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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 15, 2010

God's grace and mercy

Popé message for Feast of Immaculate Conception

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In keeping Mary free from sin, God showed how his grace and mercy are greater and more powerful than sin and evil, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Unfortunately, every day we experience evil that manifests itself in many ways in interactions and events, but it has its roots in the human heart -- a wounded, sick heart that is incapable of healing by itself," he said before praying the Angelus Dec. 8, the

feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The mystery of the Immaculate Conception is a source of "hope and comfort," the pope told pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the feast.

"Amid life's trials and especially its contradictions,

which people experience both inside themselves and all around them, Mary, the mother of Christ, tells us that grace is greater than sin, that God's mercy is more powerful than evil and that God knows how to transform it into good," he said.

THREE PASTORS INSTALLED

For Tri-Lakes parishes



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER
Father Douglas A. Decker, pastor of Holy Name Church and St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake, was one of three pastors installed for parishes in the Tri-Lakes area at a Dec. 5 prayer service at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid. Bishop LaValley also installed Father Mark R. Reilly as pastor of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes (St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. John's in Lake Clear, St. Paul's in Bloomingdale and Church of The Assumption in Gabriels) and Father John R. Yonkovic as pastor of St. Agnes and St. Brendan's in Keene.

FULL STORY, PAGES 4 & 5

Families: Become What You Are...

The third installment in the four-part series featuring Bishop LaValley message to families is featured this week.

The articles are adapted from the bishop's presentation at a Family Life Forum held Oct. 30 in Carthage.

This week, Bishop LaValley writes about families as 'communities of holiness.'

The special series will conclude in the Dec. 22 issue of the *North Country Catholic* as Bishop LaValley reflects on families as "communities to treasure."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Christmas collection

Gifts to Christmas collections in parishes across the diocese support

the Priests Retirement Plan

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

CHECKING IT TWICE...



Bishop LaValley visited Trinity Catholic School in Massena Dec. 8, celebrating Mass with the children and visiting each of the classrooms. Above he checks out the work of the students in Margie Ilisco's second grade, Anthony Bolia, Anastasia Gauthier, Laura Guimond, Joseph Weir and Sean Murphy. Trinity principal Joan Rufa is shown at right. "It was such an honor and privilege to have the Bishop with us for almost the entire day," Mrs. Rufa said. "He went into each of the classrooms and talked with the students. He observed the presentation our Robotics team did in competition this past weekend and he had lunch with the children. The faculty, staff, students, and parents deeply appreciated his willingness to give up an entire day out of his busy schedule to meet our students and see first hand the good work we are doing at Trinity. This was such an overwhelming demonstration of his support for Catholic education!"

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Find the address of your favorite priest... pages 8-9

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MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Holiness in the messiness

In my quest to find a photo to illustrate Bishop LaValley's "Families... Communities of Holiness" column this week, I turned to my friend Dayna Leader of St. James Parish in Gouverneur.

This insanely busy mother of eight always seems to have a camera around to capture the adventures of her four handsome boys, four beautiful girls and their handsome, though harried Dad, Henry.

I was sure I could find something appropriate in her large collection of photos from last summer's Family Guggenheim.

I didn't have to search far, though, before spotting one more suitable for our season. A photo of three of her little angels around the family Advent wreath is printed on page three.

When I asked permission to publish the picture, Dayna agreed and then advised me that I had made a wise selection from among several photos of that evening.

It was taken, she said, "before John-Michael got so frustrated at not being able to blow out the candles that he threw the wreath to the floor!!!"

Her little boy had just celebrated his second birthday, "so now if he sees candles he wants to blow them out," Dayna said. "Robert (his 12-year-old brother) kept preventing him and finally John-Michael got mad and close enough to grab the wreath and it went to the floor still on fire!"

I laugh every time I think of that scene, especially since my own kids are all safely grown up!

Bishop LaValley probably didn't imagine a moment this extreme when he invites parents to "find the holiness in the messiness of family life," this

week but we can all understand what he means.

It's impossible to raise little human beings without chaos, confusion and more than a little despair.

It's not always easy to find holiness when children fight over TV shows, complain about dinner and even say "I hate you."

But what better chance do people have to do the work of God than in sharing a role in the process of creating another person?

Dayna jokes that her children weren't very

reverent in their Advent prayer last Sunday night but I have a feeling that God didn't care too much about that.

Dayna and Henry may not have recognized the holiness in their house but it was certainly there.

Their friends would have seen it in the love, patience, kindness and laughter in that room and maybe even more so in the screaming, crying and panic of their John-Michael messy moment of grace!



Mary Lou
Kilian

FAMILY

Prayer for Our Family

O Dear Jesus, I humbly implore You to grant Your special graces to our family. May our home be the shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith. I beg You, dear Jesus, to protect and Bless all of us, absent and present, living and dead.

O Mary Mother of Jesus, and our Mother, pray to Jesus for our family, for all the families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations.

Blessed Saint Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all our necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace which He granted to you, to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and dying, so that with Mary and with you, heaven may find our family unbroken in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Amen.

Church: A Family of Faith The Unexpected Surprise for Joseph and Mary

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ
Director of Evangelization

"Let the Lord enter, he is the king of glory" (Ps. 24).

As we approach the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel from Matthew (1:18-25) focuses on Mary and Joseph who prepare for marriage. Joseph does not understand the mystery of God's plan that Mary, his betrothal, was with child.

How can this all be as the marriage has not taken place?

Joseph did not know that the child Mary was carrying was the Messiah. The disturbance and confusion must have wrenched within the heart of Joseph.

Mary's own heart must have been perplexed as she could not explain to Joseph her own surprise that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah.

Matthew speaks of Joseph as a "righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, who decided to divorce her quietly."

Wrestling with this decision, Joseph's struggle is cut short by a divine intervention as "an angel of the Lord" appears to him in a dream.

Joseph, the son of David, is to take Mary into his house, not so much to protect her as to confer the *Davidic* paternity on her child and so place her child into its proper place in salvation history.

There is no need for Joseph to have scruples within him, for the real origins of the child lie not with the Davidic or any human lineage, but with the creative power of the Holy Spirit who makes this all possible. Joseph's key role is therefore to act as the child's father by giving it the name God had already chosen, "and you are to name him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

"As Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded and took his wife into His home."

Now Joseph and Mary could begin their marriage and family life with the protection of God's own saving power. Now *Emmanuel*—"God With Us"—would be the protective presence within this Holy Family.

What kind of dreams did Joseph continue to have as he prepared for the birth this Child within the womb of Mary?

What dreams do you have for your family Christmas celebration? Dreams can be divine interventions that reveal to families the importance of embracing each member with deep affection and love. Dreams usually have a purpose or a mission. With the Child, Mary and Joseph were to become a family who trusted in God's providence that "all will be well" even in the midst of struggles, trials, and unexpected surprises.

How do you feel when God "surprises" you?

Are you as trusting as Joseph was and as quick to respond?

What purpose or plan does God have for your family?

