary for their growth, but they will also be members of a faith community, where the words and deeds of Jesus, Gospel values, and our Catholic heritage are present and active. In collaboration with parents and guardians, our schools "equip our young people with a sound education, rooted in the Gospel message, the Person of Jesus Christ, and rich in the cherished traditions and liturgical practices of our faith" (*Renewing our Commitment . . . to Schools*). What a wonderful investment in the lives of our children and the future of the Church!

On behalf of the parents and children who receive financial assistance through your generosity, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your contribution to this year's Bishop's Fund. By *sharing your blessings* with the Bishop's Fund appeal you assist parents who choose a Catholic school for their children.

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. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue.

Oct. 28 – 6:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville
Nov. 6 – 9 a.m., Fort Drum

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope tells seminarians abuse crisis cannot discredit priestly mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a letter to the world's seminarians, Pope Benedict XVI said that in the face of widespread religious indifference and the recent moral failings of clergy, the world needs priests and pastors who can serve God and bring God to others. The pope encouraged seminarians to overcome any doubts about the value of the priesthood and priestly celibacy that may have been prompted by priests who "disfigured" their ministry by sexually abusing children. He said that "even the most reprehensible abuse cannot discredit the priestly mission." The papal letter, released at the Vatican Oct. 18, was an unexpected postscript to the Year for Priests, which ended in June. The text began on a remarkably personal note, with the pope recalling the development of his own vocation during World War II. "When in December 1944 I was drafted for military service, the company commander asked each of us what we planned to do in the future. I answered that I wanted to become a Catholic priest. The lieutenant replied: 'Then you ought to look for something else. In the new Germany priests are no longer needed,'" the pope recalled. "I knew that this 'new Germany' was already coming to an end, and that, after the enormous devastation which that madness had brought upon the country, priests would be needed more than ever," he wrote. Today, he said, many people are no longer aware of God and instead seek escape in euphoria and violence. The priesthood is again viewed as outmoded, yet priestly ministry is crucial in helping people see God's presence in the world, he said.

Unity among Catholics in Holy Land essential, synod members say

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Division among the different Catholic churches in Jerusalem is a serious problem that must be overcome to ensure the survival of Christianity there, three church leaders from Jerusalem said. Two bishops and a Jesuit priest, participants in the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, said they believed that two weeks of talks at the Vatican have helped establish a better spirit of dialogue, which will continue. The special problems facing Catholics in city that is holy for Christians, Jews and Muslims were discussed at a press briefing Oct. 22 by Latin-rite Auxiliary Bishop William H. Shomali of Jerusalem; Auxiliary Bishop Salim Sayegh of Jerusalem, patriarchal vicar for Latin-rite Catholics in Jordan; and Jesuit Father David Neuhaus, vicar for Hebrew- and Russian-speaking Catholics for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Father Neuhaus said the divisions were principally among the leaders of the different churches, including the Latin patriarchate and the smaller Eastern Catholic communities: the Melkite, Maronite, Chaldean, Syrian, Armenian and Coptic churches. "When you look at the bishops, you see the divisions, but the more you get to the grass roots, the more those divisions disappear," he said. "When you walk through the streets of Jerusalem, Bethlehem (West Bank) or Nazareth, and you ask which group they belong to, the answer from Christians is 'I am a Christian,' not 'I am Roman Catholic or Greek Catholic or Maronite.'"

Pope names 24 new cardinals, including two from United States

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI named 24 new cardinals, including two from the United States: Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, head of the Vatican's highest tribunal, and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

The pope announced the names at the end of his weekly general audience Oct. 20 and said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Nov. 20.

"The universality of the church is reflected in the list of new cardinals. In fact, they come from various parts of the world and fulfill different tasks in the service of the Holy See or in direct contact with the people of God as fathers and pastors of particular churches," the pope said.

The new cardinals come from 13 countries on five continents, and their number included 10 Italians. The pope named 10 Roman Curia officials -- a higher number than expected -- along with 10 residential archbishops and four prelates over the age of 80.

