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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT. 3, 2012

## God's word comes first

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In everyday life, people are told that it's best to think before they speak, but in worship, speaking God's word should come before reflection, said Pope Benedict XVI.

"The first requirement for a good liturgical celebration is that there be prayer and a conversation with God, first and foremost listening and

then response," he said. The pope spoke Sept. 26 at his weekly public audience. The talk was the latest in his series on prayer, focusing this week on the liturgy.

Because Christ is always present in his church, the pope said, quoting Blessed John Paul II, "the liturgy is the privileged place for the encounter of Christians with

God and the one whom he has sent, Jesus Christ. The liturgy reminds us of the primacy of God," he said, so a fundamental feature must be "its orientation toward the father, whose saving love culminates in the death and resurrection of his son."

The people of God must direct their hearts and minds the same way, participating

with a prayerful, reflective attitude so as to hear God's word and conform their lives more closely to Christ, he said.

Every sacramental celebration represents God's children coming together with their father in Christ and the Holy Spirit in a meeting of dialogue "through actions and words," Pope Benedict said.

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### St. Hedwig's marks 85th



PHOTO BY MICHELLE BEAGLE  
Angelica DeGuardia presented Bishop LaValley with salt directly from salt mines in Poland as part of the Offertory procession at the Sept. 23 anniversary Mass at St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville. The church was built in 1927 by Polish families who had settled in Lewis County.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Respect Life Month has begun

October is Respect Life Month.

The Respect Life Program's theme for 2012-13 is: "Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty."

Pro-lifers in the Diocese of Ogdensburg will observe the month with Lifechains across the North Country on Respect Life Sunday Oct. 7.

Other pro-life features in this week's NCC focus on support for marriage and family life, protection of the environment and a Catholic's obligation for "faithful citizenship."

FEATURES, PAGES 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 12, 16

## Looking back at Vatican II

Father Muench reflects on the powerful experience of facing the people at Mass for the first time  
FULL STORY, PAGE 2

## YEAR OF FAITH TEAM



PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN

Bill and Molly Amoriell of Colton and Gayle Frank of Clayton were part of the team leading the three Year of Faith parish workshops held Sept. 22 in Plattsburgh, Sept. 26 in Tupper Lake and Sept. 28 in Watertown. About 150 participants were offered information on resources and given time to share ideas to prepare for the year. Pope Benedict will open the Year of Faith Oct. 11; the official diocesan opening will take place Nov. 18 with a Witnesses of Faith celebration at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**YCV:** A respect life reflection from a 'Citizen of Heaven,' p. 16

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Pro-life patron saint

She may not be canonized yet, but I still consider Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta to be the patron saint of the pro-life movement.

And it's not just because, as she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, that she singled out abortion as "the greatest destroyer of peace in the world."

To a biographer she explained, "if we are allowed to kill the baby in our womb, who will keep us from killing each other?"

Yes, we appreciate her words against abortion, but too often, those who support an end for abortion are criticized for caring more about people before they are born than after.

Mother Teresa countered that charge every single day of her life.

For over 45 years, she ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying, while guiding the expansion of her religious order, the Missionaries of Charity.

Members of the order must adhere to the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, and the fourth vow, to give "wholehearted and free service to the poorest of the poor."

Mother Teresa's sisters operate hospices and homes for people with HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis, soup kitchens, children's and family counselling program, orphanages and schools.

So, it's appropriate I think, to

begin our own observance of Respect Life Month 2102 with words of wisdom from the woman who said:

*"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."*

AND

*"At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in."*

AND:

*People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.*

*If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.*

*If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.*

*For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."*

It's always a good idea to listen to Mother!

Mary Lou  
Kilian

## Facing the people at Mass

Again, I want to look back with you on the wonderful achievements of the Second Vatican Council and its profound effect on me as a young priest. The Second Vatican Council began its deliberations 50 years ago this month.

The very first document promulgated by the Second Vatican Council was The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, sent out to the world Dec. 4, 1963. Last week, I mentioned how this document led to the use of the vernacular in the liturgy of our Catholic Church – the Mass in English for us.

The document recognized the importance of the Sacred Liturgy in the life of the Catholic Church. The Council Fathers challenged the Church – "Pastors of souls must, therefore, realize that, when liturgy is celebrated, something more is required than the laws governing valid and lawful celebration. It is their duty also to ensure that the faithful take part fully aware of what they are doing, actively engaged in the rite and enriched by it." (14)

This led to another change for the priest at Mass – the priest would celebrate the Mass facing the people, standing at an altar of sacrifice. For most of you, this is the only way you have participated in Mass. However, at that time, it was a rather spectacular change.

I do want you to realize how important this change was. I remember well - before the Council – that I stood at the high altar facing the tabernacle and the crucifix with my back to the people, wondering just what they were doing back there. The symbol was nice – the prayers of the people going through the priest to God.

Yet, when I stood facing the people of the congregation for the first time, I realized how special and important the people were to me as the celebrant of the Mass. As the chosen prayer leader by my ordination, part of my task is to unite all the people with me as family as I look out on them. I am there to invite them to join with me in this Eucharist. This is not my Mass; all of us are doing Eucharist together, praying together and uniting with Our Lord and Savior. The people are no longer spectators

A friend, a priest-theologian, pointed out to me that this change challenged the priest to realize just who he is. The Church was leading the priest to understand that he was not part of some sort of isolated or elevated class. The priest, especially at Eucharist, is the Good Shepherd, – leading the community, his family, in worship and prayer – one people joined at the altar of the Lord – so that all of us are ready to accept the challenge of the Lord to go forth and make the world a better place today.

I must tell you about the first day that I – joined with several parishioners – prepared the sanctuary for Mass facing the people for the first time. It was Friday afternoon before the official Sunday start. I was assigned in those days to St. Mary's Parish in Massena and we had commissioned a local carpenter to build a special altar of sacrifice. As we were setting up that altar that afternoon, I must admit I was excited. I also remember that there was a Friday evening Mass scheduled that day and Monsignor Leary, the pastor, said to me, "Bill, I'm going to use the new way today." He couldn't wait. He wanted to be the first – a little ahead of time – to offer Mass facing the people.

It has been pointed out to me that these changes to the Sacred Liturgy showed a connection with the ordinary sharing of festive meals at home. The Eucharist is for us Catholics the center and summit of the Church's life which means that summit of our own life, the action from which all grace and blessing flow. Without the Eucharist, there is no living Church.

The Eucharist is the heart and soul of our faith – the faith of the priests, the faith of the people, the faith of all of us.

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# October is Respect Life Month

Pro-lifers from across the Diocese will open Respect Life month with Lifechains scheduled Sunday in Saranac Lake, Plattsburgh, Willsboro, Potsdam and Massena.

## Catholics in the North Country to offer a prayerful pro-life presence in their communities

The Lifechains offer a "peaceful, prayerful, pro-life presence" on Respect Life Sunday. (Details about each of the gatherings appear in this week's Around the Diocese section of the *NCC* on pages 14 and 16)

The first day of October will also be the first day of registration for three youth buses traveling from the diocese to the 40th March for Life in Washington, D.C., in January.

Complete information about the trip is available on the diocesan respect life webpage [www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life).

On a national level, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Gelveston-Houston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), addressed various threats to human life and the need to apply principles of faith and morals in the public square

Catholics should "renew their personal commitment to defend all human life, especially the most vulnerable members of the human family," he said in a statement marking Respect Life Month, October 2012.

"By our unflinching defense of human life and religious freedom, by our witness to the transcendent nature of the human person, and by our compassionate service to our brothers and sisters in need, may we spark a renewal of love and commitment to the true good of others," Cardinal DiNardo said. "Only a love that seeks to serve those most in need, whatever the personal cost

to us, is strong enough to overcome a culture of death and build a civilization worthy of human beings made in God's image."

The Respect Life Program's theme for 2012-13 is: "Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty." As Pope Benedict XVI said during his recent apostolic visit to Lebanon, "The grandeur and the raison d'être of each person are found in God alone."