Joseph and Mary are role models who help families grow in their faith in times of unexpected twists and turns in family life. It is only through prayer and trust in God's providence that family life can be strengthened with the unexpected surprises in life.

Let the King of Glory come into your hearts this Christmas! Like Mary and Joseph, He awaits for our obedient faith.

Attention Snowbirds

going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.

FOLLOW ME

Family: Become What You Are

Editor's note: This is the third in a four-part series featuring Bishop Terry LaValley's message to families. The articles are adapted from an Oct. 30 presentation at a Family Life Forum in Carthage.

PART THREE: Families are... Communities of holiness

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

A second important concept that families should embrace in order for them to become what they are, closely related to being a community of love, is to recognize that they are called to be communities of holiness.

Families have the awesome responsibility to transmit life values, respecting and fostering personal dignity within and outside the home.

Families should be schools where our youngsters learn why each and every human person from the moment of conception to that of natural death is precious.

Parental insistence on their children's participation, as well as their own (mom and dad's) in the parish Christian Formation program is crucial. We must all be formed in the Gospel and teachings of our Church.

That's where evangelization begins...in the home.

For a community of ho-



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

The Leader Family of Gouverneur joined Catholic families around the world in creating Advent wreaths to prepare for the birth of Jesus. From left are Faith, John-Michael and Robert. In his column today, Bishop LaValley writes that "We all must be formed in the Gospel and teachings of our Church. That's where evangelization begins - in the home."

liness, witness and good example is a must.

When daddy treats mommy with respect, affection and devotion, Sonny learns how dads should treat moms.

To be kind and gentle is not to be soft and mushy. I can preach until the cows come home, but what do I live? Virtues, Values, Respect are words and concepts quickly in danger of being pulled out of Webster's Dictionary due to non-use.

Obscene, vulgar, sexually suggestive language is absolutely everywhere from the classrooms to the boardrooms to the bar rooms to the living

rooms to the dining room tables. From the TV and computer screen to bumper stickers to T shirts, our adolescent immaturity has become a perpetual state for too many of today's adults.

There's a hardness and meanness of spirit that seems to pervade everything. We have politicians hurling verbal missiles at each other and TV spin doctors, who, I suspect, unable to find a productive job, are screaming in our faces or shouting in our ears.

We eat it up!

We start communicating in similar fashion. If nowhere else, our children should find a safe

haven in our homes from such mean-spiritedness and disrespect for the dignity of every person.

Again, Christian modeling is so very important. I know, it's not always that easy.

That's why, again, prayer and staying connected with the Church and fellow pilgrims for support are required.

We cannot do it all on our own.

Of course, Sunday celebration at our supernatural family meal is essential food for the journey---support for the trials of the week ahead, thanksgiving for the blessings of the week past.

Connect with other parish prayer, service and educational opportunities - all tremendous aids to living and teaching virtuous lives...all ways for families to become communities of holiness.

Take your family regularly to Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession.

At home: share meals with your entire family regularly.

Joseph Califano, Jr., of the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University explained an extensive survey that was just completed.

It concluded that when families decide to sit down and eat together—children have better grades, stay longer in school and are statistically less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol and tobacco, more likely to hold jobs and stay out of trouble.

Do you require everybody in your family be present to at least two main meals during the week? This is another way of staying connected that provides for the kind of attention and communication required for the healthy family today.

Know there is a holiness in the messiness of your family life. Meal time provides an opportunity for family members to recognize the divine thread in the midst of the sometimes chaotic days.

In next week's NCC:
Families are... Communities to Treasure

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Bishop installs three Tri-Lakes pastors Dec. 5

By Colleen Miner
 Staff writer

LAKE PLACID – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the Installation of Pastors for the Tri-Lakes Catholic parishes Dec. 5 at St. Agnes Church.

See photos on page 5

The 3 p.m. prayer service included the installation of Father Douglas A. Decker as pastor of Holy Name Church and St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake; Father Mark R. Reilly as pastor of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes (St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. John's in Lake Clear, St. Paul's in Bloomingdale and Church of The Assumption in Gabriels) and Father John R. Yonkovig as pastor of St. Agnes and Brendan's in Keene.

In his homily, Bishop LaValley told the new pastors that if their decisions are "rooted in Christ, you will have served the Lord very well" and reminded them that their "own personal relationship with Jesus Christ will help with your guidance of the people."

Bishop LaValley spoke to the congregation about the Gospel reading from Luke which proclaimed the baptism of repentance, asking "Do we adhere to the precon-

ditions for being a follower of Jesus Christ? Do we take it to heart? Does it affect our lifestyles?"

"One must be willing to change – sometimes radically," he said.

"I am privileged to be here to install three new pastors whose preaching and devotion to the Lord will lead people on the lifelong journey to the Lord." Bishop LaValley.

The bishop also told the pastors that "deacons will assist you in your ministry," including the three who were present for the installation. Deacon Jerry Cheney (Saranac Lake) served as Bishop LaValley's assistant. Deacon Bruce Wadsworth (Lake Placid) was the cross bearer. Also in attendance was Deacon Jim Ellis (Tupper Lake).

Thirteen trustees from the eight parishes came forward to witness the Adirondack Deanery's newest pastors profess their faith and oath of service.

Cantor for the prayer service was Jenny Frenette from Saranac Lake. Organist was Joey Izzo from Lake Placid. Following the closing song, the pastors were congratulated and greeted by attendees in the back of the church. A small reception for the new pastors and trustees was held at the St. Agnes rectory following the ceremony.

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FOR TRI-LAKES PARISHES

PASTORS INSTALLED

Bishop LaValley presides at Dec. 5 prayer service in which pastors are installed for Adirondack parishes.



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Father Douglas A. Decker, new pastor of Holy Name Church and St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake; Father John R. Yonkovic, pastor of St. Agnes in Lake Placid and St. Brendan's in Keene; and Father Mark R. Reilly, pastor of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes (St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake, St. John's in Lake Clear, St. Paul's in Bloomingdale and Church of The Assumption in Gabriels) read the oath during their installation as pastors. Bishop LaValley presided at the ceremony held Dec. 5 in Lake Placid.



Deacon Jerry Cheney, Churches of the Mountains and Lakes, served as the bishop's assistant during the installation of pastors. Deacon Bruce Wadsworth of St. Agnes, Lake Placid was the cross bearer. Also present was Deacon Jim Ellis of Tupper Lake.



Jenny Frenette, parishioner of St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake served as the leader of song for the ceremony. Organist was Joey Izzo, parishioner of St. Agnes Church.



Paul, Angie and Carol Ward, parishioners of St. Paul's in Bloomingdale stop for a photo with their new pastor, Father Reilly.



Anton and Barbara Kreuzer of St. John's in Lake Clear congratulate Father Yonkovic after the installation.

Supported by gifts to parish Christmas collections

Retirement Plan benefits 47 priests

OGDENSBURG - The 35 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests' Retirement Fund will be direct beneficiaries of the generosity of Catholics in the North Country who contribute to their parishes in the Christmas collection.