One unusual aspect of the pope's list was that two of the residential archbishops were retired. The November ceremony will mark the third time Pope Benedict has created cardinals since his election in April 2005.

After the consistory, he will have appointed about 40 percent of the cardinals currently under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

The elevation of Cardinals-designate Burke and Wuerl will bring the number of U.S. cardinals to 18. Of that number, 13 are voting-age -- matching a historically high number for the United States.

Cardinal-designate Wuerl, 69, is known nationally for teaching the faith and for his



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

A red skull cap is seen as the world's cardinals gather in St. Peter's Basilica before the start of the last conclave in this 2005 file photo. Pope Benedict XVI named 24 new cardinals Oct. 20. The upcoming consistory will leave the College of Cardinals with 203 members, a new record. Of those, 121 will be under age 80 and eligible to vote in a papal election.

efforts on behalf of Catholic education.

In November 2006, about six months after his installation as archbishop of Washington, he told an audience of 2,000 catechists that teaching and living the faith is a lifetime endeavor.

"There is a longing of the human heart, a yearning for communion with God," he said.

"This truly is an honor for the Archdiocese of Washington, the church in the nation's capital, and for all of the clergy, religious and parishioners of this local church who every day live out their faith in commitment and deep love for Christ," Cardinal-designate Wuerl, who also served as a bishop in Pittsburgh and Seattle, said in a statement released that morning.

"I am humbled by our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI's trust in me as shepherd of this flock and pledge to him my renewed fidelity, affec-

tion and loyalty."

Cardinal-designate

When Cardinal-designate Burke, 62, was named in 2008 to head the Vatican's highest tribunal, he came to the post with the reputation of being one of the most outspoken U.S. bishops on moral and political issues.

Some pundits wondered whether the appointment to the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature would in effect sideline someone so vocal, but since taking the Vatican post, he has been anything but silent. He has insisted that holy Communion be refused to Catholic politicians who actively support legal abortion, said the Democratic Party in the United States "risks transforming itself definitively into a 'party of death,'" and said nothing could justify casting a ballot for a candidate who supports "anti-life" and "anti-family" legislation.

During the 2004 U.S. elections, he was one of the first U.S. bishops to say publicly that he would withhold Communion from Catholic politicians with voting records that contradicted church teaching on abortion, euthanasia and other fundamental moral issues.

Afterward he told Catholic News Service he was convinced of the need to raise pro-life issues with voters and to continue to promote "awareness of the moral law."



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Pope canonizes six, including Brother Andre' Bessette

'Shining examples of holiness'

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)- Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed six new saints, including an Australian nun and a Canadian brother, calling them "shining examples" of holiness and the power of prayer.

Thousands of pilgrims from Australia applauded and waved their national flags after the pope pronounced the formula of canonization Oct. 17 in St. Peter's Square for Blessed Mother Mary MacKillop, who educated poor children in the Australian outback in the late 19th century. She became the country's first saint.

In his homily, Pope Benedict said St. MacKillop, 1842-1909, was a model of "zeal, perseverance and prayer" as she dedicated herself to the education of the poor in the difficult territory of rural Australia, inspiring other women to join her in the country's first community of religious women.

"She attended to the needs of each young person entrusted to her, without regard for station or wealth, providing both intellectual and spiritual formation," he said. Her feast day is celebrated Aug. 8.

Canadians cheered the canonization of Blessed Andre Bessette, 1845-1937, a doorman known for his devotional practices and his healing touch. He became known as the "Miracle Man of Montreal."

The pope said St. Bessette "showed boundless charity

and did everything to soothe the despair of those who confided in him." Although he had little instruction, he "understood what was essential to the faith" and had an intense prayer life, the pope said.

"For him, everything spoke of God and his presence," the pope said. Thanks to this simplicity, St. Bessette led many people to God, he added.

St. Bessette "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart," the pope said. "May the example of Brother Andre inspire Canadian Christian life!"

Relics of the six saints were brought to the altar during the two-hour liturgy. Tapestry portraits of the newly canonized hung from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica behind the papal altar, and many pilgrims carried their own personal pictures of the saints.