Cardinal DiNardo highlighted the importance of the 2012-13 Respect Life Program during the Year of Faith called for by Pope Benedict and quoted the pope in Lebanon: "If we want peace, let us defend life! This approach leads us to reject not only war and terrorism, but every assault on innocent human life, on men and women as creatures willed by God. ... We must combine our efforts, then, to develop a sound vision of...the human person. Without this, it is impossible to build true peace."

"These links among faith, the inherent dignity and rights of human beings, and a just and peaceful society were also understood by America's Founding Fathers," said Cardinal DiNardo. "How can people coexist, much less flourish, in a society lacking the shared belief that we are called to care for those unable to care for themselves, not to neglect, abuse or kill them? Such basic moral principles have served civilization well for millennia. Yet in recent decades, many people who influence public policy have promoted various exceptions to these principles."

Cardinal DiNardo cited several issues, including the staggering loss of life and consequent need for healing after involvement in abortion, the death of "extra" embryos and the "selective reduction" of children in utero during fertility procedures, continued promotion of embryo-destructive stem cell research, and euthanasia

of the young and old alike. He also cited the erosion of family and community bonds in the four decades since *Roe v. Wade* and the more recent erosion of re-

spect for conscience rights, especially under the HHS mandate requiring even Catholic individuals and institutions to purchase insurance coverage for morally

objectionable drugs and procedures.

Begun in 1972, the Respect Life Program stresses the value and dignity of human life.



FAITH OPENS OUR EYES TO HUMAN LIFE  
IN ALL ITS GRANDEUR AND BEAUTY



RESPECT LIFE

"Nothing we do to defend the human person, no matter how small, is ever unfruitful or forgotten. Our actions touch other lives and move other hearts in ways we can never fully understand in this world."

~Archbishop of Philadelphia, Charles Chaput, April 2011

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PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BEAGLE

Scenes from the Sept. 23 celebration of the 85th anniversary of St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville: At left are parishioners Mary Gothe and Jean Marie Demko at the parish dinner following the Mass; center, Genevieve

Jarecki Seelman and Helen Smyka Niezbotowski who shared their reflections about the early years of the church in this article and, right, Bishop LaValley who presided at the anniversary Mass. The church was built in 1927 by Polish families who settled in Lewis County.

## Polish traditions mark St. Hedwig's anniversary

By Michelle Beagle  
Staff writer

HOUSEVILLE - Eighty-five years ago a cornerstone was laid for a little church in Lewis County. St. Hedwig's Church became a reality through the sweat and brawn of the Polish from Tug Hill and surrounding areas.

Many Polish people had settled in Lewis County from the Pennsylvania coal mines looking for a new beginning. The Polish parish was actually founded in 1922 with 800 members. With the approval of Bishop H. Conroy, they decided to build a church and purchased land in Houseville, the central point of the county.

The church was erected in 1927 and named St. Hedwig's in honor of 13th century Queen Jadwiga (Hedwig) of Poland. St. Hedwig was beatified in 1987 and canonized in 1997 by Pope John Paul II, however the Poles regarded her as a saint long before she was canonized.

The founding fathers of the parish were Jan Dalkiewicz, Winc. Dapkiewicz, Jan Gawlik, Jozef

Lapkowski, Jozef Paczkowski, Andrzej Tarasek and Konstanty Zychowski. Many of their descendents are still members of the parish.

The men of the parish and the teens all pitched in to construct the church, using horses and digging the basement out with a big scoop. It was through their hard efforts that St. Hedwig's became a reality.

At that time, funds were unavailable for a proper rectory so Conventual Franciscan Father Damian Wydro boarded with the Matula family at their farm house until April 1937. Father Wydro and the parishioners were then able to construct a rectory. The building was actually was a home purchased from the neighboring town of Glenfield and brought piece by piece up the hill and reassembled.

In 1951, stained glass windows were installed replacing the original sash windows. These stained glass windows adorn the church today and were purchased by various families of the parish. 1952 saw the church pews and altars refin-

ished. The existing hand-carved wooden altar was obtained from Transfiguration Church historically Polish Catholic Church in Rome, N.Y.

Until 1991 the Polish Order of Franciscans of Ellicott City, Md., supplied a Franciscan priest to run the day to day activities of the parish and provide spiritual guidance.

In 1991, St. Hedwig's became a mission of St. Peter's Church in Lowville and the rectory was sold to a private individual.

### Anniversary celebration

On Sept. 23, Bishop Terry R. LaValley gathered with descendants of the founders, parish members past and present and guests to celebrate St. Hedwig's 85 years as an active parish.

The bishop was joined on the altar by Father Christopher Carrara, pastor of Lowville, Glenfield and Houseville; Franciscan Father Innocent Kurkowski, former pastor; Deacons James Chaufy and Ronald Pom-inville and altar servers Matthew Hulbert and Keegan Poste.

The church was adorned

with bouquets of red and white flowers. The women of the Sodality and the children dressed in traditional Polish customs.

The children's outfits came directly from Poland while the vests the ladies wore had been made by Franciscan Father Paschal Rys, former pastor, with the assistance of some of the women.

William Paczkowski, whose grandfather was one of the founding fathers, read from the scriptures

The children in costume and procession were Courtney D'Ambrosi, Courtney Ebersol, Angelica and Dominick DeGuardia, Brianna Finn, Carleigh Szalach and Megan Ebersol.

Along with the bread and wine, they presented gifts of red roses, bread and salt to the bishop. These gifts are a Polish (Slavic), Eastern European hospitality greeting.

Bishop LaValley's homily focused on faith, family and trust, a fitting message to the Polish congregation. St. Faustina, a Polish saint was given the Divine Mercy message from our Lord to share with all; "Jezu Ufam Tobie - Jesus, I Trust in You."

Bishop LaValley also commented on the importance of family and how pleased he was to see the young children and family groups filling the pews.

At the end of the Mass, Bishop LaValley blessed the new Corpus which will adorn the church facade. The cross on which it hangs was donated and crafted by Edward Kubinski, Sr. and the inscription INRI was hand carved in Poland and personally accompanied back to Houseville from Poland by a parishioner.

The bishop also blessed the infant room that was completed by a group of parishioners and benefactors.

After Mass, the parishioners and guests gathered for dinner in the church hall where artifacts and memorabilia were on display.

### Stories of faith

St. Hedwig's and its members have many stories to share.

Genevieve Jarecki Seelman was born the same year the cornerstone was laid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Faith opens our  
eyes to human life  
in all its grandeur  
and beauty.

## October is Respect Life Month

*The 40th Annual RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM*

*Sunday, October 7, 2012*

*May the Lord grant us the grace to see his love revealed in our lives, and the grace to respond by respecting and protecting human life in all its stages and conditions.*

~Respect Life Liturgy Guide 2012 - 2013~

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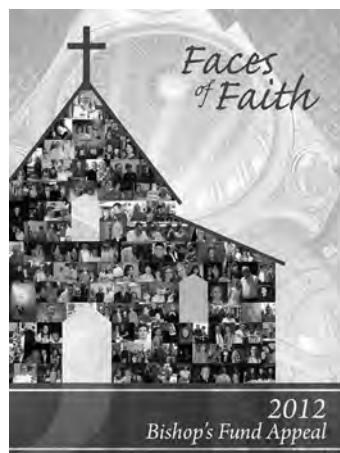
# Bishop's Fund supports Natural Family Planning

By Suzanne Pietropaoli  
Diocesan director, NFP

One of the joys of Natural Family Planning ministry is meeting so many face of faith. Consider Ryan and Erin. The young army officer and his wife have only been married a few years. Parents of a toddler, they also have a beautiful new baby who comes to classes with them. Facing the challenges of army life and an upcoming deployment, the couple want to learn Natural Family Planning to space future births. Intelligent and motivated, they catch on quickly and are excited to discover precisely how the fertility cycle functions. With this knowledge, they will be able to plan their family in a healthy and highly effective way.

