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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 24, 2010

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Pope: Thanksgiving holidays an appropriate time to reflect on the importance of agriculture

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Modern economies must pay more attention to farmers and the entire agricultural sector, not out of some nostalgic yearning for a simpler time, but

out of recognition that farms feed the world and offer dignified work to millions of people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"I believe now is the time to re-evaluate agriculture, not in a nostalgic way, but as an indispensable resource for the future," the pope said Nov. 14 during his midday Angelus address.

Thanksgiving holidays in many countries at the end of the harvest season are an appropriate time for everyone to reflect on the importance of agriculture and on the ways that many modern economies ignore the sector or actually inflict harm on it through trade policies or through the promotion of industries that destroy farm-

land, he said.

The world urgently needs to forge "a new balance among agriculture, industry and services so that development is sustainable, no one lacks bread and work, and so that the air, water and other primary resources are preserved as universal goods" belonging to all people, he said.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent begins on Nov. 28



CNS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/BOB ROLLER
Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 28 this year. The Advent wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the liturgical period. St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, diocesan director of evangelization, reflects on "why is this an important time of year for our church family," in this week's *North Country Catholic*.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Pope calls for health care for all people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI and other church leaders said it was the moral responsibility of all nations to guarantee access to health care for all of their citizens, regardless of social and economic status or their ability to pay.

Access to adequate medical attention, the pope said in a written message Nov. 18, was one of the "inalienable rights" of man.

"The care of man, his transcendent dignity and his inalienable rights" are issues that should concern Christians, the pope said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 11

FOCUS ON FAMILIES

SPECIAL: Bishop LaValley shares a message for Catholic families in the

diocese in a four-part series
BEGINS IN NEXT WEEK'S NCC

'AN INSPIRED CHOICE'



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, right, addresses members of the media at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 16. The bishops elected him president of the conference. At left is the newly elected vice president, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky. The New York State Catholic Conference released a statement on the day of the election, saying "(We) are thrilled with the election of Archbishop Timothy Dolan as the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The U.S. Bishops made an inspired choice in electing Archbishop Dolan, who we in New York already know as a compassionate shepherd, a gifted preacher and a brilliant historian. The natural joy he exudes in his vocation has been an inspiration to millions of Catholics in the Empire State since his appointment as Archbishop of New York. We know he will bring to the national conference these same great gifts. We are so pleased to be able to share him with the entire country for the next three years." Full story on page 10.

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS: Bishop's Fund supports Formation for Ministry, p. 6

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The perfect prayer: thank you, God

Meister Eckhart, a Dominican preacher born in Germany in 1260, is renowned for spiritual quotable quotes which have survived through the centuries.

One is perfect for this week:

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."

Thanksgiving Day – the favorite holiday of so many of us – offers the perfect opportunity to pray our ‘thank-yous’ over and over again.

After a year filled with great joys and great hardships, our family will enjoy the greatest blessing of all this Thursday – each other.

Three generations will travel from north, east, south and west towards a turkey – or three – in central New York.

We will thank God for restored health for far too many members of our gang.

We will thank God for all the family milestones since last Thanksgiving – a wedding, an engagement, four graduations, six new jobs and three Confirmations.

We will also thank God for the life of a beloved uncle whose death stirred up so many joyful memories along with the tears.

We will thank God that the medical care we needed for our loved ones was there for us.

I will personally be thanking God for a husband, brothers and sisters and children who could be counted on to make incredible sacrifices – voluntarily!

And, whenever we count our blessings we

know that the greatest gifts our family has received are the two people whose love started it all.

For 56 years, Tom and Anna have followed Jesus’ example of laying down their lives for each other and for eight demanding children.

How grateful we are - every day - for this incredible gift.

Happy Thanksgiving!

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you

(St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians)



Mary Lou Kilian

MARRIAGE MATTERS!



PHOTO BY GAYLE FRANK

Tom and Claudia Sanders of West Chazy have been married for 43 years and have served as Pre-Cana coordinators in their area for 34 years. They joined parishioners from all the parishes in the Plattsburgh area in a Dinner for Two held Nov. 5 at St. John’s in Plattsburgh. The Sanders are shown above with their pastor, Father J. Roger McGuinness. The program was led by Bishop LaValley and Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank, diocesan directors of the family life office. Mrs. Frank said that the dinner was a first step towards establishing Marriage Enrichment programs in the Plattsburgh area.

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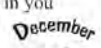

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION


O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of our priests, pray and intercede for (...)

Amen.

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THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Come Home for Christmas

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

Advent is a time of joy, anticipation, expectation, hope, and traditions.

What is your favorite family tradition to prepare for Christmas?

As Church, A Family of Faith, the question we ask ourselves is, "Why is this an important time of year for our Church family?"

"What events and celebrations in your home are most important to you as a family?"

Do you have inherited family traditions?

Did you establish new traditions?

What are some of your family activities that help you prepare for Christmas?

The focus of Advent is two-fold: 1) to prepare for the remembrance of God's gift of His Son, the Incarnate Word, coming among us during the Christmas season, and 2) to look forward to Jesus' return at the end



CNS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/BOB ROLLER

Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 28 this year. The Advent wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the liturgical period.

of time called the Parousia. The mantra the early Christian community chanted was, Marantha - "Come, Lord Jesus".

The same cry goes out to you as a family - Come Home to Jesus.

Maybe it has been a while since your family has come to Church to

celebrate Sunday Mass together. The empty pew at Church is empty without you. It looks dark and deserted like the manger on that Christmas night when Mary and Joseph arrived to give birth to Jesus.

The Christmas star still burns brightly over

the horizon and Jesus has not abandoned you.

As a family of faith, the Church invites you to "Come Home for Christmas". This is an invitation to come and encounter Jesus, who is at the heart of the Christmas story.

You ask the question,

"What gift can I give to Jesus for Christmas?"

Come visit the Church in your parish as it prepares for Christmas.

Come to an Advent Sunday Mass to pray and to sing hymns that prepare our hearts for Jesus to come.

Your parish family will have special activities to set the mood for the Christmas celebration e.g. Penance Service, Christmas Carol Singing in neighborhoods, nursing homes, parish concert, decorating the Church, etc. On Christmas Day, come to Mass to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. The Christmas hymns tell the Christmas story. Like the angels who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, so too, your voice sings "Glory to God in the highest...", a proclamation of the Good News that God is with us.

Come and visit the manger where Jesus waits for you to be with Him, a special gift of Himself to you.



Attention Snowbirds
going south for the winter!

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The Saranac Lake Knights of Columbus are selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets.

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Keep Christ In Christmas

ON RETREAT

Fr. Nieli leads retreat in final phase of Why Catholic?

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Director of Evangelization

The final phase of the Why Catholic? program took place with the retreat: "Sitting by the Well: Meeting Jesus in Prayer" facilitated by Paulist Father Bruce Nieli.

The retreat took place in late October in sites across the Diocese of Ogdensburg in Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Adirondack Deaneries.