The others canonized were:

-- St. Camilla Battista Varano, 1458-1524, the illegitimate daughter of an Italian nobleman, had to overcome her father's initial objections to enter the convent of the Poor Clares. Known for her mystical experiences during prayer, she died in an outbreak of the plague.

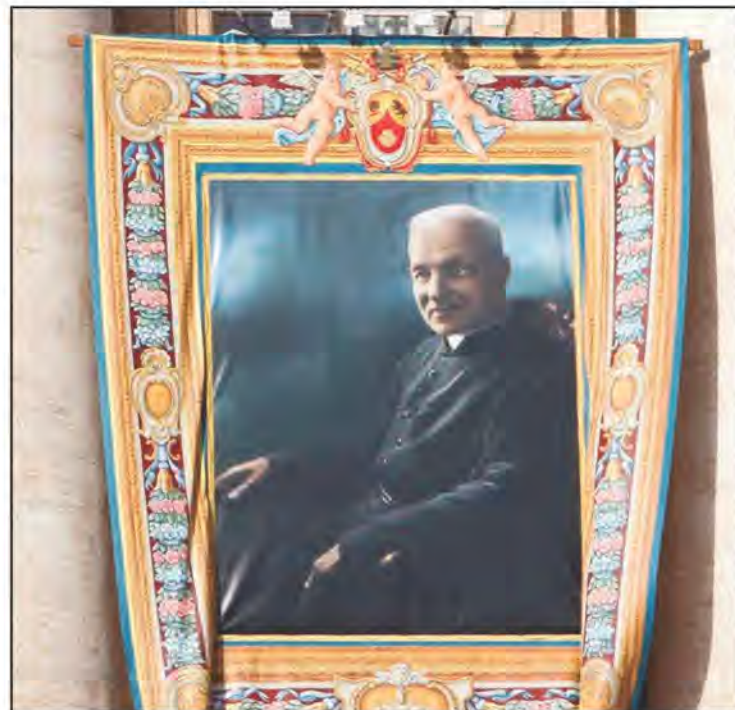
-- St. Stanislaw Soltys, 1433-1489, who devoted his life to caring for the poor in his native Krakow, Poland. Famed as a preacher and confessor, he was known as the "Apostle of the Eucharist" for his taking Communion to the sick and lonely.

-- St. Giulia Salzano, 1846-1929, taught catechism to

schoolchildren near Naples, Italy, and later founded the Catechetical Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to continue her work, which offered religious education to children of all ages, to their mothers and to regular laborers.

-- St. Juana Cipitria Barriola, 1845-1912, was a champion of education for girls and young women in her native Spain. Known in some countries as Mother Candida Maria de Jesus, she founded the Daughters of Jesus with five other young women. She ran a special school on Sundays for girls who were employed as domestics, because Sunday was their only day off.

In his homily, the pope said the new saints exemplified the effectiveness of prayer as an expression of faith.



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

A tapestry showing new Canadian St. Andre Bessette hangs from St. Peter's Basilica during a canonization service for six Catholics at the Vatican Oct. 17.



CNS PHOTO/CHRISTINNE MUSCHI, REUTERS

Pilgrims pray as they gather in St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal to watch a live broadcast from the Vatican of the canonization of Blessed Andre Bessette and five others Oct. 17. St. Bessette, a Holy Cross brother with a strong devotion to St. Joseph, founded the oratory.



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ADIRONDACK

CAR RAFFLE WINNER

Lake Placid – Larry Thayer of Lake Placid is the winner of the 2010 Car Raffle Fund raiser.

CLINTON

RESPECT LIFE AWARENESS

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Respect Life Committee will host Awareness tables at the Annual Harvest Dinner being held at Seton Academy.

Date: Oct. 31
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Contact: Karen Smith (518) 566-6229

WORKING CAREGIVERS

Plattsburgh – A program offering advice for working caregivers is set

Date: Nov. 4
Time: 5 p.m. to 7
Place: St. Peter's, Emmaus Room

Features: Time to relax and focus on yourself, pampering included! Light meal provided. To RSVP call 565-4620.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – 40 Days for Life is organizing a candle light vigil

Date: Oct. 31
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: In front of Planned Parenthood,
Features: There will praise, worship and testimony from Silent No More.