But what caused Ryan and Erin to consider NFP when they could so easily have opted for the Pill or surgical sterilization? In a word, FAITH. As Ryan explained when he called to inquire about classes, "Our faith means everything to us. It is very important to us to live our marriage the way God wants us to. We want to be obedient, and we want all of God's blessings on our married life."

The faith question looms large for many couples who choose NFP. To be sure, they are impressed by the "natural" in Natural Family Planning: no toxic drugs to harm the woman or the environment, no devices, no surgeries—yet, with an effectiveness up to 99%, it as



reliable as those methods. They are impressed by the wealth of information that NFP opens for them, and they are empowered by learning how to observe, record, and interpret the bodily signs of fertility. They appreciate that responsibility for this method is shared by husband and wife, and by the fact that using it tends to deepen couple-communication. But above all, they want to accept the Divine design for their married love and so offer God the obedience of faith.

Michael and Sarah are a remarkable example of such faith. They came to NFP class as an engaged couple—but one facing unique challenges. As an organ transplant recipient, Sarah had unusual health issues and would be on anti-rejection medications for the rest of her life. Undaunted, she and Michael very much hoped to have children. First though, they wanted to learn Natural Family Planning and become proficient in using it so that they could plan to both achieve and avoid pregnancy according to the requirements of Sarah's health at any given time. Needless to say, many people thought these young people were very foolish, and did not hesitate to say so. Michael and Sarah did not take this personally; instead, they took the opportunity to explain the source of their optimism. "Our trust is in God," Sarah said. "He made us. His Providence brought us

together and blesses our life. Who or what should we trust if not God?"

We also hear this question echoed by couples struggling with infertility. Natural Family Planning—with its focus on identifying the presence of fertility—can be very useful for couples seeking to achieve pregnancy. In the absence of organic causes of infertility, learning when they are fertile can often help a couple to become pregnant. It is hard to describe the delight in their faces when they show us the chart that confirms the long-awaited pregnancy! But for other couples, this happy ending is not within reach, and there is real suffering as they grapple with what to do next. Rob and Felicity found themselves in this situation. Should they pursue every medical avenue? Why not go ahead and try in vitro? After all, most people in their situation would. But this couple was a bit different. Their faith told them that children are a gift from God, not an inalienable right. Amid the pain of infertility, they chose to respect God's plan and to put their hopes for children entirely in his hands. Today Rob and Felicity are parents of three adopted children. They are grateful to God for their beautiful, healthy family—and grateful that they trusted him to give them the family he had planned for them.

Such faith bears fruit for families, and for the whole Church. These couples, and others like them, bear witness to the fact that it really is possible to live out the teachings of the Church, and that doing so leads to greater happiness and harmony in marriage. (Studies consistently show that NFP users have a divorce rate well under 5%.) They know that God's ways, though different from ours, really are good for us. They gladly offer testimony to this truth privately and publicly, especially in marriage preparation. Because they seek to

put God first in all things, they are generous in serving their own and their parish families. And one of their greatest gifts is welcoming new life. These precious new human persons hold great promise for the future of the Church. Photographs of some of these youngest faces of faith are on display in our home. They are an ever-present reminder of

the overflowing love of God, and of the faith that remains open to life.

It is a remarkable privilege to come to know and serve such faith-filled couples. We thank God each day for these faces of faith, and for the many faithful people whose support of the Bishop's Fund makes this work possible. God bless you all!

## Bishop's Schedule

**Oct. 4**— 9:30 a.m., Pastoral Visit to St. Agnes School in Lake Placid; 11:30 a.m., Pastoral Visit to St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake; 2:15 p.m. Visit and Tour of Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake; 3:30 p.m., Adirondack Deanery Meeting with Priests at St. Bernard's Church in Saranac Lake.

**Oct. 5**— 10 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

**Oct. 6**— 8:30 a.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Candidates at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

**Oct. 7**— 9 a.m., Installation of Fr. Kevin O'Brien as Pastor of Saints Philip and James Church in Lisbon and St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton at Saints Philip and James Church; 10:30 a.m., Mass at St. Raphael's Church in Heuvelton.

**Oct. 8-10**— Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society Pilgrimage to Philadelphia.

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## 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](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:

**Oct. 10** - St. Edmund's Church, Ellenburg, 5:30 p.m.

**Oct. 10** - trinity Catholic School, Massena, 6 p.m.

**Oct. 15** - St. James Church, Gouverneur, 6 p.m.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Oct. 4**— Rev. George Drummond, 1839; Rev. Daniel F. O'Reilly, 1946; Rev. Thomas P. Fogarty, O.S.A., 1950

**Oct. 5**— Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., 1960; Rev. Eurenne Beaucage, O.M.I., 1984

**Oct. 7**— Rev. Jean N. Laverlocher, O.M.I., 1884

**Oct. 8**— Rev. Edward Letourneau, 1898

**Oct. 9**— Rev. William Joseph Normandeau, 1892; Rev. Francis Xavier Chagnon, 1911; Most Rev. Leo R. Smith, 1963

## THE 2012 BISHOP'S FUND

**The 2012 Bishop's Fund** opened Sept. 15-16 in parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The theme for his year is "Faces of Faith" and the goal is \$1.25 million. Donations may be mailed to the Bishop's Fund Office at PO Box 150, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or submitted through the website, [www.dioogdensburg.org/development](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/development).

FROM CROGHAN TO WELLS AND SITES IN BETWEEN

# FACES OF FAITH



Several members of the Bishop's Heritage Circle recently gathered for Mass at St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh and a luncheon at Anthony's Restaurant. The Bishop's Heritage Circle was established in 1995 by Bishop Paul S. Loverde and Clyde Lewis of Plattsburgh to assist in funding certain extraordinary needs of the diocese which are not fully funded from other sources. Members who attended the luncheon were, seated, James Murnane; and standing, from left, James Coughlin, Judge Robert Main, Joanne Dwyer, Betty Coughlin, Dr. Celine Paquette, Janet Murnane, Patrick Murnane, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Christine Racine, Mark Barie and executive director of the diocesan Development Office Scott Lalone. The Heritage Circle currently has 29 members from 18 households. Members since 1995 have contributed over \$350,000 to fund special needs determined by Bishop Loverde, Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham and Bishop LaValley. Further information regarding the Bishop's Heritage Circle is available from Mr. Lalone at 315-393-2920 or slalone@dioogensburg.org.



Three members of St. Stephen's Secular Franciscan Fraternity in Croghan traveled to Christ the King Retreat House in Syracuse Sept. 14 for a day retreat. From left are Mae Schneeberger, Jeanne Merry and Kathleen Grondin



The K of C Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Mooers Council No. 6136 held a 90th Birthday Bash to celebrate three members who turned 90. Seated from left are Evelyn Lajammier, Viola LaMere and Dorothy Pelkey. Standing is Leon LaMere, member of the Knights of Columbus Mooers Council and husband of Viola LaMere. Mrs. LaMere is a founding member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Four generations of the LaMere and Pelkey's families were present for the occasion.