Over 300 participants attended the retreat.

Father Nieli began the retreat with the reading from 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13 proclaiming that "as a body we have many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...we were all given to drink of one Spirit".

It was in this Spirit that the retreat opened with Ps. 63 seeking and thirsting for God. The psalm is a song in praise of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Father is the composer. The Son is the vocalist, and the Holy Spirit is the inner music. The music of the Holy Spirit resounds in our souls to lift us up to



During the retreat to close Why Catholic?, Paulist Father Bruce Nieli plays and sings as the people come forward to ask the Lord for a blessing, then place their hand in the water and bless themselves with the Sign of the Cross water to remind themselves of their Baptismal promises.

draw us to the living water of Christ.

The Holy Spirit stirs within our hearts the desire and longing to be with Christ and to enthusiastically proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Lectio divina

Father Nieli led the participants into "divine reading" called lectio divina reflecting on the Scripture reading

of the Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4:4-42) three different times.

The readings took on three movements:

- 1) what word "jumps out?" and repeat the word silently within your heart.
- 2) Consider being the woman at the well. Meditate on your heart. What is Jesus telling you?
- 3) Reflect on the mission the reading is inviting you

to do: "Jesus, what are you asking me to do?"

The woman was thirsting for a soul-mate who would accept and love her for who she was.

Father Nieli spoke about four virtues that the woman was seeking: unity, goodness, truth, and beauty.

The woman was searching for the one love that would never end and found the truth about herself from the

prophet that sat before her revealing all He knew about her.

She found goodness in the Good Shepherd who would lay down His life for her and for all who accepted Him as the Messiah and Savior of the world. T

he woman found beauty, the God she was searching for, the universal love that St. Augustine later experienced in his own conversion "beauty so ancient but ever so new".

Like the Woman at the Well we seek and search for unity, truth, beauty, and goodness. They can only be found in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Jesus' deep intimacy with His Father in prayer gave life to His mission. Prayer flows into action. It is the action of the Holy Spirit, the fire of Divine Love, which renews the face of the earth.

It is the Holy Spirit that enkindles within our hearts to continue to search, to thirst, and to hunger for the living water.

The living water, God's grace that draws us to worship in Spirit and in Truth, will flow into the works and words of Jesus leading us to eternal life.

Lay ministers on retreat reflect on 'The Catholic Soul'

By Rose Morgan
Parishioner, St. Cecilia's, Adams

WATERTOWN - The Commissioned Lay Ministers of Jefferson County recently sponsored a retreat with Father Fred Pompei of the Syracuse Diocese in Sechi Hall at St. Anthony's Church.

The evening started with a Mass celebrated by Father Pompei, followed by a simple dinner.

The retreat theme was "The

Catholic Soul."

In his presentation Father Pompei stressed the word "hesed" which can be translated as 'covenant' or as 'fidelity'. He stressed the relationship between God and Catholics as promised in the Old and New Testament.

Father Pompei described the Catholic Church as being the "Other Church" meaning that we are called to serve others before ourselves.

He told the group that the members of the Catholic

Church in the United States are the most generous of all religions.

That is our call, he said, to help others to enjoy the special relationship we have with God.

Father Pompei spoke of the absolute necessity of daily prayer to maintain the 'hesed' with God that we acquire at Baptism.

Two novel ideas particularly stood out.

One was that our faith is full of "unfigure-outables."

He showed us that there are many mysteries to our faith, and we are not under any obligation to figure them out.

We can accept them in Faith and Hope confident of God's Hesed, faithful fidelity, and His constant love of all mankind, he said.

The second idea was to imagine that you are a tiny ant standing at the foot of the highest mountain in the world. Then imagine that mountain loves this ant com-

pletely and fully, Father Pompei said.

"Enjoy that emotion for a moment and then think, 'What can the ant do to harm the mountain?' The mountain in its love only worries about the wrongdoing of the ant because it harms the ant, not the mountain." he said, encouraging participants to meditate on this image after the retreat.

The Lay Ministry group is scheduling another evening retreat in April of 2011.

FALL CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

FACES OF FAITH



The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart were honored recently at a Mass celebrated on the feast of St. Marguerite D'Youville at S.M.D.A in Ogdensburg. Pictured above are Father Joseph Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral; Father James Shurtleff, pastor of Notre Dame Church; Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, Betty Bernhard, a Grey Nun Associate, Grey Nun Sister Anne Boyer, Celina Burns, SMDA principal and Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director.



Dominican Sister Debbie Blow of Plattsburgh, center, founder of the North Country Mission of Hope, accepts a generous donation from Lu Bowen and Irene Duheme of St. George's Country Patch Store, Burke. Sister Debbie spoke at all Masses October 30-31 at the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay. The Country Patch store, which recycles used clothing, operates during the summer months and is a longstanding supporter of the Mission of Hope.



Zoe Eggleston dressed up as St. Bernadette for the All Saints Day celebration at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga.



LEFT: The children of St. Raphael's Parish in Heuvelton learned about and dressed as saints for Mass on Oct 31. Pictured are, first row: Michael Pierce, Molly Williams, Eliza Hand, Brienne Basford and Claire Craig; middle, Alexa Kiah, Eliza Martin, DeAnna and Jordan Fennessey, Rodger Premo, Dakota West, Amber Cunningham, Jacob Martin and Jenna Lira; back, Maureen Pierce, Kaitlyn Sibley, Meaghan Pierce, John and Collin Trathen, Ford Wing, Katie Premo, Olivia Craig and Gavin Murray.

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS... 2010 BISHOP'S FUND APPEAL

Fund supports Formation for Ministry

By Heidi Macko
Program Coordinator, Formation for Ministry

In 1986, at the Emmaus Convocation of Priests in Lake Placid, the priests of the Diocese spoke to Bishop Brzana about the need for well trained laity to serve in various parish ministries. The bishop responded by establishing a planning committee the same year, composed of priests, deacons and laity, to assess the needs in light of changes brought about by Vatican II.

From this gathering, the Formation For Ministry program was designed with emphasis in academic, pastoral and spiritual formation for those seeking to minister within the Diocese of Ogdensburg. In 1989, Bishop Brzana announced a pilot program set to begin in 1990. After much research and observation, several surveys, a great deal of training, support from the Institute for Pastoral Life of Kansas City, Missouri, and grants from the Catholic Church Extension Society and Our Sunday Visitor to the diocese, Bishop Brzana launched our Formation For Ministry program.

St. Joseph Sister Mary



Ellen Brett received 10 weeks of training at the Institute for Pastoral Life, Kansas City, Missouri and was named by Bishop Brzana as the first director of Formation For Ministry in 1989. The program began in 1990 and by 1991 showed a great deal of promise toward meeting the ministry needs of the future.

Funding from the tuitions paid by the parishes and money from the Bishop's Fund enabled the program to continue and expand throughout the years.