HARVEST DINNER

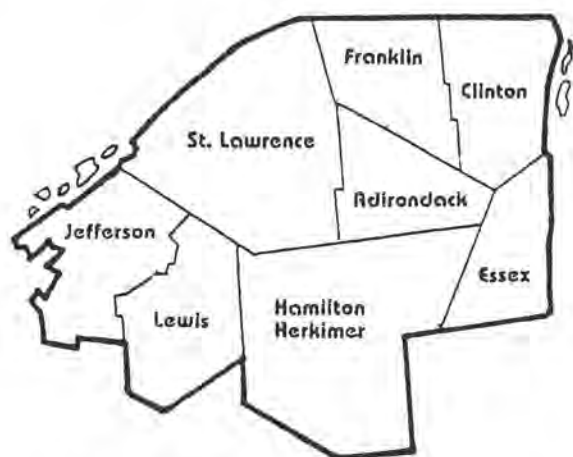
Morrisonville – RC Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's to have a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 14
Time: Noon to 6 p.m.
Place: St. Alexander's Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free
Features: Turkey Dinner and all the fixings. Take-out Dinners available, please call 561-5039. There will be a Harvest Dinner Raffle with a grand prize drawing of \$1500 cash; Country Store and Silent Auction.

HOLY ROSARY CONCLUSION

Lyon Mountain – St. Bernard's Church will be celebrating the conclusion of the month of the Holy Rosary.

Date: Oct. 31
Time: Exposition at Noon; Confessions 1 p.m. to 1:45; Glorious Mysteries at 2 p.m. Sermon on Our Lady and the Rosary by Deacon Brian Dwyer, deacon assistant in Chateaugay and Diocesan Youth Director. The celebration will conclude afterward with Benediction. Everyone is invited.



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@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

TURKEY RAFFLE

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club will hold their annual Turkey Raffle.

Date: Nov. 19
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Parish Center
Features: Free buffet. For more information call 518-493-4521

ANNIVERSARY MASS VIDEOS

Champlain – The videos of the St. Mary's in Champlain Oct 17, 150th anniversary Mass and dinner, with Bishop Terry LaValley, are available for FREE viewing on-line at www.hometowncablenetwork.com and www.plattsburgh.com

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE SERIES

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish is presenting the Little Rock Scripture Series.
Date: Every Tuesday starting Nov. 2 to Dec. 14
Time: 7 p.m.
Features: This study explores Israel's history and theology, from the division of the kingdom, through the prophets to the southern kingdom of Judah, the Exile in Babylon, and the return to restore Jerusalem.
Contact: Call the rectory to sign up 563-1692 or fill out a slip in the atrium.

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

FRANKLIN

HARVEST DINNER

North Bangor – St. Augustine's to have a Harvest Dinner.
Date: Oct. 31
Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Place: St. Augustine Parish Center
Cost: Adults, 7; senior \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free
Features: Home-style turkey dinner with the trimmings, take-outs available.

TURKEY DINNER

Chasm Falls – St. Helen's Parish will be having a Turkey Dinner.
Date: Oct. 30
Time: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$5; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Burke – St. George's Church will hold its annual Spaghetti Supper.
Date: Oct. 30
Time: 4 p.m. to 7
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; under 5, Free
Features: Take-outs available. 50/50 Raffle.

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – St. Mary's Parish will have a Cabbage Roll Sale.
Date: Nov. 2, Election Day
Time: 6 a.m. until all sold
Place: Parish Center
Features: Take-outs only. Cabbage rolls can be pre-ordered by calling

518-529-7713 or 518-529-6580 Nov. 1st and 2nd. Or stop and pick up your order. \$3 per cabbage roll and a dinner roll.

JEFFERSON

HARVEST DINNER

LaFargeville – St. John's Church to have a Harvest Dinner.
Date: Nov. 7
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-10, \$4; Under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$8
Features: Raffle and Country Store.