Also, 12 priests age 70 and older who remain active in their ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are receiving partial retirement benefits.

Gifts to parish Christmas collections support not only priests currently receiving support from the Priests' Retirement Fund but also benefits to be paid to future retirees.

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese receives 60% of the Christmas Collection proceeds given to each parish annually, plus an additional \$500 per priest from the parish or institution he serves.

While gifts help pay pen-

sions to retired priests, they also help the diocese make provisions for pensions for other priests as they retire in the future.

Actuarial studies are performed annually to assure the diocese is preparing for its future obligations to retired priests. The firm of Frank J. Walters and Associates has determined that adequate provisions are being made in 2010-11 to fully fund the Plan.

With full benefits to the 35 retired priests and partial benefits to 12 active priests the estimated pension payments in this fiscal year amount to \$820,200.

Effective July 1, 2010, retired priests in the diocese received an increase of \$40 per month in their pension benefit. It is the diocese's intention to do this in every year in which the diocese is able. This was the first pension increase given to retired priests of the diocese in two

years.

Ninety percent of the cost of health insurance for retired priests is also funded through the Priests' Retirement Fund.

Retired priests of the diocese receive pensions from the Social Security system. Because priests' income is typically modest, their Social Security pensions are not large and most rely heavily on pensions from the diocese for a good portion of their financial support.

The value of the investments of the Priests' Retirement Fund increased over a one-year period from \$8,133,572 to \$8,411,225 on June 30, 2010.

The diocese's Investment Advisory Committee, diocesan administration, and the investment portfolio's investment managers are closely monitoring and assessing the current situation.

"The diocese is confident that the markets will eventu-

ally stabilize and that the Plan's investment portfolio will again yield positive returns," said Michael Tooley, diocesan fiscal officer.

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese is also assisted through extraordinary gifts. Information about gift opportunities to benefit the Priests' Retirement Fund is available from the Development Director of the Diocese, Janice Shoen.

She can be reached at the diocesan offices in Ogdensburg at (315) 393-2920, ext. 330 or through e-mail to jshoen@dioogdensburg.org.

"Your personal generosity to the Christmas collection in your parish will support all retired priests of the diocese and benefit longer term the diocesan and religious priests serving you today," Tooley said

"Your priests, retired and active, will appreciate your support tremendously!" he said.

Bishop LaValley's Schedule

Dec. 15 – 7:00 p.m., Advent Penance Service at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg.

Dec. 19 – 11:00 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

Dec. 21 – 3:00 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence 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

Dec. 15 – Rev. Leon Pierre Cochard, 1915

Dec. 16 – Rev. J. F. McGowen, O.S.A., 1935; Rev. Frederick Cummings Horton, 1975

Dec. 17 – Rev. John O. Senecal, 1980

Dec. 18 – Msgr. Narcisse Lorrain, D.D., 1915; Rev. Laurent Legoff, O.M.I., 1932; Rev. Louis Kopp, M.S.C., 1946; Msgr. Harold J. Skelly, 1980; Rev. George A. Fortaine, 1990

Dec. 20 – Rev. Luke Harney, 1892; Rev. Jean B. A. Barrett, O.M.I., 1955

Dec. 21 – Rev. Charles A. Grady, O.S.A., 1981

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, phone, 315-393-2920, ext. 403

Upcoming programs:
Jan. 27 - St. Mary's School, Canton, 7:30 p.m.

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, Terriane Yanulavich, 7061 Rt. 9, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-0310; Tel. 518-561-3100; Fax 518-561-3003; e-mail: aycsn@westelcom.com

CDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Cara Chapman and Mary Glynn of Seton Catholic Central High School are each recipients of a \$500 scholarship awarded by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Mary Immaculate #479 in Plattsburgh. Pictured are Court Regent Dorothy Perry, Cara Chapman, Court Secretary Dianne Martineau, and Mary Glynn.

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St. John's Church
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PO Box 606
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11225 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. John M. Crable
The Samuel F. Vilas Home
61 Beekman Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Theodore A. Crosby
St. Bernard's Church
10 Church Pond Road
PO Box 23
Lyon Mountain, NY 12952

Rev. Douglas A. Decker
Holy Ghost Parish Center
40 Marion Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Rev. Robert L. Decker
St. Hubert's Church
PO Box 9
Star Lake, NY 13690

Rev. James A. Delbel
St. Mary's Church
86 Church Street
PO Box 368
Champlain, NY 12919

Rev. David DeLuca MSC
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Garvin J. Demarais
St. Mary's of the Lake Church
1202 Cumberland Head Rd.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Richard D. Demers
St. Augustine's Church
3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

Rev. John M. Demo
St. James Minor Church
327 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619

Rev. J. Everett Denesha
Vianney Hall
1425 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Msgr. Lawrence M. Deno
St. James Church
PO Box 117
Cadyville, NY 12918

Rev. Wilfred L. DeRoche
St. Joseph's Manor
215 Thatcher Street Rm 14
Brockton, MA 03302

Rev. John L. Downs
PO Box 178
Raymondville, NY 13678

Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey
St. Peter's Church
114 Cornelia Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Guy F. Edwards
PO Box 757
Dannemora, NY 12929

Rev. Joseph W. Elliott
The Catholic Community of
St. Philip of Jesus and St.
Joseph
P.O. Box 607
Willsboro, NY 12996

Rev. Alfred H. Fish
St. Ann's Church
PO Box 288
St. Regis Falls, NY 12980

Rev. Francis J. Flynn
St. Francis of Assisi Church
1197 State Route 122
PO Box 78
Constable, NY 12926

Rev. Scott D. Fobare
The Catholic Community of
Moriah
12 St. Patrick Place
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Rev. Vincent Freeh MSC
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. J. Michael Gaffney
St. Mary & St. Joseph
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PO Box 609
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PO Box 208
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Rev. Harry E. Giroux
St. Joseph's Home
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Joseph W. Giroux
Malone Catholic Parishes
306 West Main Street
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Roland G. Gonyo
St. Joseph's Home
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. L. William Gordon
12 Willow Beach
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Stephen H. Gratto
St. Martin's Church
Box 431
Port Leyden, NY 13433

Rev. Rolland A. Hart
224 Stone Hill Road
Williston, VT 05495

Rev. Albert J. Hauser
The Catholic Community of
Morristown, Hammond, and
Rossie
PO Box 216
Morristown, NY 13664

Rev. Peter G. Helfrich
10 Knoll Brook Road Apt. 3
Rochester, NY 14610

Rev. Jeffrey A. Hubbard
SS
St. Patrick's Seminary
320 Middlefield Rd.
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Rev. Richard Huber MSC
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
668 Thompson Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Michael Jarecki
PO Box 627
Winchester, NH 03470

Rev. Vicente F. Jazmines
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Daniel T. Keefe
30 Glen Drive Apt. 1
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Paul J. Kelly
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953