In 1997, when Sr. Mary Ellen Brett was named as Director of Evangelization, Sister Judith Baumert was

named the new director of Formation For Ministry.

In 2009 Heidi Macko was named the current director; dedicated to maintaining the programs standards.

Candidates accepted into the program must be committed to all aspects of the program in order to be commissioned.

The program consists of two years of weekly classes requiring a minimum of 160 classroom hours covering eight courses of study in Old and New Testament, Church, Spirituality, Christology, Sacraments, Social Justice and Moral Theology. A paper is required for each course.

Other mandatory components include 30 hours of supervised ministry during Year 2 of the program plus 30 hours of ministry for two years after commissioning.

Also required are two annual weekend retreats and six workshops, two the first year in Vision of Ministry and Evangelization and four ministry workshops designed to address specific areas of ministry during the second year. Spiritual reflections are submitted on a regular basis, and require meetings with, and guid-

ance from, the pastor of the sponsoring parish.

Although Formation For Ministry is much the same now as in its origin, a new webinar dimension has been added to allow the program to reach all corners of the diocese more effectively. Since Bishop Brzana commissioned the first group of 54 candidates in 1992, the program has remained a model to others throughout the country, and has commissioned more than 850 people to serve in North Country Parishes.

Yet another group of 55 is currently scheduled for commissioning this coming June and a new class will be starting in the Fall of 2011.

Through the generosity of the Bishop's Fund, we celebrate our 20th anniversary and continue to serve the parishes in the diocese.

If you, or someone you know, is discerning a call to serve in lay ministry, you may contact Heidi Macko, current Program Coordinator, by calling 315-393-2920, or by emailing ffm@dioogdensburg.org for more information. You are invited to visit our website www.dioogdensburg.org/formation.

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Nov. 25 – 9:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 26 – 12:00 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 27 – 3:30 p.m., Vigil for all Nascent Human Life followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 30 – 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 24 – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, O.M.I., 1950

Nov. 25 – Rev. M.C. Dubreuil, O.M.I., 1912

Nov. 27 – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev. Maurice O'Neil, 1999

Nov. 28 – Rev. Edward Gabriel Brice, 1929

Nov. 29 – Msgr. Michael Kelly, 1957; Rev. Peter A. Ward, 1984

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. Ongoing monthly training is required for all employees involved in activities with minors. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to continue their training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:

Dec. 4 - St. John Bosco Parish Hall, Malone, 9 a.m.

Funeral held for Sr. Hilda Curran, CSC

Former religious education coordinator in Jefferson County, superior in Clayton

ALEXANDRIA, ONT. - A Mass of Christian Burial for Holy Cross Sister Hilda Curran was held Nov. 17 at St. Finnan's



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Cathedral with Bishop Paul Andre Durocher main celebrant.

Homilist was Father Jack Downs of Raymondville

Sister Hilda died Nov. 13 at Glengarry Memorial Hospital. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, St. Laurent, Quebec.

The daughter of the late Edmund F. Curran and Clare B. Flanagan, she is sur-

vived by her sister Marian B. David (Jim) of North Bay, Ontario and her Sisters of Holy Cross.



Sr. Helen Curran, CSC

She was predeceased by two brothers, Charles of Sudbury and Frank of Thunder Bay.

After graduation from Sir George Williams College, she entered the Sisters of Holy Cross and this year celebrated 60 years of teaching





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Donations are still being accepted.

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IN PRAYER, SERVICE, LEARNING AND CELEBRATION

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLICS



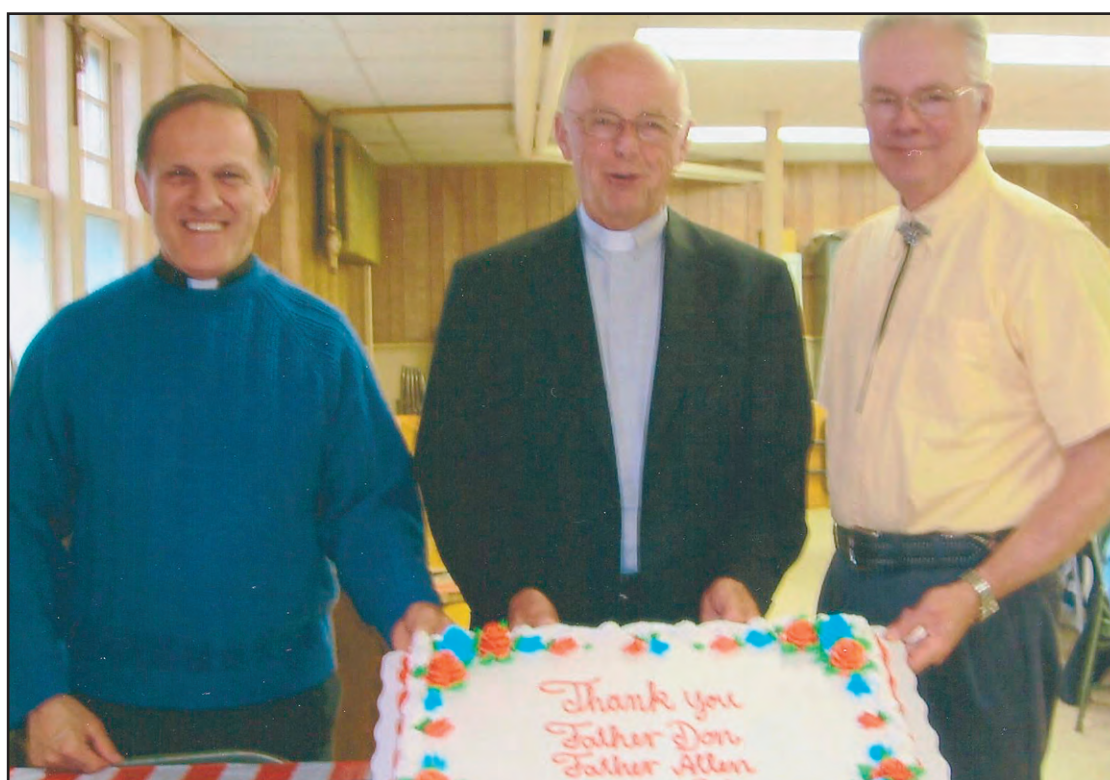
PHOTOS BY FATHER SCOTT FOBARE
 St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan director of Catholic education and superintendent of schools, made the presentation at a clergy day of prayer held Nov. 11 in Franklin County. Msgr. C. John McAvoy of Saranac Lake; and Deacon James Snell of Potsdam were among the 28 priests and deacons who participated.



St. Peter's Respect Life Committee recently hosted a film and "Silent No More Witness" event at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. In this photograph, Karen Smith, St. Peter's Respect Life Committee Coordinator greets "Silent No More Witnesses" Elvia Cherniak and Nancy Belzile after they shared testimony on their experience with abortion and their journey to post-abortion healing.