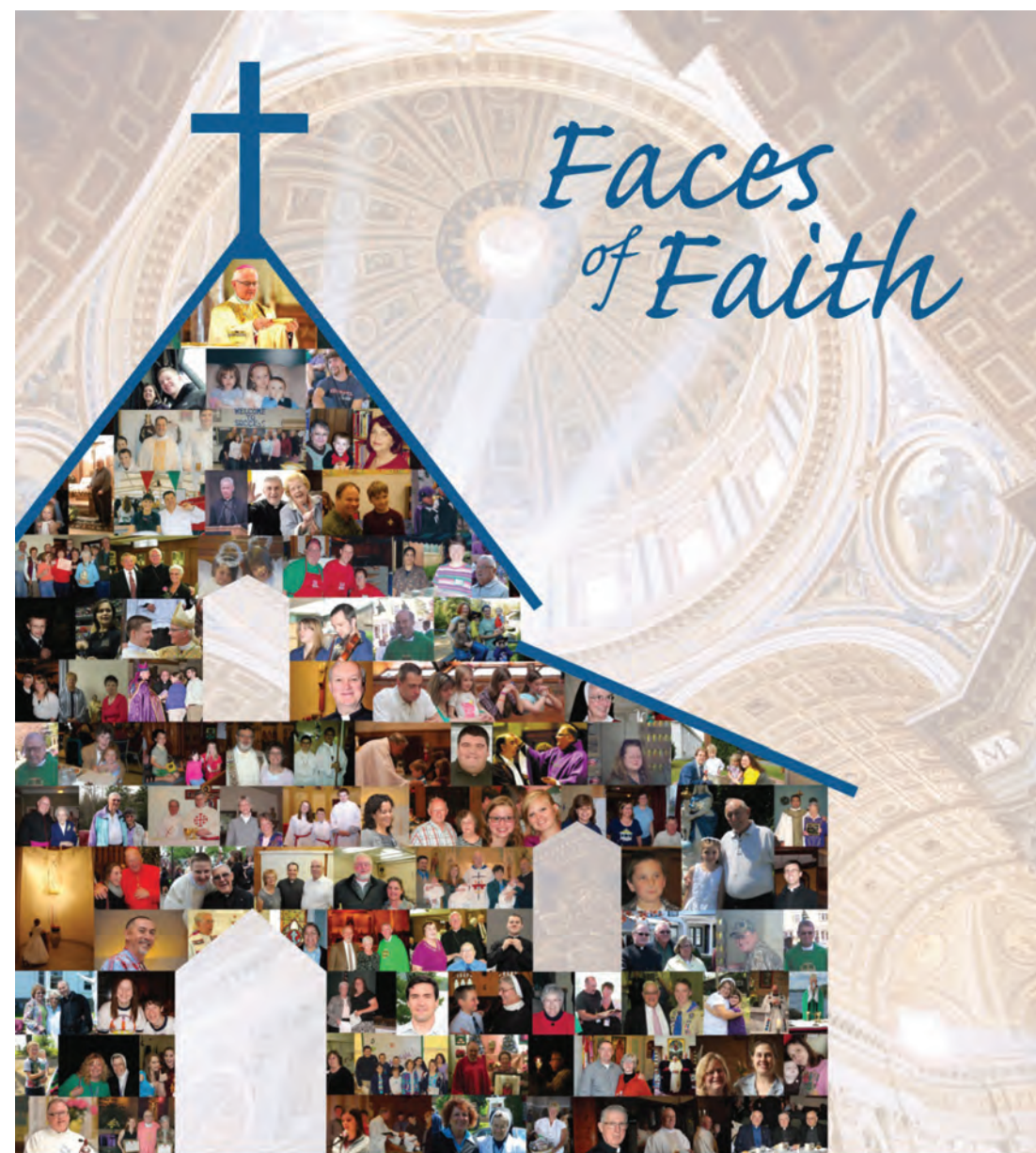
James and Marguerite McAuliffe of Wells represented St. Ann's Church as well as St. James in Lake Pleasant at the Year of Faith parish workshop held Sept. 26 in Tupper Lake. About 150 people attended workshops held in Plattsburgh, Tupper Lake and Watertown in preparation for the special year which opens Oct. 11.



Recently commissioned teachers and volunteers for St. Paul's Church in Black River and St. Rita's Church in Deferiet are shown with Father Garvin Demarais, pastor of both parishes, on Catechetical Sunday Sept. 16. From left are Tonya Kubis, Cecilia Clark, Christine Murphy, Kellie Rivera, Kitty Sparacino, Gabby Rivera, Father Demarais, Daphne Root, Abby Guy, Eric Guy and Rebecca Guy.



Children from the afternoon pre-kindergarten class at St. John Bosco Preschool in Watertown are shown with their teachers. September 2012 marked the beginning of the 30th year of operation of the Catholic preschool.



2012  
Bishop's Fund Appeal

[www.dioogdensburg.org/development](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/development)

## St. John Bosco Preschool marks 30th anniversary

By Terry Ranger  
Director, St. John Bosco

**WATERTOWN** -The Immaculate Heart Central school community will celebrate a milestone this school year. September 2012 will mark the beginning of the 30th year of operation for the St. John Bosco Preschool Program.

Who was St. John Bosco and why is our preschool program named after him?

St. John Bosco was ordained a priest in 1841. His service to the young not only included religious instruction but also vocational education. John Bosco educated the whole person – body and soul united. He believed that Christ's love and our faith should pervade everything we do, work, study, and play. His theory of education was to place children in positive surroundings where they could grow in all areas of development.

The beliefs of St. John

Bosco led to the opening of the St. John Bosco Preschool Program in 1983. The preschool was then a part of Holy Family School. The program was under the leadership of three principals: Sisters Jennifer Votraw, Annunciata Collins, and Ellen Rose Coughlin, all members of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In 2004 the four Catholic schools in Watertown consolidated. The new system, Immaculate Heart Central included the St. John Bosco Preschool Program and was under the supervision of principal, Gail Graham.

Our current principal, Gary West carries on the traditions and beliefs of the program.

The program is located in historic Sterling Hall located on the primary school campus and in the primary school building. The program has grown since that first school year but our philosophy has always remained the same.

We strive to provide a safe, loving and positive atmosphere where 3, 4 and 5 year old children experience education across all subject areas with the common thread of God's love for us all.

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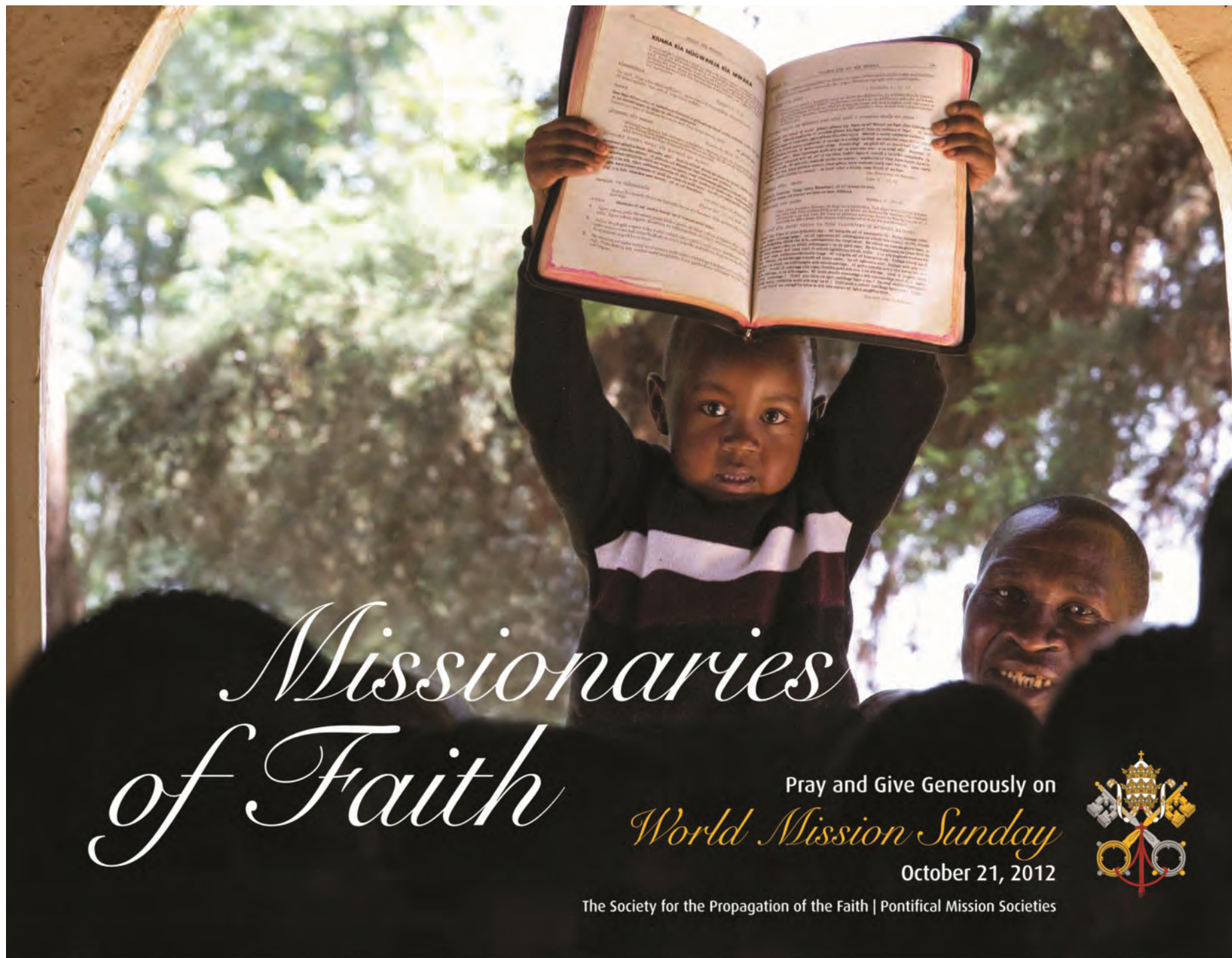
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# Missionaries of Faith