LEWIS

CHICKEN BARBECUE

Lyons Falls – South Lewis Knights of Columbus will hold a chicken barbecue.
Date: Oct. 26
Time: Chicken will be ready by afternoon with a dinner at 5 p.m.
Place: St. John's Church

ROAST BEEF DINNER

West Leyden – St. Mary's Nativity to have a Roast Beef Dinner.
Date: Nov. 7
Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4

ST. LAWRENCE

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY DINNER

Ogdensburg – Priesthood Sunday Dinner to be held.
Date: Nov. 7
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: K of C Hall
Features: Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at St. Mary's or Notre Dame Rectory. Space is limited to 230 people

HARVEST DINNER

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a Harvest Dinner with all the trimmings.
Date: Nov. 4
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$12 and under, \$4; under 5, Free; Eat in or Take-out

BI-MONTHLY DINNERS

Ogdensburg – The K of Council 258 will be having bi-monthly dinners.
Date: Nov. 2
Time: 3:30 p.m. to 6
Cost: \$7 per person, Dessert is \$1 extra
Menu: Roasted Pork Loin, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, dinner roll.

FALL BAZAAR

Norfolk – The Church of the Visitation is holding a Fall Bazaar.

Date: Oct. 30
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Place: Visitation Parish center.
Features: Food sale with cabbage rolls, country store, candy sale, coffee and doughnuts, handmade crafts, Christmas crafts, attic table and religious articles. Raffle tickets are \$1 donation. There will be a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Proceeds from the bazaar will benefit the Altar Rosary Society.
PARISH BAZAAR
Star Lake – St. Hubert's Parish will be having a Bazaar.
Date: Nov. 3
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Features: Handcrafted items, live wreaths, raffles, bake sale, free gifts, lunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission.

CRAFT SHOW

Brasher Falls – The Altar Rosary Society of St. Patrick's Church will hold its 20th Annual Craft Show.
Date: Nov. 13
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$1; Students, \$.50; under 5, Free
Features: Many dealers will be present with all kinds of crafts. Luncheon and refreshments will be available.

ANNUAL BAZAAR

Massena – St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church will be having their Annual Bazaar.
Date: Nov. 13
Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Social Hall
Features: Big ticket drawing prize of \$2500 plus 2nd, 3rd and 4th of \$100. Turkey raffles, Children's Games, Cake Walk, Country Store, Fancy Goods and Christmas Items, Ticket Central, Games of Chanc, Kitchen, Fried Dough, Quilt Raffle

FISH FRY

Ogdensburg – Fish Fry Buffet will be held every Friday sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 258.
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30
Place: Knights of Columbus Hall; Eat in or take out, deliveries are available only to the Towers.
Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-10, \$6; under 5, Free

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.
Place: Notre Dame Church

The Society For

The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Deepest gratitude

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

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for World Mission Sunday support.

I take this opportunity to especially thank all of the faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for their spiritual and financial support on World Mission Sunday last week.

This support is a blessing for missions throughout the world that depend on the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for assistance.

We have witnessed natural disasters and the devastation it causes people in developing countries.

Through your generosity many people will know of Christ's love, in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands and the remote regions of Latin America.

Our prayer for you from the mission office is that of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, "We give thanks to God always for you, constantly mentioning you in prayer."

This year we celebrate the 188th anniversary of the founding of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith by Pauline Jaricot, a young French lay woman, who responded in an extraordinary way to the call for all of us to be Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the earth.

By virtue of our baptism, we too are called to respond to the call to be missionaries through prayer and sacrifice.

If you have given to the Mission Sunday collection in your parish, I say again, "thank you."

If you have yet to give, I once again ask you to be as generous as you can.

Thank you and please continue to pray for missionaries throughout the world.

We are in their prayers! I am very appreciatively yours in Christ.

Visit: www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

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

OBITUARIES

Cathy Bishop

WATERTOWN – A Mass of Christian Burial for Cathy A. Bishop, 64, was held Oct. 20 at Holy Family Church where she had served as director of Christian Formation for the past 28 years.