Two local women of the Ogdensburg diocese attended the Catholic Daughters National Convention in Buffalo July 13-18. Approximately 500 women from 50 states attended. Above, Marie Trombley, Vice Regent, and Judy Bombard, Recording Secretary, local court officers of Court Little Rose #1300 in Ellenburg represented the court and brought back informative material for the court at the August meeting. The women were involved with duties at the daily Masses that were held and saw that the literature was distributed to all the voting delegates at the meetings held each day.



The Catholic Daughters of America Court Mother Admirable #592 of Dannemora held a parish covered dish supper on CDA Priest Appreciation Sunday, honoring the closing of the observance of the Year for Priests. Honored at the supper were, from left, Father Donald Kramberg, pastor at St. Joseph's Dannemora and Church of Assumption Redford; Father Philip Allen, in residence at Redford; and Deacon Edward Mazuchowski, at St. Joseph's and Church of the Assumption.



Give Gifts That Give Hope

The fair choice is the right choice. The daily decisions you make as a consumer can make a real, positive difference in the world. When you choose to buy fair trade products you are making a strong connection with hardworking, but impoverished workers around the world. Our CRS Fair Trade network guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It also provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system. Team up with us. Buy fair trade products and you return human dignity to people just like you.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Serve coffee that serves others.



Find a CRS partner near you and buy some of their fantastic Fair Trade coffee to drink at home. Persuade the powers that be to serve it in your parish, office and school. Lobby to get it into the dining halls on your campus. Sell it as a fundraiser.

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Give gifts that give hope.



Work of Human Hands features thousands of beautiful handcrafted items from dozens of countries around the world, and brings communities together in the United States in support of disadvantaged artisans overseas. When you host a consignment sale in your parish, school or office, you allow members of your community to buy beautiful items for their homes and to give gifts that give hope. No time to organize an event? Then purchase Fair Trade items directly from the catalog.

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Thanks to Fair Trade, chocolate is not just a yummy treat, but a delicious way to promote economic justice. Divine Chocolate helps cocoa farmers in Ghana earn extra income to invest in community services, such as water wells, schools and health clinics. Divine Chocolate also empowers farmers like the ones pictured here to take greater control of their lives, since they own nearly half the company! Buy Divine Chocolate for yourself or sell it in your school as a way to "Raise Money Right."

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Every time you buy an item through the CRS Fair Trade Program, a percentage of your purchase goes to the CRS Fair Trade Fund to help expand the Fair Trade model through Development Grants to producer groups overseas and Market-Building Grants to Fair Trade advocates in the United States. And now you can contribute directly to the Fair Trade Fund through our secure on-line donation platform. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible contributions are used to support worthy projects.

Coffee, chocolate and handcrafted items from around the world can be purchased through the Catholic Relief Services website:
www.crsfairtrade.org



CNS PHOTOS/NANCY WIECHEC

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan smiles after being elected the next president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore. At right, members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gather for Mass at the start of the meeting Nov. 15.



U.S. bishops elect new leadership

BALTIMORE (CNS)-- The 2010 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was devoted primarily to internal matters - the election of new leaders, discussion of how their own statements should be produced, budgetary and structural questions and information about how they can better integrate new media into diocesan structures.

They also affirmed an historic agreement to recognize baptisms in four Protestant church communities.

Public sessions made up the first two days of the Nov. 15-18 assembly, with the bishops spending the remainder of the meeting in executive session.

The last public action the bishops took was a nearly unanimous vote Nov. 16 to approve the preparation of a brief policy statement on assisted suicide, which they will debate and vote on at their spring assembly in June.

Before the afternoon vote Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, outlined the "increasingly ur-

gent threat" posed by the wider use of assisted suicide in the United States.

One surprise

The one surprise of the meeting came Nov. 16 when the bishops voted for new leaders of their conference. Breaking with precedent, the sitting vice president, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., was not elected to succeed Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, who was completing his three-year term as president.

Bishop Kicanas lost to New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan 128-111 in third-ballot voting.

It marked the first time since the bishops' conference was reorganized in 1966 following the Second Vatican Council that a sitting vice president who sought the presidency did not win election.

In two elections, in 1974 and 1977, circumstances dictated that the vice president did not rise to lead the conference.

"I'm surprised, I'm honored, I'm flattered and a tad intimidated," Archbishop Dolan told Catholic News

Service shortly after being elected.

In a statement, Bishop Kicanas said he respected the wisdom of his "brother bishops in choosing their new president and vice president. I greatly appreciated their expressions of thanks to me for my service as vice president."

He said that being vice president was "a marvelous experience" and he now looked forward to focusing on the needs of his own diocese.

During the executive session Nov. 17, Cardinal George named Bishop Kicanas chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency.

In other voting Nov. 16, the bishops also chose treasurer Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., as vice president and Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., as treasurer.

The other candidate for general secretary was Msgr. David Kagan, vicar general of the Diocese of Rockford, Ill.

In other action Nov. 16, the bishops, by a 204-11 vote, affirmed the "Common Agree-

ment on Mutual Recognition of Baptism."

It was drawn up over the past six years by a team of scholars from the Catholic-Reformed dialogue group, made up of representatives of the USCCB, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America and United Church of Christ.

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, called the bishops' vote "a milestone on the ecumenical journey."

Farewell from Cardinal George

Cardinal George opened the first day of the meeting with his farewell presidential address. In it he criticized those who define the church's usefulness by whether it provides "foot soldiers for a political commitment, whether of the left or the right."

He devoted much of his talk to reviewing the debate over health care reform earlier this year and the "wound to the church's unity" caused by differences over the final

legislation.

In discussing health reform in his address, Cardinal George said "developments since the passage of the legislation" have confirmed that "our analysis of what the law itself says was correct and our moral judgments are secure." He did not specify what those developments were.

The USCCB opposed passage of the final health reform legislation, saying it would permit federal funding of abortion, inadequately protect the conscience rights of health care providers and leave out immigrants. Other Catholic groups, including the Catholic Health Association and many orders of women religious, said the final bill and an executive order signed by President Barack Obama would exclude any possibility of federal money going to pay for abortions under the health plan.

Cardinal George said the debate also raised the question of "who speaks for the Catholic Church."

"The bishops ... speak for the church in matters of faith and in moral issues and the laws surrounding them. All the rest is opinion," he said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Archbishop reports on efforts to reinforce teaching on marriage

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- Saying "today is like 1970 for marriage," Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., urged his fellow bishops Nov. 15 to look at the challenges to traditional marriage as if they could see *Roe v. Wade* on the horizon. Speaking on the first day of the bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore, Archbishop Kurtz made the comments as chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Defense of Marriage, which was just upgraded to a subcommittee of the bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. He updated the bishops on various projects to reinforce the church's teaching about the sanctity of marriage, including the release of new multimedia materials and active work in battling legislative efforts to change legal definitions of marriage in order to legalize same-sex marriage. He likened the situation for laws about marriage to the period just before *Roe* legalized abortion in 1973. "If you had seen *Roe v. Wade* coming three years out, what would you have done differently?" Archbishop Kurtz said 4,500 copies of a DVD "Made for Each Other," and its accompanying education materials had been distributed around the country, and other materials are in development aimed at teaching children.