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October 21, 2012



The Society for the Propagation of the Faith | Pontifical Mission Societies



*The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH*

*...a Pontifical Mission Society*

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Email: [mryan@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:mryan@dioogdensburg.org)

**Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director**

**Molly M. Ryan, Secretary, Bookkeeper**

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

## VATICAN LETTER

# New world evangelization:

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** - When Blessed John Paul II launched the project he called the new evangelization, he made it clear that it was aimed above all at reviving the ancient faith of an increasingly faithless West: "countries and nations where religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing," now menaced by a "constant spreading of religious indifference, secularism and atheism."

## Synod's agenda includes America

Those words are commonly taken to refer to Christianity's traditional heartland, Europe. Yet Pope Benedict XVI, who has embraced his predecessor's initiative, has made it clear that the new evangelization extends to other secular Western societies, including the United States.

In a series of speeches to visiting U.S. bishops last fall and earlier this year, Pope Benedict reflected on the "spiritual and cultural challenges of the new evangelization," giving special emphasis to a "radical secularism" that he said has worn away America's traditional moral consensus and threatened its religious freedom.

The world Synod of Bishops dedicated to the new evangelization, which meets at the Vatican Oct. 7-28, will include seven U.S. bishops as full members, and 10 other Americans as official experts or observers. Experts advise the bishops during the synod, and observers are allowed to address the entire assembly.

Looking ahead to that gathering, several of the U.S. participants spoke with Catholic News Service about the obstacles that the new



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI is seated next to Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, left, and Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, during opening prayer as the world's cardinals meet in the synod hall at the Vatican in this Feb. 17, 2012, file photo. The Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization will begin Oct. 7 at the Vatican.

evangelization faces in their country and some of the particular strengths that the church brings to the task.

"We seem to be approaching a tipping point in how we encounter an increasingly militant atheism and secularism in our society," said Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, who will be attending the synod as an observer. "We have been able to avoid the downside of what has happened in Europe, but for how much longer is a continual question. This synod may be the best opportunity to answer that."

Sister Sara Butler, a professor of theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill., who will serve as a synod expert, said a common American understanding of "tolerance" views "any attempt to share the faith ... as a kind of 'imperialism,'" and the U.S. media celebrate an idea of freedom defined as "freedom from restraints of any kind."

This leaves many Catholics "shy about revealing their faith, much less sharing it with others," said Sister Butler, a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity who sits on the Vatican's In-

ternational Theological Commission. "They find the idea that they are commissioned to proclaim the Gospel to the world challenging and implausible."

Changing that attitude will require more than improved instruction in the tenets of the faith, said synod expert Ralph Martin, president of Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor, Mich., and director of graduate programs in the new evangelization at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit.

"Orthodoxy isn't enough; we really need an infusion of God and the Holy Spirit," said Martin, who has been a leader in the charismatic renewal movement since the 1970s. "You can't have a new evangelization without a new Pentecost."

Edward N. Peters, a canon lawyer who teaches at Sacred Heart Seminary and who will serve as an expert during the synod, draws encouragement from what he calls the relatively "up-front" manner of American Catholics by comparison to their European counterparts.

"Conversations about the faith by rank-and-file Catholics, participation in the church's public rites and devotions, reading Catholic literature, and so on, all of

these seem to me much more common on this side of the Atlantic," said Peters, author of the blog "In the Light of the Law."

Synod observer Peter Murphy, executive director of the Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said an American culture capable of generating a fashion for "What Would Jesus Do" bracelets is also a natural environment for traditional expressions of Catholic identity, such as religious medals. He said ordinary Catholics can turn even mundane occasions such as a child's soccer practice into opportunities for sharing their faith.

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., said the church's charitable activities are some of its most effective vehicles for the new evangelization.

"Works of charity and justice are one of the most powerful ways to inspire people to see what the church is and think about why they might want to re-engage with it or ... meet the Lord for the first time," said Bishop Kicanas, chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, who will be attending the synod instead of Cardinal Francis E. George

of Chicago, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

For Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, the synod's recording secretary, the primary mission field for the new evangelization in the U.S. will be its vast network of Catholic schools, colleges and universities, because the key to success lies in reviving faith among the young.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., is taking that principle to the ultimate level: the earliest stages of human life. In his presentation to the synod, the archbishop plans to highlight the rite of Blessing of a Child in the Womb, which he first proposed in 2008 and which the Vatican approved for use in the U.S. earlier this year.

"The blessing is a first evangelization of the child, and a re-evangelization or new evangelization of the family," Archbishop Kurtz said. "It's also a positive and hope-filled way to announce to society our wonderful teaching on the great gift of human life."

As a sacramental celebration that emphasizes a widely contested ethical teaching, the blessing reflects the "creative tension" that another synod father, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, has said is inherent in the new evangelization, which seeks to be "embracing, understanding (and) conciliatory" toward disaffected Catholics without compromising on "certain clear moral truths" that they may reject.

As the cardinal told CNS late last year, Blessed John Paul offered a "graceful" resolution of that tension in his maxim that the church should "preach the truth, always with love."

"Love would require that we never soft-pedal the truth," Cardinal Dolan said. "Truth would require that we never forget compassion and patience."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Cardinal encourages Catholics to help transform world with faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In a new pastoral letter, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl offers an overview of what the Catholic Church is, so Catholics can better understand their role in it, and he encourages them to help transform the world with their faith. "The family of God is called his church. Its members, those baptized into the church, you and I, form a body with Christ as its head. In order to truly know Christ, one must know him in his body, the church," Cardinal Wuerl wrote. Issued in mid-September, his pastoral was addressed to the clergy, religious and laity of the archdiocese. It is titled "The Church, Our Spiritual Home." The pastoral comes at a time, he noted, when the universal church is taking up Pope Benedict XVI's call for the new evangelization and Catholics are encouraged to deepen their own faith and reintroduce the Gospel to those who may have drifted away from the faith or never heard the good news of Jesus. On Oct. 7, the pope will convene the world Synod of Bishops on the "New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith." The Year of Faith opens Oct. 11, which is also the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Wuerl, who was appointed by Pope Benedict to serve as the synod's recording secretary, noted in his pastoral that the Washington Archdiocese is preparing for its own synod in 2014, and Catholics will offer input on the local church's future pastoral direction. "We can only move forward if we fully understand who we are as members" of the Catholic Church," he said. "The Catholic Church is the continuing presence of Jesus Christ in the world -- in our day and time." To better understand what the Catholic Church is, Cardinal Wuerl pointed out several things it is not. It is "not a man-made organization," the cardinal wrote, because its "origins are found in the will of Christ.... To ensure that each subsequent generation would have the opportunity to hear of his kingdom, to know his Gospel and to receive his invitation to follow him, Jesus established his church on the foundation rock -- St. Peter."