**Rev. Richard Kennedy
MSC**
Our Lady of the Sacred
Heart Church
320 West Lynde Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. John P. Kennehan
St. Richard's Church
11223 Schuetz Road
St. Louis, MO 63146

Rev. Thomas E. Kornmeyer
St. Mary's Church
8408 S. Main Street
Evans Mills, NY 13637

Rev. Steve Kovacevich
52 Main Street Apt. 2
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

....with the priests of our diocese

Rev. Donald F. Kramberg
St. Joseph's Church
179 Smith Street
PO Box 418
Dannemora, NY 12929

Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff V.F.
St. Mary's Church
521 James Street
Clayton, NY 13624

Rev. Alan J. Lamica
P.O. Box 727
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Robert O. Lamitie
7 Gordon Pond Lane
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Victor E. Lamore
Holy Ghost Parish Center
40 Marion Street
Tupper Lake, NY 12986

Rev. Kris C. Lauzon
The Catholic Community of
Holy Name & St. Matthew
PO Box 719
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912

Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Diocese of Ogdensburg
PO Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Msgr. Robert L. Lawler PA,
VG**
St. Mary's Church
34 Oak Street
PO Box 187
Waddington, NY 13694

Rev. Paul F. Ledermann
53-885 Avenida Mendoza
LaQuinta, CA 92253

Rev. Clyde A. Lewis
St. Patrick's Church
138 Lake Street
PO Box 217
Rouses Point, NY 12979

Rev. Christopher J. Looby
St. Mary's Church
1347 State Route 11
Brushton, NY 12916

Rev. John J. Looby V.F.
Catholic Community of
Burke and Chateaugay
PO Box 908
Chateaugay, NY 12920

Rev. Douglas J. Lucia
St. Mary's Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

Rev. Shane M. Lynch
St. James Major Church,
Lake Pleasant
PO Box 214
Speculator, NY 12164

Rev. Donald J. Manfred
Church of Sacred Heart
Church
212 Main Street
PO Box 329
Massena, NY 13662

Rev. George F. Maroun
St. James Minor Church
327 West Street
Carthage, NY 13619

Rev. Lawrence E. Marullo
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 382
Constableville, NY 13325

Msgr. C. John McAvoy
51 Willow Way Apt. 19
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy
Vianney Hall
1425 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Howard P. McCasland
Immaculate Heart of Mary
Church
560 State Route 189
Churubusco, NY 12923

Rev. Kevin D. McEwan
St. Bartholomew's Church
189 Park Avenue
PO Box 236
Old Forge, NY 13420

Rev. J. Roger McGuinness
St. Joseph's Church
PO Box 224
West Chazy, NY 12992

Rev. Bernard D. Menard
Malone Catholic Parishes
PO Box 547
Malone, NY 12953

Rev. Gilbert B. Menard
104 Bea's Way Apt. 118
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Rev. Raymond J. Moreau
Sacred Heart Church
27 Church Street
PO Box 459
Chazy, NY 12921

Rev. Joseph A. Morgan
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

Rev. William G. Muench
St. Mary's Church
22 Father Jogues Place
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Rev. Andrew R. Mulvaney
St. Paul's Church
210 LeRay Street
Black River, NY 13612

Rev. Patrick W. Mundy
Mount Savior Monastery
231 Monastery Road
Pine City, NY 14871

Msgr. John R. Murphy
Notre Dame Church
125 Ford Avenue
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Steven M. Murray
Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Simon Obeng
10785 A Chapel Drive
Fort Drum, NY 13602

Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien
Immaculate Conception
Church
119 West Main Street
PO Box 99
Brownville, NY 13615

Rev. Patrick J. O'Reilly
27 Saint Bernard St
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Edward E. Papp
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Terrence Patterson
18 Flow Drive
Potsdam, NY 13676

Msgr. George M. Phillips
St. Joseph's Home
950 Linden Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant
V.F.**
The Catholic Community of
Keeseville
1804 Main Street
Keeseville, NY 12944

Rev. Norman E. Poupore
P.O. Box 824
Pierrepoint Manor, NY 13674

Rev. Sony G. Pulickal V.F.
St. Mary's Church
PO Box 332
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Rev. Patrick A. Ratigan
St. Cecilia's Church
17 Grove Street
Adams, NY 13605

Rev. William G. Reamer
PO Box 240
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. Mark R. Reilly
St. Bernard's Church
27 St. Bernard Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

Rev. Matthias Rendon OFM
10785 A Chapel Drive
Fort Drum, NY 13602

**Rev. Monsignor Peter R.
Riani V.F.**
St. Elizabeth's Church
PO Box 368
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

Rev. Donald A. Robinson
St. Anthony's Church
850 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Stephen Rucker
St. James Church
164 East Main Street
Gouverneur, NY 13642

Rev. Joseph N. Sestito
100 Van Tassal Lane
Rome, NY 13440

Rev. James W. Seymour
St. Raphael's Church
3 Clinton Street
PO Box 377
Heuvelton, NY 13654

Rev. Scott R. Seymour
The Roman CC of St.
Alexander and St. Joseph
PO Box 159
Morrisonville, NY 12962

Rev. Alan D. Shnob
St. Augustine's Church
3035 Main Street
Peru, NY 12972

Rev. F. James Shurtleff
Notre Dame Church
125 Ford Avenue
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. E. John Silver
2705 Sagittarius Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29575

Msgr. Harry K. Snow V.F.
St. Andrew's Church
2 Park Avenue
Norwood, NY 13668

Rev. Bryan D. Stitt
St. Mary's Cathedral
415 Hamilton Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

Rev. Richard S. Sturtz
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
PO Box 368
Schroon Lake, NY 12870

Rev. Raymond J. Wertman
2292 Costa Rican Drive
Apt. 56
Clearwater, FL 33763

Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
Holy Family Church
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. Leo A. Wiley
Church of the Holy Family
129 Winthrop Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Rev. John R. Yonkovic V.F.
St. Agnes Church
169 Hillcrest Avenue
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Rev. Richard P. Zuk
PO Box 1214
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

WASHINGTON LETTER

A delicate and tense balancing act

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)-- It's almost like a three-way tug of war. Should Congress extend the temporary tax cuts in place for nine years, and if so, for whom? How does the nation help those who have borne the brunt of the recession? And isn't there a looming, and growing, deficit?

Weighing taxes, human needs and the deficit

The circus juggler keeping an ax, a chainsaw and a bowling ball in the air would seem to have an easier time of it than lawmakers and public policy advocates trying to figure out what and what not to do, and how far to go with what seems like the likeliest choices.

The president of the U.S. bishops, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, and Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., head of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, weighed in Dec. 7, calling for action on two of those fronts: taxes and human needs.

"The bishops are deeply concerned with the current unemployment numbers, and the church recognizes the need to assist those hit hardest by these economic times," Archbishop Dolan said in a Dec. 7 statement.

Bishop Blaire, in a letter sent that day to members of the Senate, urged expansion of the Refundable Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit as they "encourage work and family life."