By the numbers: College of Cardinals is unique global institution

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The church's 24 new cardinals will join a unique institution that has grown dramatically in membership and has gradually been internationalized in recent decades. Just as when it originated more than 850 years ago, the College of Cardinals remains an all-male, all-clerical body that advises the pope. Unlike the early days, however, its membership is no longer made up of the resident clergy of Rome, but of prelates from many countries. Following the consistory Nov. 20, the cardinals will number 203, a new record. For centuries, the limit was 70 cardinals, a ceiling set aside in 1958 by Pope John XXIII. Other significant characteristics of the college can be seen in numbers: The college is elderly. The average age of cardinals today is nearly 78, reflecting the fact that for many of them, the red hat is something that arrives late in life. Pope Benedict XVI was not exactly rejuvenating the college in his choice of new cardinals this fall: Their average age is about 74. Among cardinals eligible to vote in a conclave -- those under the age of 80 -- the average age is close to 73. Today there are only two cardinals under the age of 60, and 82 cardinals over the age of 80.

Catholic Church firmly committed to full Christian unity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The goal of ecumenism is full unity and the Catholic Church is firmly committed to pursuing that goal, Pope Benedict XVI said. The search for Christian unity is not a political process requiring "the ability to negotiate or a greater ability to find compromises," but it is a religious effort to fulfill God's will, the pope said Nov. 18 during a meeting with members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. In the 50 years since Pope John XXIII established the council, he said, Catholics have grown in their knowledge, understanding and esteem for other Christian churches and communities. Ecumenical relations have led to important theological developments, and Christians have grown in love for one another, he said. "Various forms of collaboration have developed," not just in the areas of "the defense of life, safeguarding creation and combating injustice," but also in providing ecumenical translations of the Bible, the pope said.

Pope calls for guaranteed health care for all people

By Sarah Delaney
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI and other church leaders said it was the moral responsibility of nations to guarantee access to health care for all of their citizens, regardless of social and economic status or their ability to pay.

Access to adequate medical attention, the pope said in a written message Nov. 18, was one of the "inalienable rights" of man.

The pope's message was read by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, to participants at the 25th International Conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry at the Vatican Nov. 18-19.

The theme of this year's meeting was "Caritas in Veritate: Toward an Equitable and Human Health Care."

The pope lamented the great inequalities in health care around the globe. While people in many parts of the world aren't able to receive essential medications or even the most basic care, in industrialized countries there is a risk of "pharmacological, medical and surgical consumerism" that leads to "a cult of the body," the pope said.

"The care of man, his transcendent dignity and his inalienable rights" are issues that should concern Christians, the pope said.

Because an individual's health is a "precious asset" to society as well as to himself, governments and other agencies should seek to protect it by "dedicating the equipment, resources and energy so that the greatest number of people can have access."

"Justice in health care should be a priority of governments and international institutions," he said, cautioning that protecting human health does not include euthanasia or promoting artificial reproductive techniques that include the destruction of embryos.

Care for human life from conception to its natural end must be a guiding light in determining health care policy, the pope said.

In his own written statement, Cardinal Bertone had strong words in support of the need for governments to take care of all citizens, especially children, the elderly, the poor and immigrants.

"Justice requires guaranteed universal access to health care," the cardinal said, adding that the provision of minimal levels of medical attention to all is "commonly accepted as a fundamental human right."

Governments are obligated, therefore, to adopt the proper legislative, administrative and financial measures to provide such care along with other basic conditions that promote good health, such as food security, water and housing, the cardinal said.

Private health insurance companies, he said, should conform to human rights legislation and see to it that "privatization not become a threat to the accessibility, availability and quality of health care goods and services."

Cardinal Bertone recommended that government leaders in poor countries use their limited resources wisely and for the good of their citizens.

The governments of richer nations with good health

care available should practice more solidarity with their own disadvantaged citizens and help developing countries promote health care while trying to avoid a "paternalistic or humiliating" way of assisting, the cardinal said.

Cardinal Bertone warned of the "war of interests" between pharmaceutical companies and developing nations who have little access to medicines because they can't pay for them.

He said that those manufacturers should not be driven by "profit as the only objective" in the creation and distribution of medicines.

Archbishop Zygmunt Zimowski, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said in opening remarks that to have good health "is a natural right" recognized by international institutions.

Despite such recognition, he said, great imbalances persist and developing nations find themselves with inadequate structures and without the ability to provide basic medicines to their people.

Wealthier countries, on the other hand, have a "technical" approach to the sick, which ignores "the sick person in his entirety and dignity," Archbishop Zimowski said.

The council, created by Pope John Paul II 25 years ago, will continue the church's mission to serve the sick and promote health for all, the archbishop said.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

We begin our journey through Advent

There are many mountain-climbers in our beautiful Adirondack mountains. The challenge of going all the way to the summit, painful though it may be, is richly rewarded by the view from the top.

After climbing their first mountain, they are usually drawn to keep climbing, year after year. Just looking at a mountain from its base can make the viewer catch his breath with joy at the possibilities!

Today's readings provide us with a fresh beginning

for our journey through Advent, preparing us to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Lord. Isaiah challenges us: "Come, let us climb the Lord's Mountain to the house of the God of Jacob that He may instruct us in His ways, and we may walk in His paths."



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The second reading from Romans tells that we must cast off the darkness of sin and despair, and put on the armor of light.

What is that armor? It's the armor of hope, that

urges us to believe once more in the possibility of peace in our world.

Our children have never known a time when our country has not been involved in war. Yet, there will come a time when nations shall "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" and nations will not attack each other. "Neither shall they learn war any more".

Advent challenges our faith to believe in these prophecies of peace, and not pass them off as mere wishful thinking.

We are all so tired of war! We thirst for peace. We

NOV. 28

The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

know that war is not the answer.

In 1953, President Eisenhower warned us, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed".

Jesus in the Gospel gives us the warning that the final

days will come faster than we think, and that we must "stay awake", be on the alert for a judgment on our life's efforts to prepare for the day of the Prince of Peace. He tells us that he will come "like a thief in the night".

Megan McKenna, in her meditations on Advent, tells us that Jesus was indeed the thief "who stole our sins"!

Advent is for us a time to stay awake, to work at climbing the Lord's Mountain. That's where the light is. That's why we celebrate the feast of the Incarnation of the Lord, the beginning of all our reasons for hope and joy.

It's our view from the top.

OUR READERS WRITE

Thanks for conference on the renewal of the Roman Missal

I just wanted to say thank you to the diocese and all those who were involved in presenting the recent pastoral conference on renewal of the Roman Missal.

I truly appreciate all the efforts of the organizers and presenters. Father Lucia, Father Giroux, and Father Hauser gave thoughtful presentations on the renewal of the Missal, the challenges and opportunities the renewal presents, and there was a good discussion on helpful ideas for making the transition at the parish level.