## Pope names record number of women to synod on evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Choosing men and women from every part of the world and from a wide variety of professions, Pope Benedict XVI nominated 45 experts and 49 observers for the upcoming world assembly of bishops. The Oct. 7-28 gathering will include the largest bloc of women -- 10 experts and 19 observers -- ever to participate in a world Synod of Bishops. The special Synod of Bishops for Africa in 2009 had 10 experts and 20 observers who were women. Europe accounts for the overwhelming majority of the appointees, followed by North America, with 10 people from the United States, two from Mexico and one from Canada. A number of the appointees are also advisers to the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization and other Vatican offices. The list of papal appointments to the synod was published Sept. 22 by the Vatican. Experts and observers, who include laypeople, are not voting members of the synod. According to Vatican rules, only priests, bishops and cardinals can be full members who vote and determine the propositions to be presented to the pope at the end of the gathering. The 45 experts include priests, nuns and laypeople, many of whom are professors, rectors or supervisors of catechetical or pastoral programs. They will serve as resources for the more than 200 synod members as they discuss the theme, "New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith."

# Religious freedom: election-year issue for many voters

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Over the past several months, the U.S. Catholic bishops and other religious leaders have urged Americans to defend religious liberty in the United States in the face of what they see as threats to that freedom.

And the issue continues to gain momentum as the November election draws near.

It has been at the forefront for the Catholic bishops since the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced in January that it would require most religious employers to provide free contraceptive coverage against their moral objections. The bishops have repeatedly described the mandate, which violates church teaching, as a restriction on religious liberty.

Theologians and Catholic leaders discussed the issue of religious freedom at recent seminars at The Catholic University of America and Georgetown University in Washington.

At both of the national political conventions this summer, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, mentioned religious liberty in his closing prayers.

In April, the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom issued a 12-page statement on threats to religious liberty, including the HHS mandate but highlighting other examples:

- Immigration laws in Alabama and other states that "forbid what the government deems 'harboring' of undocumented immigrants."

- Government actions in Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia and Illinois that have "driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services" because the agencies would

not place children with same-sex or unmarried heterosexual couples.

- Changes in federal contracts for human trafficking grants that require the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services to refer clients "for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching."

On the state level, ballot measures dealing with religious freedom protections have emerged in North Dakota, Missouri and Florida.

In North Dakota's June primary election, voters ultimately rejected a ballot measure to broaden state constitutional religious freedom provisions. Meanwhile, Missouri voters in their August primary approved a similar measure that guaranteed people could pray and worship in all private and public areas including schools as long as the activities are voluntary and subject to the same rules and regulations that apply to all other types of speech.

Missouri legislators voted to override the governor's veto of a religious liberty bill specifying that no one should be forced to pay for abortion drugs and similar items in their health insurance when it violates their religious beliefs.

The Missouri law addresses the federal contraception mandate that became effective Aug. 1. The Missouri Catholic Conference noted that federal law supersedes state law. However, several lawsuits challenging the HHS mandate as unconstitutional have been filed in various federal courts, and if the mandate is ultimately found to be unconstitutional, the new Missouri law will stand.

Both political parties mention religious liberty in their platforms. The Democratic Party platform states the Affordable Care Act "ensures that women have access to contraception in their health insurance plans," adding that

President Barack Obama "has respected the principle of religious liberty."

The HHS mandate does have a religious exemption, but its critics say it is so narrow it would protect only those religious employers who seek to inculcate their religion and who primarily employ and serve people of their own faith.

The GOP platform uses the phrase "war on religion" to describe the Obama administration's "attempt to compel faith-related institutions, as well as believing individuals, to contravene their deeply held religious, moral, or ethical beliefs regarding health services, traditional marriage, or abortion."

The U.S. Catholic bishops, in their document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" - which outlines church teaching on contemporary issues for Catholic voters - speaks broadly on the issue of religious freedom by stating: "U.S. policy should promote religious liberty and other basic human rights."

The broader implications of religious freedom were addressed by Pope Benedict XVI in his mid-September visit to Lebanon, where he called religious freedom a basic human right and a prerequisite for social harmony.

The pope said peace requires a pluralistic society based on "mutual respect, a desire to know the other and continuous dialogue." He also said "religious freedom is the basic right on which many rights depend."

At a Sept. 12 forum at Catholic University on what the Catholic Church can do to defend religious freedom abroad, Cardinal Dolan stressed the urgency of the issue.

"Many need to be respectful of other religious traditions at the same time that we unequivocally proclaim that violence - violence in the name of religion - is the ultimate oxymoron," he said.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Respect for life... respect for marriage, family

On this Respect Life Sunday, it is so appropriate that this week's readings are all about marriage and family.

The second reading from Hebrews gives the key to a successful attitude.

In this marvelous letter to second-century Christians, the writer says: "He who consecrates and those who are consecrated all have one origin."

It's clear from the context that coming to glory through suffering is what

we have in common with Jesus.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

As His whole purpose was giving glory to the Father through our redemption, so our whole purpose, whether married or not married, is the same as Christ's.

If married, then our purpose is to help our spouse give God glory through the communion of sacrificing love.

Bringing children into the world in the context of this kind of marriage is what God had in mind from the

beginning.

A sacrificing love for all life should be the focus of our prayer today.

If either spouse's self-fulfillment and personal pleasure-seeking has to take a back seat to the good of the other and of responsible respect for life, then so be it!

Compromise, openness to his ideas or her ideas, praying together, listening to each other, just being for one another—all makes marriage a holy alliance.

Children will be welcomed and lovingly educated in this kind of home.

Incidentally, this kind of communion of spirit as well

OCT. 7

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Genesis 2:18-24

Hebrews 2:9-11

Mark 10:2-16

as communion of flesh will prepare a family to weather whatever difficulties and even tragedies may lie in their future.

If we have this understanding of marriage, then Jesus' advice to the Pharisees in today's Gospel is possible and do-able—

Therefore, what God has put together, let no human being separate!

Now when there are deep-seated troubles that go back before a couple married, then the Church's annulment process is all about discerning whether God in his far-seeing providence really willed to join this couple. This is the reason for in-depth preparation for the Sacrament.

If you would like to assist in the diocesan Family Life Marriage Preparation program, please contact Deacon Gary and Gayle Frank at 315-393-2920 or [gfrank@diogdensburg.org](mailto:gfrank@diogdensburg.org).

## OUR READERS WRITE

## Respect for life... respect for the environment

By Eunice Trombley  
Contributing writer

Thursday, Oct. 4th, is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is not uncommon for parishes to offer a blessing for pets around this time and children look forward to bringing their beloved dogs, hamsters, cats, or goldfish for Father's blessing.

I can imagine St. Francis smiling over this practice since we read in biographies a story involving "Brother Wolf" as well as personalizing aspects of creation as "sister" and "brother".

In the Canticle of Creation, he praised God through "Brother Sun," "Sisters Moon and Stars," "Brother Water" and "Sister Earth, our Mother".

Francis seemed to intuitively understand the connectedness between the Creator and all of nature and embraced the immanent presence of God in the world.

No wonder St. Francis has been designated as the patron saint of ecology.

Franciscan spirituality is a model for all who care for

God's creation. It involves an ethic that acknowledges that Creation has its own intrinsic worth in that it is created by God, blessed and declared good.

This same spirituality also involves caring for people who are negatively impacted by inadequate environmental decisions. This is often referred to as "environmental justice."

The Franciscan call today can best be seen not in just blessing our pets but, like Francis, in his early 20's, in a lifestyle conversion, a paradigm shift in the way we see the world, or in modern language "an attitude adjustment."

Being mindful of our "carbon footprint" we hear so much about today, or changing old wasteful habits that accumulatively deplete Mother Earth's resources can reflect a conversion of heart that mimics Francis' style of daily praising our God of the Universe. By becoming better caretakers of Creation, we can promote environmental justice on behalf of all human beings but especially our most needy sisters and brother.

So practically speaking

how can Franciscan spirituality impact our daily lives?

Yes, let's continue to bless our pets but let us also bless nature by changing our daily habits. We can begin in small ways like offering a "home-made" prayer of praise each day e.g. "Praise you, God, for this rain".