"To keep in place tax cuts for more affluent families while ending the tax help for those families in greatest need would be bad policy and unjust," Bishop Blaire said. "In such an economic

climate (as the current one), a promise to raise taxes on no one must include low-income families."

Deficit reduction wasn't on the bishops' agenda. Nor, apparently, was it on the agenda of President Barack Obama and Republican leaders when they worked out a deal in early December to extend the Bush tax cuts for all Americans for two years, extend unemployment benefits for one year, index the alternative minimum tax to inflation, engineer changes in the estate tax, grant a payroll tax holiday, liberalize business expense deductions and tax extenders -- and extend the refundable tax credits sought by the bishops, as well as the college tuition deduction.

The two-year cost of the plan -- if it receives final Congress approval -- is estimated at \$990 billion. The income tax cut extension costs \$359 billion: \$79 billion for the highest-income Americans and \$280 billion for middle-income Americans. The refundable tax credits will cost \$21 billion and extending unemployment benefits will cost \$56 billion.

The deficit appeared to be the least of the concerns at the Dec. 3 kickoff in Washington of the Faith Advocates for Jobs campaign, which seeks to mobilize employed and unemployed Americans in 1,000 churches nationwide to push Congress to, among other things, pass a new stimulus package to create manufacturing jobs, a public jobs program to improve infrastructure and mass transit, and support for state and local governments feeling their own budget crunches to support the social safety net.

"We can't leave the sense that the folks in Washington are fighting this all alone," said Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., at the kickoff. "They cannot and should not walk that path alone. We have great work to do and we're going to fight this battle."

Judy Conti, federal advocacy coordinator for the National Employment Law Project, took aim

at a job drain she saw as preventable. "Outsourcing is greed. Paying people crappy wages, and stealing their wages, is greed," Conti said. "There's a reason greed is one of the seven deadly sins."

Faith Advocates for Jobs allies were not thrilled about the recent focus given deficit reduction. One speaker, Edith Russell, minister of workplace justice for the United Church of Christ and an economist, said two-thirds of the current deficit is directly related to the economic downturn, as tax receipts slack off and more Americans seek help from the government to get by.

Tax cuts didn't rank high on their list, either. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who also spoke at the gathering, said the multiplier effect for a millionaire's tax break is 1.35, but for an unemployed worker with little or no financial cushion, the multiplier effect for unemployment insurance is 1.6.

Jean Sammon, former lobbyist for Network, the Catholic social justice lobby, said: "Even millions are going to get a modest amount of \$6,000 back" if the tax cuts were halted for households making more than \$250,000.

The day after the Faith Advocates for Jobs kickoff, news reports said the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the national unemployment rate rose from 9.6 percent to 9.8 percent. Also, a new jobs report showed employers posted 12 percent more openings in October than September, but overall job openings remained nowhere close to the 4.4 million advertised at the end of 2007, before the economy went into recession.

Whether America's rich will get \$6,000 or more under extended tax cuts was still open to question as Democrats in both the House and the Senate deplored the deal Obama made with Senate Republicans, threatening to block action on the deal before the Senate's scheduled adjournment Dec. 17.

WikiLeaks notes Vatican position on climate change

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Vatican was committed to getting countries aligned with the Copenhagen Accord on climate change, according to the first Vatican cable to appear on the WikiLeaks website.

The confidential cable claimed a Vatican official at the Secretariat of State would support U.S. government "efforts to have countries associate themselves with the Copenhagen Accord by the January 31 deadline" as well

as "encourage other countries discreetly to associate themselves with the Accord as opportunities arise."

The cable, dated Jan. 21, 2010, came from the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican and was sent to the U.S. government's Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science.

It was one of more than 250,000 alleged diplomatic cables that WikiLeaks said it would be releasing over the coming months. Sources in Rome said 850 documents concern communications between the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican.

The cable, titled "'Green' pope supports US path forward from Copenhagen," was based in part on discussions an embassy official had with Paolo Conversi, a Vatican official at the Secretariat of State, and with U.S. Msgr. James Reinert of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

The one-page document made no mention of Pope Benedict XVI's Jan. 11 speech to diplomats in which he was critical of the lack of real commitment to mitigating climate change.

In a lengthy speech, he told ambassadors that have

diplomatic relations with the Vatican, including U.S. Ambassador Miguel Diaz, that he shared "the growing concern caused by economic and political resistance to combating the degradation of the environment."

He said the problem was evident during the U.N. summit on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009. The U.N. Copenhagen conference ended with an agreement on some objectives but failed to reach a comprehensive, binding accord on reducing global emissions.

The pope said he hoped

that follow-up conferences in 2010 would lead to effective international policies for protecting the environment because "the very future of some nations is at stake, particularly some island states."

The cable simply mentioned that Conversi "was pleased overall with the process leading to Copenhagen and with the conference itself. He said expectations were too high before the event," according to the cable. When contacted by CNS Dec. 9, Conversi said he had not yet read the cable and could offer no comment about its accuracy.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Religious leaders commit to protect marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan joined 25 other religious leaders in renewing their commitment to protect traditional marriage as oral arguments were to begin in an appeal of a California judge's ruling that a voter-approved initiative to define marriage as between one man and one woman was unconstitutional. The commitment came Dec. 6 in a three-paragraph letter signed by Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, evangelical, Lutheran, Mormon, Orthodox and Sikh leaders. Arguments were to begin the same day in the case involving California's Proposition 8, which Judge Vaughn Walker, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, ruled to be unconstitutional Aug. 4. The judge based his decision in part on the claim by opponents of the initiative that defining marriage as between a man and a woman lacked any rational basis and reflected only religion-based hostility to homosexual people. Walker then ruled Aug. 12 that same-sex marriages in California could resume unless a higher court were to issue a stay within six days. On Aug. 16, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued the stay to prevent the state from conducting same-sex marriages while the appeal of Walker's ruling was under way. Proposition 8 was approved by voters by a margin of 52 percent to 48 percent in the November 2008 election. In overriding a May 2008 California Supreme Court ruling that enlarged the definition of state-sanctioned marriage to include all couples, the initiative defined state-sanctioned marriage as limited to a man and a woman.

Year brings health care reform law and a 'wound to church's unity'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- 2010 will be known in many circles as the year of health reform. Among Catholics, it might also be known as the year that caused, as Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George said in his final talk as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, a "wound to the church's unity." Leaders of the USCCB clashed with the head of the Catholic Health Association and the superiors of many U.S. orders of women religious over whether the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the executive order signed by President Barack Obama would permit the federal funding of abortion, force some people to pay for the abortions of others through their health insurance or violate the conscience rights of Catholic health providers and institutions. Proponents of both views remain convinced that their stand was the right one. In a Nov. 15 address to his fellow bishops, 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. In a Nov. 23 talk at the University of San Francisco, Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, said that although the health reform legislation was "not necessarily a perfect" law, she was convinced it would not fund abortion. "As far as I was concerned, if I knew in my heart that it did not fund abortion, I could not do anything but stand up for the passage of that bill for the 32 million uninsured people expected to receive health insurance through the reforms, she said.