She died Oct. 16 at Community General Hospital, Syracuse, following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Burial was in Brookside Cemetery.

Born Aug. 17, 1946, in Watertown, a daughter to Robert and Louise VanWormer Bishop, she graduated in 1964 from Immaculate Heart Academy.

Following graduation, she worked at her family restaurants, Dan's Place, the Brookside Diner and also at the St. Patrick's Children's Home until it closed. She later worked at the House of Gee and Household Finance.

Ms. Bishop had held the position at Holy Family at the time of her death. In 2007, she was received the Light of Christ award from Bishop Robert J. Cunningham in recognition of her outstanding work in Christian Formation.

She served as a host for Catholic Charities to single mothers until their babies were born and provided a foster home for many children in the community.

Surviving are a daughter, Alicia L., age 9 at home; her mother, Louise, Samaritan Keep Home; three brothers, Robert and Kim, Texas, Lester and his companion, Lori Fox, Clayton, Ronald and his companion, Melanie Gorczyca, Ga.; a sister and brother-in-law, Sally and Frederick Piche, Brandon, Fla.; her aunt Lucille VanWormer, Watertown; several nieces, great nieces and a great nephew; her close and friend and her husband, Yvonne and Steven Gebo, who have provided her with care, comfort and a home for the past year.

She was predeceased by her father Robert in 1981, a sister Theresa "Terry" Windover in 1982, and two brothers Billy and Randy in infancy.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of Jefferson Co., the Alzheimer's Association, the Holy Family Religious Education Program, or to a trust fund to be established for her daughter Alicia c/o Yvonne Gebo, 254 North Hamilton St., Watertown, NY 13601.

Altona – Norma Jean (Guerin) Monty, 50; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2010 at Holy Angel's Church.

Brushton – Rhonda (Goyea) Planty; Memorial Services Oct. 23, 2010 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Champlain – Patricia M. (Martell) Blain,

89; Funeral Services Oct. 23, 2010 at M.B. Clark Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Darrel S. Hayes, 73; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Constable – Cory M. Almond, 35; Memorial Services Oct. 22, 2010 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Dannemora – James E. Bordeau, 77; Funeral Services Oct. 20, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Glenfield – Barbara Jarecki, 90; Funeral Services Oct. 20, 2010 at St. Mary's Catholic Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Debra C. (Chase) Miles, 53; Funeral Services Oct. 23, 2010 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Thomas F. Jock, 71; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2010 at St. Regis Catholic Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Hogansburg.

Hogansburg – Alfred L. Mitchell, 83; Funeral Services Oct. 16, 2010 at St. Regis Catholic Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Robert "Bob" F. LaDieu, 72; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2010 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's cemetery.

Lake Placid – Kevin McDonald Carroll, 65; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at M.B. Clark, Inc. Funeral Home; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Jane (Mancuso) Brodie, 77; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at St. Peter's Catholic Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Maude B. (Burr) Harris, 77; Funeral Services Oct. 15, 2010 at St. Peter's Catholic Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Joseph K. Winter, 89; Funeral Services at Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Malone – Alice M. (Benware) Handy, 79; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame

Cemetery.

Malone – Elizabeth M. (Burgess) Lavier, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2010 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Malone – Mary McCracken, 61; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2010 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Gertrud M. (Sacher) Jandreau, 85; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2010 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Moir – David K. Whipple, 76; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2010 at Flint Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

Morrisonville – James A. St. Dennis, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at St. Alexander's Church.

Peru – Robert K. Provost Sr., 83; Funeral Oct. 23, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Olga E. (Boyea) LaPierre, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 19, 2010 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Eleanor A. (Garrow) Trombly, 72; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Gladys M. (Peryea) Trudo, 93; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2010 at St. John's Church; burial in Holy Angel's Cemetery, Altona.