We can drive a little less this week; turn lights and electrical equipment off when not using them; run water only when needed; recycle useable clothing, bottles, cans, etc., and, in fact, hang a sign in our homes that says: "REDUCE, REUSE, & RECYCLE". Let's not over-consume. We should ask ourselves before buying something "do I really need this or do I just want this"? Perhaps we can join or begin an environmental group in our church or community.

Vote this and every November and consider candidates who are environmentally sensitive.

This is a life issue as well!

Let's really honor St. Francis this year by valuing our home, Mother Earth. This home belongs to ALL of us on every continent. Let us



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERMIZ

St. Francis of Assisi is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Hyacinth Church in Glen Head, N.Y. The feast of St. Francis, patron of peace, animals and the environment, is celebrated Oct. 4.

pledge ourselves to protect and share its limited resources, to reverence its rhythms, and change any habits that do not contribute to her health or the health of all of her inhabitants.

(Anyone is welcome to be-

come a part of a diocesan-wide environmental group "Faith and Ecology" which meet every two months in Lake Clear. For more information, please contact Sr. Bethany Fitzgerald at (315)324-5718 or [srbeth@cit-tele.com](mailto:srbeth@cit-tele.com).)

## AT THE MOVIES

## HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA

By Adam Shaw  
Catholic News Service

We are used to fables of humans fleeing from spooky ghouls and ghosts, but what if they were as scared of us as we are of them?

That is the premise of animated comedy "Hotel Transylvania" (Columbia) - an enjoyable, if slightly rude, pro-family romp in which the infamous Count Dracula (voiced by Adam Sandler) has established a "monsters only" resort to provide a safe haven for spooks to relax away from the torches and pitchforks of their antagonists.

In the midst of running the popular getaway, Drac invites his fellow fiends over to celebrate his headstrong daughter Mavis' (voice of Selena Gomez) 118th birthday.

The (relatively) young Mavis, however, has other things on her mind and

wants to escape the confines of the hotel and explore the outside world.

Yet her father, having lost his wife many years before, is keen to protect her from being contaminated from the mortal world, going so far as lying to make her believe that humans are nothing but evil ne'er-do-wells.

So when skateboarding backpacker Jonathan (voiced by Andy Samberg) stumbles upon the hotel by accident, the birthday girl's interest is heightened and the caped protagonist must scramble to hide Jonathan's humanity from both his guests and his intrigued offspring.

Director Genndy Tartakovsky's goofy comedy gets many of its laughs from playing on, and updating, classic horror characters. So we have a loveable working class Frankenstein (voice of Kevin James) and the overworked data processing werewolf Wayne (voiced by Steve Buscemi)

who is being constantly nagged by his 50 children.

Unfortunately, in spite of these clever twists, the picture dips its toes into the swamp of vulgarity a few times along the way to pick up a few easy laughs.

Yet while Peter Baynham and Robert Smigel's screenplay has its fair share of mildly rude flatulent humor, it also contains a striking pro-family theme in Dracula's touching relationships with his daughter, and his deceased wife over whom he is still grieving.

Therefore amid the silliness come some very moving moments that will have Catholic viewers nodding in approval, as well as a conclusion that affirms the value of the family unit.

However, scary incidents that include zombies skulking around on fire, along with some mildly upsetting moments and the aforementioned gross humor, may exclude younger audiences from the party.



The film contains occasional mild scatological humor and a few scary scenes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG. Animated characters Dracula, voiced by Adam Sandler, and Mavis, voiced by Selena Gomez, are seen in the movie "Hotel Transylvania."

sional mild scatological humor and a few scary scenes. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association

-- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## St. Hedwig's

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

A sickly baby, her parents wanted to have her baptized. This necessitated a sleigh ride down from Tug Hill (roads were not plowed in those days) in the dead of winter.

Her father placed calf skins around the sleigh and the family wrapped in blankets as they headed out.

They stopped at Mrs. Gawlik's who was to become the godmother and then onto to pick up Benny Szalach, Sr. who would be the godfather. Since the church was cold, Genevieve was baptized in the rectory.

Benny Szalach remarked on the way back up the hill, "Coming down with the devil and going home with an angel."

Genevieve would receive Holy Communion, Confirma-

tion and the Sacrament of Marriage at St. Hedwig's.

Helen Smykla Niezbotowski, like Genevieve, received the sacraments at St. Hedwig's and has many fond memories of growing up with her parish community.

They both had joyful memories of Christmas Midnight Mass in the late 1930's.

All the families would come off Tug Hill via sleighs with jingle bells on the horses and the sound would be resonant through the midnight air.

After Mass, the trip back up the hill was escorted with the men singing carols in Polish and everyone full of the Christmas Spirit.

During the early days, the church would hold dances on Sunday evenings and families would come from as

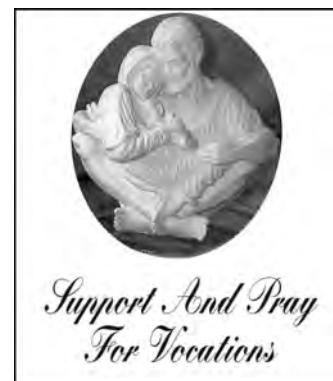
far as Newton Falls. The gospel used to be read in English and Polish at Mass.

Today St. Hedwig's continues to celebrate its Polish heritage with the annual Polish Festival held in October. This year it will be held Oct. 21 after the 11 a.m. Mass. This event consists of a traditional Polish meal, themed basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle.

Along with this yearly celebration the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is recited along with Benediction every first Sunday of the month at 3 p.m.

After 85 years St. Hedwig's remains alive and full of God's love. Mass is held at 11 o'clock on Sundays and all are welcome.

In closing *Niech bedzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus*, "Praise be Jesus Christ."



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**ADIRONDACK**

**LIFECCHAIN**

**Saranac Lake** – Lifechain to be held.  
**Date:** Oct. 7  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Bandshell Park at River Street  
**Features:** A peaceful, prayerful, pro-life presence. Open to all faiths. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs are provided.  
**Contact:** John and Colleen Miner at 518-403-8123 for more information.

**ROSARY RALLY**

**Bloomingdale** – Rosary Rally to Our Lady of Fatima to be held.  
**Date:** Oct 13  
**Time:** Meet at 11:30 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Paul's Church outside at Our Blesses Mother's Statue (inside if inclement weather)  
**Features:** The Rosary is being prayed by the whole country at this time. This is the anniversary of the 6th apparition of Our Blessed Mother to the 3 children in Fatima. Bring a sandwich; dessert and coffee will be provided.  
**Contact:** For more information call Viv at 891-2286, Sister Carol 891-2286 or Mary Lou 891-1308.

**CLINTON**

**LIFECCHAIN**

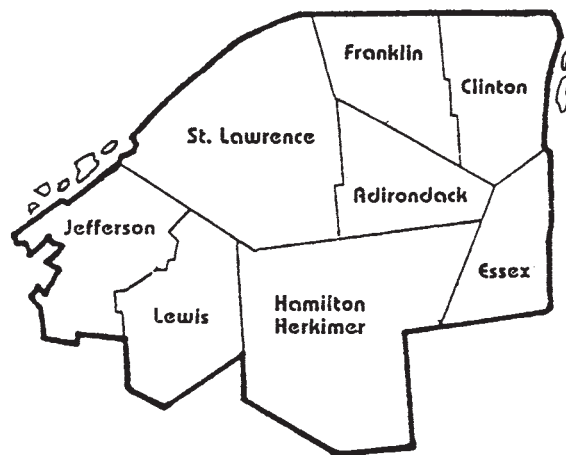
**Plattsburgh** – Lifechain to be held.  
**Date:** Oct. 7  
**Time:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Smithfield Blvd at Cornelia Street  
**Features:** A peaceful, prayerful, pro-life presence. Open to all faiths. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs are provided.  
**Contact:** Rev. Martin Michenko at 518-354-2140 for more information.