Missal approved in 2010; implementation in 2011

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - A year from now, the liturgical celebrations of the Advent and Christmas seasons will have a different sound, as the new English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal begins being used in U.S. parishes.

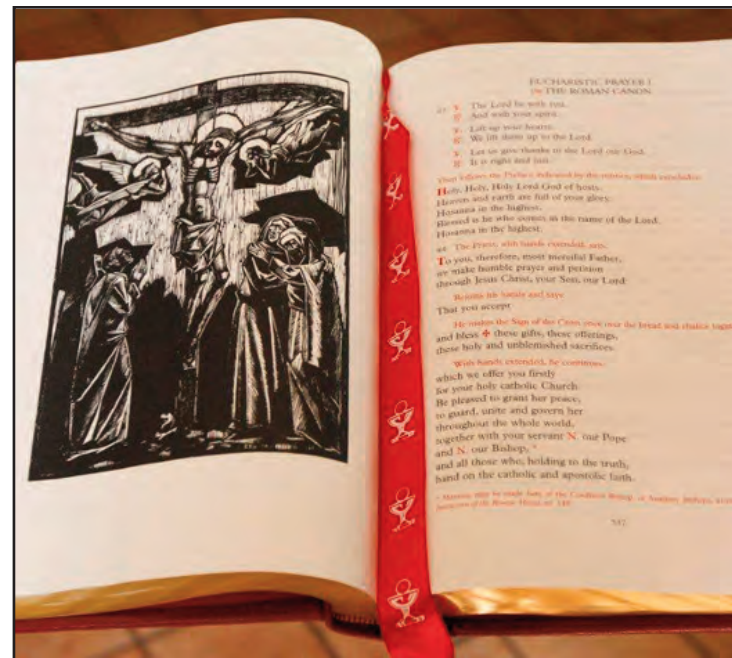
Year in review: The new Roman missal

In a decree of proclamation sent to the U.S. bishops in August, Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, then president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said: "The use of the third edition of the Roman Missal enters into use in the dioceses of the United States of America as of the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011. From that date forward, no other edition of the Roman Missal may be used in the dioceses of the United States of America."

The transition to the new translation took up most of the past decade and has not been without its rough patches, with some bishops, priests and laypeople criticizing changes in wording meant to bring the translation more closely into alignment with the Latin original.

But Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., who, as chairman of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship for the past three years, shepherded the missal through its final approval by the Vatican in 2010, said just before stepping down as chairman that catechetical preparation to implement the new translation was proceeding in U.S. parishes "with much enthusiasm and wide acceptance by both clergy and laity."

Announced by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and first published in Latin in 2002, the missal is the book of prayers



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

The new English translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal is seen in Rome April 29. Announced by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and first published in Latin in 2002, the missal underwent a lengthy translation process and received final approval by the Vatican in 2010 for use beginning Nov. 27, 2011.

used in the worship in the Latin-rite church. It underwent a lengthy and rigorous translation process through the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, followed by sometimes heated discussions over particular wording at USCCB meetings until it received final approval from the U.S. bishops in November 2009.

Other English-speaking bishops' conferences went through a similar process and submitted recommended changes to the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

People attending Pope Benedict XVI's Masses in Scotland and England in September got a chance to hear and sing a few of the newly translated Mass texts.

Msgr. Guido Marini, papal master of liturgical ceremonies, said the prayers sung in English at the papal Masses in Great Britain used the translations from the new Order of the Mass approved by the Vatican in 2008.

Although the new translation of the Order of the Mass, which contains the main prayers used at Mass, was approved by the Vatican two years ago, bishops' conferences in English-speaking countries decided to wait to introduce the prayers until the entire Roman Missal was translated and approved.

U.S. church leaders hope that clergy and lay Catholics are getting ready for the new translation with resources prepared by the bishops' Secretariat for Divine Worship and the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions.

A variety of resources are available for priests, parish groups and individual Catholics through the bishops' website at www.usccb.org/roman-missal.

"Cards and other participation aids containing the responses of the people will be available for use during the transition, but it is hoped that within a year's time (after the Nov. 27, 2011, introduction) the people will become freed from the use of such cards."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Soon and very soon, the Saviour is born!

If ever we needed to interrupt the flurry and confusion of Christmas preparations and just stop and listen to the Scripture readings, it will be found in this Fourth Sunday.

It's about a promise God made to a weak Jewish king twenty-seven hundred years ago through the prophet Isaiah.

Azah wanted a sign. Even though Ahaz wasn't

interested, God let the news out anyway.

God will one day send a Child, born of a virgin, and His name will be God-With-Us—Emmanuel.

King Ahaz wouldn't listen. He trusted more in the armies of his "ally", Assyria, than in God's power.

And so the people of Judea were driven from their city as slaves of Babylon.

St. Matthew, in today's Gospel, repeats this Emmanuel Prophecy, and gives us the details.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

God has never had much luck with kings and emperors, so He entrusts His Son to a humble couple, Mary and her fiancée, Joseph.

This just young man, already highly disturbed that Mary is pregnant, finds out in a dream that God Himself has placed this child in Mary's womb, and that he is to bring Mary into his home as his wife.

In just the Infancy Narrative, Matthew lets us know that five other Old Testament prophets speak of the Incarnation.

In all, Matthew quotes twelve fulfillment prophe-

DEC. 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:17

Matthew 1:18-24

cies. We're ready now for the Christmas readings, when we will know the rest of the story.

Every day following the Fourth Sunday, we need to prepare for Jesus' birth in us and in our daily living out of our belief that God has come among us. T

here doesn't seem to be much we can do about the way our world ignores the meaning of Christmas.

But we can let it make a difference.

We can "love and obey" as Mary and Joseph did, and to let God speak to us in prayer.

There He will show us what He wants us to do about His birth.

For us, there is only one appropriate response - to let the joy of the day find root in our souls in the glow of warm and silent prayer. SOON AND VERY SOON, THE SAVIOUR IS BORN!

VATICAN CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

The Vatican's Christmas tree is erected in St. Peter's Square Dec. 3. The tree is from the northern Italian province of Bolzano, is more than 100 feet tall and grew for 94 years.

YOUR FAMILY

A caregiver's Christmas

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

If you are a caregiver, take comfort that - it seems safe to assume - the first Christmas didn't go exactly the way St. Joseph had planned either. He had to face more than a few caregiving challenges and concerns.

Your plans, your hopes for Christmas 2010 may not work out. But, like that first Christmas, this year's holy day can be very, very precious because, like Joseph and Mary, as a caregiver, you've said "yes" to God's will. What our heavenly Father has asked of you is to help his beloved child: your spouse, an aging parent, another elderly family member, a special-needs child or sibling.

It may be that you're new to caregiving. It may be that you've been at this for more than a little while, but changes in your loved one's condition have meant changes in your responsibilities, your worries and your fears.