Port Henry – Loraine (Forgette) Ribeiro, 84; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Sts Peter and Paul Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Mildred Rose (Boyce) Wood, 79; Memorial services Oct. 21, 2010 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Tupper Lake – John C. Dewyca, 64; Funeral Oct. 21, 2010 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Joan C. (McNulty) Villeneuve, 81; Funeral Services Oct. 18, 2010 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Joseph "Larry" LaFontaine, 84; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2010 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

A parish of deep faith is celebrated

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

CHAMPLAIN - Father Francis Van Comenhondt was so dynamic a speaker that even Protestants in Champlain were moved to contribute to the cost of creating a Catholic church there.

Had he promised a devoted faith community that would grow throughout the years, he would have hit the mark. Oct. 17, St. Mary's Parish celebrated 150 years with a Mass and dinner that reunited old friends and new, clergy, nuns and laity.

"It was nice coming back today," said Sister Theresa Fournier, Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart

of Jesus. "It was like coming home."

Bishop Terry LaValley graced the event, praising the deep faith of the parish that he saw evident in the celebration but also the long-standing St. Mary's Mission Center that aids the poor and in St. Mary's Academy, where Sister Theresa served for six years in the 1990s in the first computer lab there and as library assistant.

"What a tremendous gift you have here," he told the congregation during the Mass. "Your relentless support and sacrifice for the school reaps heavenly rewards."

The Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart of

Jesus took charge of St. Mary's Academy in 1906 at the request of then pastor Father Francis Xavier Chagnon.

St. Mary's Parish in Champlain observes 150th anniversary

Today, the school is staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph and lay teachers.

Father Chagnon also spearheaded the erection of the first monument to explorer Samuel de Champlain in the United States. It was dedicated in 1907 on parish grounds.

The parish itself began as a mission of St. Joseph's Parish in nearby Coopersville, where Father Van Comenhondt was pastor. He raised the money to buy a former Methodist meeting house in Champlain for \$450, oversaw \$3,000 in improvements and paid \$150 to put a bell in the tower.

That first church building, dedicated in 1860, held 500 communicants. Yet by the 1880s, it was too small for the Catholic population of

the village.

The cornerstone for the present church shows the date 1885; the edifice was completed two years later.

"The parish at this time consisted of farmers, boatmen and laborers," writes Celine Racine Paquette, who authored the text in the newly published "St. Mary's Church: 1860-2010." A total 344 family belonged to the parish.

These days, said the bishop, "the farmers are fewer but the laborers are many. The landscape has changed somewhat, but the faith remains the same."

Over the years, the church has seen many changes - with Vatican II, with preservation of the stained-glass windows in a 1975 project, improvements in honor of this year's celebration that included repair of the church bells with a donation by Knights of Columbus Council 3525.

However, said Chris Trombley, who moderated the dinner, "St. Mary's is not just an address on Church Street. It's the parish, it's the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic

Daughters, the Mission Center up the road ... It's in our homes, our memories and our hearts."

"We don't know what the future holds for us anymore than our founders did," writes Father Delbel in his introduction to the history book, "but we do know, as they did, that God will be with us."

"St. Mary's Parish," with photos of the present-day church by Father Delbel, images of parish families and numerous historic pictures, was put together by a committee that included Mrs. Paquette, Laura Trahan, Elaine Cloutier, Linda Seymour, Pat LaFontaine and Father Delbel.

Published by Border Press in Rouses Point, it is available for \$25 by calling St. Mary's at (518) 298-8244.

Many parishioners pitched in to make the 150th anniversary memorable, Father Delbel said, from the choir led by Amy Patrie and After Five Brass to the altar servers, cantors, lectors, Eucharistic ministers and committee members too numerous to mention.



PHOTO BY SHAN MOORE

Bishop Terry LaValley gives the homily at St. Mary's 150th anniversary Mass in Champlain held Oct. 17 in the Clinton County church.



Nuns, all of whom have shared service at St. Mary's Academy, enjoy the celebration dinner put on by Knights of Columbus Council after the Mass. At left are Sister Theresa Fournier and St. Joseph Sister Marie Cordata Kelly, the present principal; and from back to front at right, Sister Rosina Bechard, Sister Bonita Cote and Sister Elaine Voyer. Not shown but present were Sister Mary Ann Gour and Sister Marcelle LaPearle.