As the speakers stressed, the changes in the Missal are a rediscovery of the richness and sacredness of the Eucharist.

With prayers that are closer to their scriptural roots, the Missal is "not just changing words, but changing hearts and bringing people closer to Christ".

I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to participate in the sessions that will be offered by parishes.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will help us deepen our understanding of the sacrifice of the Mass and "rekindle our Eucharistic amazement". Thanks again.

SINCERELY,
CAROLYN PIERCE
HEUVELTON, NY

RESPECT LIFE

With gratitude for good friends

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
NCC columnist

*"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter;
He who finds one, finds a treasure."*

The Book of Sirach 6:14

As I count my blessings this Thanksgiving season, I am especially grateful for my friends. We all turned 50 this year, my high school buddies and I, so we decided to live it up and spend a long Columbus Day weekend in Atlantic City. We journeyed from near and far (Dolores came from Texas!), traveled by plane and car (Dawn drove 10 hours each way from North Carolina), and rented a house on the bay with all the amenities.

My family questioned, "Won't you run out of things to say?" My colleagues warned that "you'll be sick of each other after one night."

Boy, were they ever wrong.

There were five of us in all, born and bred Long Is-

land girls, each of us graduating from Uniondale High School in 1978.

Val and I actually went through the elementary grades together as well, at the former St. Martha's School down the block from the Dairy Barn.

In our youth we shared homework, makeup tips and boyfriend troubles. If any one of us had a problem at home, we felt comfortable enough to pop over one of our friend's houses to cry it out, stay for dinner and recharge our batteries.

When Val and I had to make the dreaded move from Catholic to public school at an extremely awkward adolescent age, the others were there to welcome us in.

For Dolores' 16th birthday, we made a giant three layer cake out of cardboard, crepe paper and toilet tissue, then convinced the boy she had a crush on to jump out of it to surprise her. Some of us painted the

scenery for our high school musical productions.

Some of us were active in the prayer group at Church and eventually helped lead Antioch retreats for younger kids.

All of us came from a strong faith tradition and believe in the power of prayer.

Today we are in very different places in our lives: among us there's been divorce, single parenthood, later-in-life marriage and five kids.

Our careers are as varied as our hair colors: Liz is a police lieutenant, Val a school psychologist, Dawn works for a health care organization, Dolores for a beverage distributor, and I for the Church.

But the bonds that formed in our youth are enduring and unbreakable.

We have a common denominator; we are melded together.

In Atlantic City, we drank coffee on the porch each morning and never ran out

of things to say. We stayed up long into the nights just talking and listening.

We laughed so hard we cried, multiple times. We reminisced with old yearbooks. We shared the pain of losing a parent to cancer, and the joy of walking another parent through cancer surgery and healing.

We swapped family photos and bragged about our spouses, children, siblings and nieces.

The casinos and comedy clubs were just minutes away, but they did not lure us. We didn't even turn the television on in our house.

We simply reveled in the company of our friends. Our affection and respect for one another has not faded. It has grown.

Friendships that stand the test of time are a tremendous blessing.

God wants us to be happy. Taking stock of our blessings -- like 35-year friendships -- fosters gratitude, satisfaction and happiness.

During this season of thanks, let's really pause to count our blessings instead of our woes.



Kathleen
Gallagher

AT THE MOVIES

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

The Hogwarts gang is on the run in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" (Warner Bros.), the penultimate film in the wildly successful franchise based on J.K. Rowling's fantasy novels. As in Rowling's final volume, the tone here is darker, the action more intense, and the violence intended to shock as the forces of good and evil are set on their inevitable collision course.

"These are dark times, there's no denying," intones Minister of Magic Rufus Scrimgeour (Bill Nighy) as the film opens. And how. The Ministry has been taken over by Death Eaters, loyal to the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes).

Their mission is twofold: Rid the world of Half-bloods (part witch, part nonwitch or "Muggle") and their supporters, and find Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe, of course), the "Chosen One."

No one is safe, not even a kindly Hogwarts teacher fond of Muggles. She is brutally tortured, then murdered by Voldemort and fed to a giant snake in one of the many intense moments that would have younger viewers diving under their seats.

But the main focus is Harry, and his loyal pals Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint), who rally to his side.

As in the previous films, the special effects are

thrilling, from whiz-zoom broom rides in the skies to the elaborate set-pieces of the Ministry of Magic.

Casting spells that enable them to travel instantaneously from place to place, Harry, Hermione and Ron jump all over the real world, from Piccadilly Circus in London to the Scottish Highlands.

Director David Yates (a veteran of two previous Harry Potter films) offers a picturesque travelogue of the British Isles that is a soothing respite from the film's otherwise relentless clashes. Their travels are not just about escaping Voldemort; our trio is in search of items that can destroy the Evil One, including the titular "Deathly Hallows," three items that, together, make one "Master of Death."

Here, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" ventures into "Lord of the Rings" territory. Like Frodo Baggins, Harry - all grown up and accepting his destiny - embarks on a perilous journey to rid the world of evil. But, also like Frodo, Harry is tempted by darkness, as are his friends.

The film offers lessons about perseverance, loyalty, friendship, and self-sacrifice as it builds to a cliffhanger climax. Rowling's novels are famously irreligious, yet "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" has some welcome, pseudo-Christian moments. Returning to Harry's birthplace in search of clues, Harry and Hermione find themselves

outside a church on Christmas Eve. They listen wistfully to the hymns sung within, thinking of happy family moments of long ago.

Similarly, Ron finds his way back to his friends on Christmas Day, when a mysterious light appears, directing him to the source of all good.

Less welcome is an incident that sees one of Harry's friends and protectors wounded by a Death Eater, who leaves a gaping hole in his head. The victim exclaims, with a grin, "I'm a saint. I'm hole-y. Get it?"

The magical elements in the script are benign, serving to support the plot, not endorse the evils of sorcery. The romantic tension of earlier films takes a back seat to the action this time, with a few exceptions: stolen kisses, close dancing, and a peculiar fantasy scene, invented by Voldemort, showing Harry and Hermione implicitly nude and about to have sex - all designed to enrage Ron, which it does.

The film contains much action violence with frequent peril, brief partial nudity in a sexual context, scenes of murder and torture and a few vaguely sexual references. 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.



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson star in a scene from the movie "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1"

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ADIRONDACK

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid – St. Agnes School to have a Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 4

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

Place: School Gym

Features: There will be baked goods, donuts, new gifts, crafts, toys, wreaths, trees, holiday plants and lots of wonderful raffle items. Lunch will be served and Santa arrives at noon.

CLINTON

WINTER CRAFT FAIR

Peru – St. Augustine's will be holding its 2010 Fall into Winter Craft Fair.

Date: Dec. 4

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine Parish Center

Features: The craft fair will include St. Vincent Society's gently used winter clothing sale, more than 50 local vendors, bake sale, face painting, lunch, photos with Santa and entertainment by Sweet Adelines.