No two Christmases are the same, but this year's might seem particularly

overwhelming. You and your loved one can't celebrate the way you had in the past. Harder still, you each realize this could very well be the last Christmas you celebrate together.

Here are some suggestions for enjoying the Christmas before you:

* Try to focus on this Christmas and avoid worrying about what next Christmas might be like. You don't want your fears of next year to crowd out your appreciation of this year's blessings.

* Realize that this Christmas isn't going to be perfect. There never has been one of those. (Just ask St. Joseph!)

* Remember that it is OK to think small.

Maybe this isn't the year for a tree, but a nice wreath or swag will do.

Maybe you can't string lights outside, but putting up a few along the inside of a window will add cheer.

Maybe you can't host the big meal or prepare your special treats, but ...

You get the idea. (If you have wanted to simplify all of that holiday hoopla, here's your chance!)

* Put up only some of the

decorations from years gone by and spend time together reminiscing.

* Help your loved one shop, even if he or she can't get out.

Maybe you can be Santa's little helper and hit the mall with his or her list of gifts for others.

Maybe the two of you can do the shopping online together.

* If your loved one can't get to Mass, see about having an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist bring Communion to your home. Find out about any Masses being broadcast on television.

* Realize that the best gift you can give this year is your time and love. And the best you can receive is the same from the person you are caring for.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine. Their website is www.FSJC.org; contact, MonicaDodds@YourAging-Parent.com. For a free copy of "The Little Book of Caregiver Prayers," call 1-800-392-JOHN (5646).

AT THE MOVIES

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

"We have nothing if not belief," says a character in "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader" (Fox).

And, indeed, with its youthful protagonists confronting forces of darkness both within themselves and around them, this screen version of the third in C.S. Lewis' classic series of Christian-themed allegorical novels - a mix of live action and animation - keeps the need for faith front and center.

A murky backstory and slightly sketchy plot, though, make director Michael Apted's addition to the franchise - which began with 2005's "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," and continued with "Prince Caspian" in 2008 - somewhat less impressive dramatically than thematically.

The opening scenes, set in World War II-era Britain, find brother and sister Edmund and Lucy Pevensie (Skandar Keynes and Georgie Henley) - two of the four original human visitors to Narnia - lodging with relatives, including their obnoxious, cynical cousin, Eustace Scrubb (Will Poulter).

Resentful at having to share his room with Edmund, Eustace, as the facts-only embodiment of modern rationalism, also sneers at his cousins' tales



CNS PHOTO/FOX

A lion named Aslan, voiced by Catholic actor Liam Neeson, Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes and Ben Barnes are seen in the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader."

of travel to a magical kingdom. So it comes as a surprise when a seascape painting hanging on the wall suddenly floods the boys' bedroom, and the tide carries all three children off to Narnia's Eastern Sea.

Saved from drowning by their old friend, Caspian (Ben Barnes), now the king of Narnia, the siblings are delighted to be reunited with him aboard the "Dawn Treader," pride of the kingdom's fleet.

They've arrived at an opportune time, since Caspian is in the midst of a quest to vanquish a menacing mani-

festation of evil that takes the form of a green mist capable of making its victims disappear.

It's here that the exposition in Christopher Markus, Stephen McFeely and Michael Petroni's script begins to feel a little burdensome.

Suffice it to say that the siblings - and, more reluctantly, their traveling companion - agree to join Caspian on his mission.

This eventually requires them to bring together at the table of the noble lion Aslan (voice of Liam Neeson) -- Narnia's spiritual lord

During the adventures that ensue, Edmund and Lucy battle temptations ranging from vanity and envy to ambition, greed and cowardice.

Meanwhile, helped along by the wisdom of one of Caspian's sidekicks, plucky warrior mouse Reepicheep (voice of Simon Pegg), Eustace endures an unwellcome physical transformation which ultimately leads him down the path toward a far more positive spiritual conversion.

Richly cargoed with Gospel-based moral lessons and Christian overtones, this swashbuckling sequel, despite its occasionally rocky progress through the waves, bears viewers on an enjoyable, and mostly kid-friendly, voyage.

The film contains considerable peril and bloodless violence and a couple of mild bathroom jokes.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

whose redeeming death and resurrection are recounted in Lewis' first volume and in the first film -- seven magical swords empowered to protect the land from harm.

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CLINTON

PRAYER VIGIL

Plattsburgh – A prayer vigil will held the first Sunday of the winter months.

Place: St. Peter's Chapel

Time: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Features: Helper's of Gods Precious Infants prayer vigil will be held. We may not be able to save their lives, but can we not plead on their behalf?

40 DAYS FOR LIFE IN 2011

Plattsburgh – Please mark your calendars for Spring 2011 40 days for life! Ash Wednesday, March 9 to Palm Sunday, April 17.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE SERIES

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish Will hold Little Rock Scripture Series, The Acts of the Apostles.

Date: Beginning Jan. 4, continuing every Tuesday until March 1.

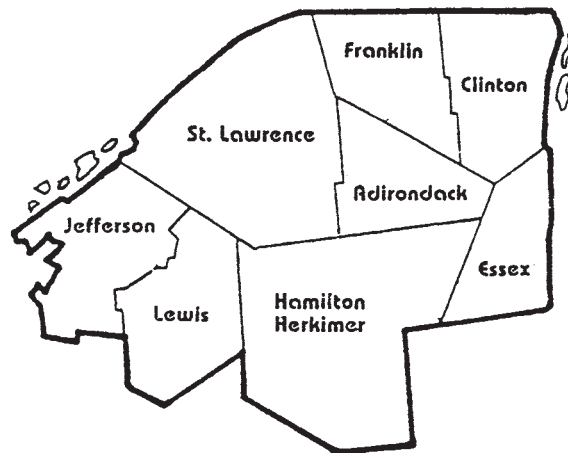
Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Chapel

Features: The excitement of Pentecost enlivens the early believers in their struggles to establish communities of faith—struggles surprisingly like those today. You will meet two of the early Church's most significant leaders in the persons of Peter and Paul. Every study is unique and you do not have to have completed any previous study to join in.

Cost: \$10

Contact: To sign-up, call the Parish Office at 563-1692 or fill out a registration form in the atrium.



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.

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: "The inconceivable miracle of Your mercy takes place, O Lord. The Word becomes flesh; God dwells among us, the Word of God, Mercy Incarnate" (St. Faustina, Divine Mercy in My Soul, 1745).
 O Come let us Adore Him—A Birthday gift for Jesus! Everyone is invited to spend some quiet time with Jesus any-time during these hours.

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

ESSEX

PEACEFUL HOUR

Westport – St. Philip Neri Catholic Church will be the site of a peaceful hour in preparation for Christmas.

Date: Dec. 19

Time: 7 p.m.

Features: Martha Gallagher, the Adirondack Harper will present A Quiet Celebration. This beautiful program is a contemplative presentation with song,

Scripture and spoken word.

Price: Thanks to an unnamed benefactor, there is no admission charge at St. Philip Neri although a free-will offering may be made.