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Ellensburg Center – OLA House of Prayer to have a Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Date: Nov. 25

Time: 1 p.m.

Features: RSVP by Nov. 22 to oadirond@twcny.rr.com or 518-594-3253. No charge, donations appreciated.

DAY OF REFLECTION

Ellensburg Center – OLA House of Prayer to have an Advent Day of Reflection.

Date: Dec. 11

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Features: Deacon Dennis Monty will join us for an Advent retreat, encouraging us to reflect on Mary, the Eucharist, and the hope and promise of the season. Bring your Bible and a journal. Lunch provided. RSVP by Dec. 9 to oadirond@twcny.rr.com or call 518-594-3253. Donations appreciated.

SETON CHRISTMAS DINNER

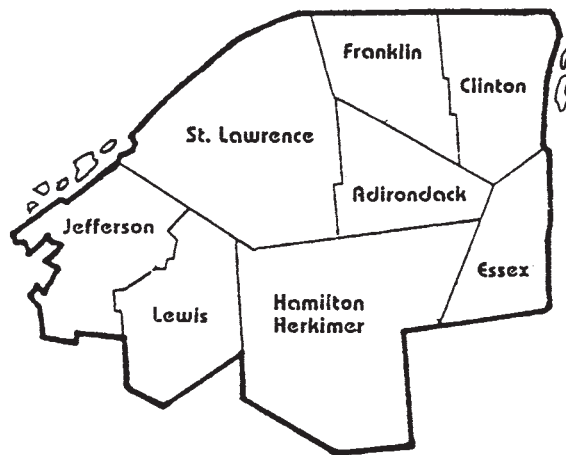
Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic Central to host a dinner and silent auction.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: Noon to 5 p.m.

Cost: Seniors (55+), \$7; Adults, \$9; Children 12-5, \$5; Under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$9. Bring an unwrapped toy or food donation and receive \$1 off an adult meal ticket.

Features: Turkey with all the trimmings. A large silent auction, cash raffle, wreath sale, "gifts from home" made by



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.

students and parents and music by Seton students. For raffle tickets or more info visit www.setoncatholic.net. Benefits Seton Academy & Seton Catholic.

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.

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. Theme: "Come to the foot of the altar. Here graces will be showered on all, great and little, who ask for them. Graces will especially be showered upon those who ask for them" (Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine Laboure). Pray for vocations

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

ESSEX

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Crown Point – Sacred Heart Church will be having a Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 4

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

Features: Homemade items, religious items, arts and crafts, white elephant table, baked goods, a cookie walk and

basket raffle. A luncheon will also be served.

FRANKLIN

LIGHT UP FOR CHRIST

St. Regis Falls – St. Francis Regis Council 7321 K of C is to celebrate Advent and the upcoming Christmas season with the annual "Light Up for Christ" blessing of the Nativity scene.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: In front of St. Ann's Church

Features: Blessing by Father John L.

Downs. The service includes a prayer, the blessing of the Nativity scene, a song, and refreshments.

CHRISTMAS TEA

North Bangor – The Catholic Community of St. Augustine's will hold their annual Christmas Tea.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: John C. Dwyer Parish Center

Features: handmade crafts, a bake table, candy booth, cake walk, Chinese Auction, raffles, etc. Christmas cookies, coffee, tea & punch will be available. Homemade soup, sandwiches & soda will be for sale. Santa will make a visit around 1 p.m.

JEFFERSON

ADVENT RETREAT

Watertown – Sr. Janet Peters will speak on the Spirituality of Aging.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4

Place: SSSJ Motherhouse

Features: There will also be communal prayer, time for person prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Benediction.

HOLIDAY TOUR OF HOMES

Fort Drum – There will be a Holiday Tour of Home.

Date: Dec. 12

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: Tour will begin at the Timbers Community Center and end at LeRay Mansion.

Cost: \$15 per person. Includes entry to all home. Refreshments and snacks will be served

Features: On the tour will be 8 locations including an apartment at the Timbers, homes in Richard Hills, the USO building and homes on LeRay Drive.

Contact: For more information and tickets contact Sonia Patton at 254-258-2850 or Teri-Gene Conlin 778-3978.

ST. LAWRENCE

MUSIC MINISTRY COFFEE HOUSE

Ogdensburg – The Music Ministry at the Cathedral will have their yearly coffee house fundraiser

Date: Dec. 4

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Features: An evening of fun, fellowship, and song as we enjoy a variety of snacks, teas and coffees (in many varieties and flavors). As usual, our music will be provided by our own Barb Heller Rogers, and it looks as if Santa will be paying us a visit again this year! Suggested entry donation - \$5.

Contact: For more information, please contact our Music Director, Ernie Hadley. 393-3930

PEARL HARBOR DAY DINNER

Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus will host a Pearl Harbor Day Dinner.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Free to all Veterans and 1 guest; All others, \$7 per person. Desserts are \$1 extra

Contact: Reservations would be appreciated by calling 393-7990 any weekday after 3:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will have their Annual Christmas Party.

Date: Dec. 12

Time: 5 p.m. to 6 cocktails with dinner to follow

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Free to all paid up members; All

others, \$8 per person

Features: Reservations are required with our choice of meat by Dec. 4. All members are asked to bring in pajamas or a monetary gift in lieu of a gift exchange. Please wrap the pajamas and mark on tag for boy or girl and the size so we can donate them to the PJ's for Kids program. \$15 limit.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral is holding a Christmas Concert.

Date: Dec. 19

Time: 2 p.m.

Features: This year's Christmas Concert will feature traditional hymns and carols from various cultures throughout the world. If we need to postpone because of snow, the snow date will be January 2, 2011, which is Epiphany Sunday.

Contact: For more information, please contact our Music Director, Ernie Hadley. 393-3930

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Dec. 12

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

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.

Place: Notre Dame Church

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 of the Blessed Sacrament continues through the night, concluding with Benediction at 7 a.m. Friday.

FRIDAY 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



The Society For

The Propagation Of The Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
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(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

A day with Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM

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

On October 28th, Bishop Terry LaValley and his staff experienced reflection time with Sr. Cindy Sullivan, BVM, a native of Massena, N. Y. who ministers in Quito, Ecuador. Sr. Cindy spends her time at the Working Boys' Center, which was founded in 1964 to create, develop and strengthen Christian moral values in the working boys and their families. This Center aims to do this with programs of help and formation, which break the cycle of extreme poverty in which they live. This over all process of change is directed at important areas of life: loyalty, personal formation, family, religion, economy, work recreation, health and housing.

Over forty years of work have resulted in more than 5,000 families (25,000 persons) who have graduated from the programs leaving poverty behind and contributing to society as free, active and dedicated persons. Sr. Cindy explained that the success of the programs is due to consistent working with families through a few staff and many volunteers assisting to enrich family life.

Through a power point presentation, Sr. Cindy showed us pictures of her consistent workers using their God given talents and gifts to help families use their individual gifts and talents wisely. We could see hope in the faces of those being helped to have faith in



Sister Cindy Sullivan talks With Bishop LaValley during the recent day of prayer she led for diocesan staff.

themselves and in their future. Working Boys' Center gives evidence of how hope increased when love was put into deeds of education and vocational training transforming past lives into new life. As a diocesan staff, Sr. Cindy asked us to reflect on our individual gifts and talents in serving the people of the diocese. Jesus was the ultimate teacher, using parables and examples to help His followers understand. He wanted His word to reach deep into the heart and bear fruit in action.

As I looked around the room at the retreatants, I could say that I know that all are using their educational opportunities to reach out hoping to become a more understanding and hope filled presence in serving the people of the diocese.

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

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

OBITUARIES

Adams – Toby Magos, 88; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2010 at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Bombay – Thomas J. Steen, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 27, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church.

Cape Vincent – Ola A. Payne Fitzgerald, 103; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2010 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

Carthage – Ellen May Nash Wilton, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2010 at St. James Catholic Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Cumberland Head – Marie D. Giuliano, 72; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2010 at St. Mary's of the Lake Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Dannemora – Paul J. St. Cyr, 69; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Gabriels – Shirley (Claremont) Oehler, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2010 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Olive M. (Wood) Shields, 96; Funeral Services Nov. 18 2010 at Reiss Memorial Chapel, AMC-Uihlein; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Moers Forks – Roland J. LaFountain, 69; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2010 at St. Ann's Church.

Morrisonville – Barbara A. (Champagne) Dowd, 59; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Norfolk – Bernard W. "Cub" Pervis, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2010 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Anna M. (Reep) Donahue, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2010 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood – Ann M. (Cota) Felix, 66; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2010 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in Bixby Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Helen M. (Burns) Roach, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2010 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Bill Swan, 72; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2010 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Carrie D. (Archambault) Martineau, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Clarence Kelley, 82; Funeral services Nov. 13, 2010 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Gerald P. Beaulieu, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Lawrence Burkett, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – William F. Gallagher, IV, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2010 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Harriestown Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Helne M. (Morgan) Munn, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2010 at St. Bernard's Church.

Tupper Lake – Margaret M. (Bump) Parks, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2010 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

Watertown – Musetta (O'Neill) Beattie, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2010 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Judy K. Grey, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2010 at Holy Family Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – John H. Hardy, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2010 at Cleveland Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Angelo J. Puccia, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2010 at St. Anthony's Church.

Willsboro – Mary Jane (Costin) Lee, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 22, 2010 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

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Thank the God of joy!

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service

This Thanksgiving Day, I offer my deepest thanks to God for the gift of faith and joy.

Most of us never think of it, but we should also thank God for the gift of the church.

Please read this column to the end. I hope you won't regret it.

So many people are opposed to organized religion; they don't like all the bickering that goes on in the church.

Frankly, I don't either. It makes me wonder how the Roman Catholic Church survives so many rebellions, the likes of which have brought down temporal kingdoms!

It is a mysterious miracle, to be sure, but the answer is even more mysterious. It lies in the secret of the presence of the Holy Spirit living within us.

G.K. Chesterton explained, in essence, that the spirit of joy is the gigantic secret of the church's survival.

That idea may be difficult to understand at first, but when you realize that the same Holy Spirit that animated Jesus Christ is living in you and me right now, you begin to see that our most contentious efforts to divide the church are not strong enough to stand against the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul said: "In (God) we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

All of us, saints and sinners alike, whether we realize it or not, are carriers of divine love and joy. Even those who leave the church still remain



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

members of the mystical body of Christ.

This idea makes me joyful! Our best attempts to bicker and scatter are overcome by God's abiding love and joy.

At any given time in our lives, we may be cold, tepid, devout or hostile to the church. But the church loves us nevertheless.

The night before she was to be burned at the stake, St. Joan of Arc was asked if she had any final words.

She replied, "It is my opinion that Christ and the church are one."

Jesus forgives and forgets if one is sorry for his or her offenses.

Hidden in the depths of our sacred history as a church are many divisions and battles among us, but the power of the Holy Spirit draws back the stray sheep.

We all long for peace and unity. The love-hate relationship many people experience with the church is not only of little importance, it is a passing thing, like having the sniffles on a cold winter morning.

Down deep, we all seem to cling to the God of our understanding the way an infant clings to a mother.

The church is the sacrament of the mystery of God's presence on earth. We are often blind to this mystery, but we need to be aware that we are not alone.

Church historian Norbertine Father Alfred McBride wrote: "Church history is, in the final analysis, sacred history --a continuation of the salvation history begun with Abraham. It is a record of a people called to faith and aided by grace, a people who have sinned shamelessly and loved God with abandon."

Never be discouraged. All will be well.

I wish you a happy Thanksgiving Day, and pray that you will find great joy in the knowledge of God's love!

THE BOTTOM LINE

Abraham Lincoln's devotion to Thanksgiving Day

By Antoinette Bosco
Catholic News Service

I was talking recently to a high school student about Thanksgiving Day. She praised the "Pilgrim Fathers" for "making this an annual holiday."

That got me started with filling in some history about Thanksgiving Day that she had never heard before. It is a history that Americans should remember with great pride.

The earliest thanksgiving celebration for a good harvest was held by the 53 surviving Pilgrims at Plymouth in the early autumn of 1621. It was a custom of the English to give thanks to God

for a bountiful harvest.

The Pilgrims, however, did not refer to this harvest festival as a "Thanksgiving," even though they gave thanks to God. To them, a Day of Thanksgiving was a religious event. Their first recorded religious Day of Thanksgiving was in 1623 in response to a providential rainfall.

Over time, the religious Day of Thanksgiving and the harvest festival evolved into a single event.

History books tell us that, in 1789, the Episcopal Church formally recognized that the U.S. president and governors of states had the authority to proclaim a thanksgiving holiday. Some presidents proclaimed these, while others did not.

On Oct. 3, 1863, however, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed that there would now be a fixed time for a "Thanksgiving Day" to be celebrated annually.

At the time, Lincoln was dealing with the horrors of the Civil War that put brothers against brothers.

He spoke out, asking the nation to remember the blessings they had "of fruitful fields and healthful skies."

He said: "To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually in-

sensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God."

Lincoln spoke then of good things going on in the nation despite the horrible war. He mentioned peaceful industry, the abundant mines giving us iron, coal and precious metals; a great increase in population, "notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield."

Let us not forget that on Jan. 1 of that same year, Lincoln had written and signed the Emancipation Proclamation, ending the slavery of human beings.

Because of his faith, Lincoln believed slavery should be ended, and he expressed his faith again in his procla-

mation that created Thanksgiving Day: "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."

Continuing, Lincoln invited citizens "in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

On Thanksgiving Day, let us thank God that he gave us Abraham Lincoln.