; children under 12, \$4; under 5, free

JEFFERSON

LIFERIGHT MEETING

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

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

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

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

TO SHRINES OF FRANCE

Watertown – Father Donald Robinson, is leading a pilgrimage to shrines in France

Date: March 21-31, 2011

Cost: \$2349 includes airfare, accommodations, and most meals

Features: Visit Lourdes, Nevers, Tours, Loire Valley, Chartres, Mont St. Michel, Normandy, Caen, Lisieux, and Paris.

Contact: Call 782-1190.

ST. LAWRENCE

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: Music Director, Ernie Hadley, 393-3930

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

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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

A Child of Peace gives hope to suffering poor

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

For the two-thirds of the world's population in the Missions, Christmas Day is like any other day – filled with hunger, life-threatening illnesses, war, great suffering.

In Sudan, where the children have known nothing but war and mass-killings, thousands die every day of preventable or curable diseases or as a result of violence suffered during attacks on villages or camps. Salesian Sister Teresa gives the orphaned children food, shelter and clothing. However, her greatest gift to them is her loving service, a witness to the love that Jesus has for each child. Sister Teresa says, "They may not have peace in their surroundings, but I want to try to give them peace in their hearts. I tell them of an infant, much like themselves, whose family was forced to flee with His parents from their hometown."

In Gulu in northern Uganda, 69 percent of the deaths are connected to HIV/AIDS – three times more than the number who have perished in the fighting that has gone on for 18 years. At St. Mary's Hospital in Gulu, health care is provided for the poorest of the poor. The Sisters who run the hospital say that nearly 64 percent of the patients at the hospital and at health care centers are children under the age of six. In the past 15 years, the Sisters have treated an extraordinary 2.5 million patients.

A retired archbishop in Indonesia has witnessed the joy of the newly baptized. "Indescribable joy and happiness was the joy and happiness on the faces of the newly baptized, but also in the hearts of the missionaries who saw their work rewarded by the strength of the Holy Spirit," said Archbishop Jacobus Duivenvoorde, MSC of Merauke, Indonesia, speaking about the baptism of a class of Sunday school children. "The children," he continued, "gather for catechetical instruction, but also have other needs fulfilled. They are fed, clothed and given medical check-ups."

This Christmas, won't you give a gift, through the Propagation of the Faith, so that Sisters in Sudan and Uganda, and catechists in Indonesia, and so many throughout the Missions may continue to reach out with the love of Christ to young and old? By supporting their work and witness you will, in fact, be making a difference for the suffering poor of the Missions, offering them the hope-filled "Good News" proclaimed by the angel that first Christmas, "a savior has been born for you."

Visit www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice
Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith"
when writing or changing your Will.

OBITUARIES

Altona – Bertha V. (Barnaby) Rabideau, 98; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2010 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Constableville – Ann V. (Skorupa) Dowling; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2010 at St. Mary's Church.

Crown Point – Thomas R. Dorsett, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2010 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Parish Cemetery.

Cumberland Head – John F. Neyenhouse, 91; Memorial Services Dec. 9, 2010 at St. Mary's of the Lake Church.

Ellenburg – Rita (Seguin) Parrott, 91; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2010 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery.

Evans Mills – Tristen Nicholas Jacobsen, 22 months; Funeral Services Dec. 11, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Margaret A. (Hart) Fowler, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 10, 2010 at Green Funeral Home; burial in Oxbow Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Harry "Muzz" McDonald, 57; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2010 at St. Regis Catholic Church.

Houseville – Frances M. (Zubrzycki) Butula, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 10, 2010 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Lyle E. DeLong, 66; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2010 at Uihlein Mercy Center; burial in DeLong Family Memorial Garden.

Lake Placid – Gilbert L. Martin, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2010 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Jennifer L. (Tarszowicz) Miller, 34; Funeral Services Dec. 11, 2010 at

Iseneker Funeral Home, Inc.

Malone – Patricia E. Lane, 49; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2010 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena – Alice M. (Mousseau) Hazel, 94; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2010 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Clarence R. Forkey, 80; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2010 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville – Theresa "Tessie" Mae (Relation) Rabideau, 83; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2010 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

North Bangor – Ray Tripany, 93; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

North Bangor – Linda Tuttle, 71; Funeral Services Nov. 27, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

North Lawrence – Robert Henry Stevens, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2010 at St. Lawrence Church.

Norwood – Emmaline L. (LaBarge) Schiavone, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2010 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Rural Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Marion R. "Marney" Frisina, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 10 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Mary "Theresa" Mac-

Martin, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2010 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Clyde J. Cook, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2010 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – Ronald Joseph Fountain, 66; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2010 at St. Augustine's Cemetery Chapel; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Mary Mulcahy Branon, 96; Funeral Dec. 9, 2010 at St. John's Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Robert E. "Bob" Egan Sr., 89; Funeral Services Dec. 11, 2010 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Potsdam – Nicholas William Rockefeller, infant; Funeral Services Dec. 10, 2010 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Redford – Lynn Edward Strack, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 10, 2010 at Church of the Assumption.

Sackets Harbor – Mary Ellen (Losen) Powers, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 9, 2010 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Sciota – Charles A. Sellin, 92; Funeral Dec. 19, 2010 at St. Louis de France; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Watertown – Nicholina (Valentino) Horbacz, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 10 at Cleveland Funeral Home; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

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YOUNG FAITH



Thirty-one young people from St. Francis Christian Formation program in Croghan took part in the program's 18th annual Up+Word Retreat held Nov. 13-14 at Beaver Camp. Shown taking part in one of the challenges, designed to help the youth meet personal goals through team building activities, are David Merry, Hailie Lehman, Mikayla Kuhl, Marissa Halko, Caitlin Lashbrooks, Melody Tabolt, Elizabeth Harrison, Genevieve Fidler, Shawna Ritz and Tom Schneeberger, director of the Christian Formation program.



Joey Harrison, Cordel Brouty, Clare Wooschlager, Mariah Abel, Macey Halko and Mackenzie Meyer participate in the team-building "Challenge Course."

Up+Word Retreat: continuing the tradition since '92

By Tom Schneeberger

Director, St. Francis Christian Formation Program in Croghan

CROGHAN - The year was 1992 and one of our teens just had an awesome experience at a middle school retreat in Watertown. Upon his return, the very next day, he asked and challenged us with the plan to animate our own "Up+Word."

We are proud of the fact that 18 years later, the experience continues with great success.

The weekend of Nov. 13 and 14, we gathered 18 middle school youth, 13 high school youth as a team along with six adults at Beaver Camp.

Our Up+Word retreat has always been about:

- The team-building adventure of the "Challenge Course"
- Meeting personal goals;
- Celebrating Eucharist meaningfully;
- To become a community of youth, playfully and prayerfully.

The success all these many years is directly linked to parents who are attentive to their children's total faith formation, to supportive parishioners and also to a young adult team committed to sharing and engaging youth in a "Positive Experience of Church."



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