**CRAFTS AND BAKE SALE**

**Moers** – The 25th Annual Crafts Plus and Bake sale sponsored by the Ladies of St. Ann's to be held.  
**Date:** Oct. 20  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Joseph's Center  
**Features:** Lunch will be available. Space still available for vendors. Call Theresa Tassone at 518-236-7733.

**TURKEY& TRIMMINGS**

**Dannemora** – St. Joseph's Parish is planning its annual roast turkey and trimmings harvest dinner.  
**Date:** Oct. 7  
**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 5:30  
**Place:** Church Hall; Take-outs available  
**Cost:** Adults - \$9.00, ages 5 to 10 - \$5.00 and Under 5 free..  
**Features:** Cash Raffles, Chinese Raffle,



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, 1-866-314-7296;  
 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Crafts and Country Store and 50/50 with live music in the Church  
**Contacts:** Vern & Sorelle Bouyea @ 293-7768 or Deacon Ed & Louise Mazuchowski @ 563-0828.

**WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP**

**Ellenburg Center** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be hosting a Watercolor workshop.  
**Date:** Nov 2-Nov. 4  
 Cost: \$80 for the weekend, includes overnight accommodations and meals.  
**Features:** Instructor Claire Hogue-Reid Will teach different techniques, composition, some drawing, knowledge of values, color and the mixing of colors.  
 Supply list sent after reserving.  
**Contact:** olaprayerhouse@gmail,.com or by calling 518-594-3253

**HEALING MASS**

**Ellenburg Center** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks to hold Healing Mass  
**Date:** Oct. 6  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Features:** Fr. Doug Decker will preside at Mass and Anointing followed by individual prayer team ministry.  
**Contact:** RSVP by Oct. 3 to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253. Light lunch. Donations appreciated.

**HARVEST DINNER**

**West Chazy** – St. Joseph's Church will hold its 38th Annual Harvest Dinner.  
**Date:** Oct. 14  
**Time:** Noon to 5 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Joseph's Parish Center  
 Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$4; Chil-

dren under 5, Free  
**Features:** Turkey with all of the trimmings, a country store. Take-outs

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.  
**Place:** St. John's Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs  
 Theme: "Show the greatest possible reverence for the Eucharist." (St. Francis of Assisi)  
**Time :** 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com.

**LECTIO DIVINA**

**Ellenburg** – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having Lectio Divina (Divine Reading), every Friday.  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to noon  
**Features:** Meditation on the following Sunday's readings and Rosary

**ESSEX**

**ROAST BEEF HARVEST DINNER**

**Elizabethtown** – St. Elizabeth's Church will hold its annual Roast Beef Harvest Dinner.  
**Date:** Oct. 14  
**Time:** 2 p.m. to 6  
**Place:** Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children under 12, \$5  
**Features:** Take-outs after 1:30 p.m. Cash raffle tickets and for other items will be available.

**LIFECCHAIN**

**Willsboro** – Lifechain to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 7  
**Time:** 2 p.m. to 3  
**Place:** Route 22 at Main Street  
**Features:** A peaceful, prayerful, pro-life presence. Open to all faiths. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs are provided.  
**Contact:** Margaret and Richard Smith at 518-963-7814 for more information

**FRANKLIN**

**TURKEY DINNER**

**St. Regis Falls** - St. Ann's Society will be holding a family style Turkey Dinner.  
**Date:** Oct. 7  
**Time:** Noon to 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Ann's Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children under 12, \$4; under 5, Free  
**Features:** Take-outs will be available or by calling 518-651-1886. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Help is needed on the Sat. morning prior to the event and again on the day of the event. Please call Janet Richards at 518-856-9663 if you wish to help out.

**YANKEE POT ROAST**

**Chateaugay** – The 32nd Yankee Pot Roast, Family Style Harvest Dinner will be held.  
**Date:** Oct. 21  
**Seatings:** Noon, 2:30 p.m. & 5  
 Place: St. Patrick's Church  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 6-11, \$4; under 5, free  
**Features:** Take-outs and Home Delivery is at 1 p.m. & 4. Reservations are not needed but appreciated by calling Pat at 497-3183 or Mary Lou at 497-3154 or call the church on Oct. 21 at 497-6673. . There will be a Queen sized hand quilted blanket with quilt rack as well as the Country Store. Proceeds will go towards the Church's renovations

**JEFFERSON**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Society will be having Spaghetti Supper.  
**Date:** Sept. 27  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75  
**Features:** Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER**

**Evans Mills** – The Indian River Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.  
**Date:** Oct. 13

**Time:** 4 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free; sauce, \$5 per quart.

**ROSARY RALLY**

**Watertown** – Rosary Rally to be held on the day of the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Portugal.  
**Date:** Oct. 13  
**Time:** 1 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Patrick's Church by the grotto  
**Contact:** Joan Boulio at 315-639-6688

**BENEFIT DINNER**

**Watertown** – A spaghetti dinner will be held to benefit the Watertown Special Religious Education Program.  
**Date:** Oct. 23  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** Italian American Club  
**Cost:** \$8  
**Features:** Take-outs begin at 4:30 p.m.

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.  
**Date:** Oct. 25  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7  
**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall  
**Cost:** \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75  
**Features:** Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

**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:** 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.

**LEWIS**

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

**Houseville** – Divine Mercy Devotions for October will be held.  
**Date:** Oct. 7  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church  
**Features:** Vespers, (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.  
**Contact:** 348-6260.



## The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

# Were It Not For Hunger

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

Jesus calls us to go to all nations, to proclaim His Gospel and to build His Church. In this new month of World Mission Sunday, Respect Life, and the start of the Year of Faith, we unite in prayer and sacrifice at the Table of the Lord and ask God's blessings through our prayers and offerings. It is our universal hope that the "Good News" of Jesus will be proclaimed all in this world.

However, the news is not always good for all those in the world. As we pray for those in the Missions, we must realize the uphill battles they face there daily. In the developing countries people of all ages are dying from hunger, live in fear of violence and the fear of the unknown.

The following poem reflects the gratitude of those living in mission territories with so little food, knowing that their lives will be short lived. This poem gives us reason to let our hearts be grateful even in the midst of suffering and dying.

*Were it not for hunger Lord,  
Would we thank you for our food?  
Would grateful voices sing your praise  
Would heartfelt alleluias raise  
And shout hosannas all our days  
Were it not for hunger, Lord?*

*Lord, were it not for poverty  
Would we thank you for our wealth?  
See you in another's face  
And recognize the time and place  
When you blessed the human race  
Were it not for poverty?*

*And, Jesus, were it not for death  
Would we thank you for our health?  
If old age did not follow youth  
And error not give way to truth  
Not eye-for-eye and tooth-for-tooth  
Were it not for death?*

*So thank you Lord, for blessing me  
With hunger, poverty and need  
And failures through which I succeed  
In following where you may lead  
Me to eternal peace.*

By Rev Joseph R. Veneroso, Maryknoll Missionary

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

## OBITUARIES

**Brasher Falls** – Bernard L "Bun" Francis, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 26, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – Anthony J. Paccione, 61; Funeral Services Sept. 28, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Chazy** – Marian (Baker) Matott, 88; Memorial Services Nov. 3, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Colton** – Paul H. "Poopsie" Snell, 62; Funeral Services Sept. 24, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville.

**Coopersville** – Agnes Louise Tetreault Bechard, 97; Funeral Services Sept. 27, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Gabriels** – Jeanne M. (Gauvin) St. John, 90; Funeral Services Oct. 2, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

**Gabriels** – Roy W. St. John, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 2, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

**Hogansburg** – Gertrude J. Tyo, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 25, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – David J. "Jim" Doner, 67; Funeral Service Sept. 28, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lowville** – Leon Charles Rosiczkowski, 86; Funeral Services Sept. 28, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Lyons Falls** – Gordon L. Post, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 26, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Port Leyden.

**Watertown** – Evelyn W. (white) Derouchie, 85; Funeral Services Sept. 28, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Kevin M. O'Neill, 53; Funeral

Services Sept. 22, 2012 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

**Massena** – Peggy A. (Wilkins) O'Shea, 61; Funeral Services Sept. 26, 2012 at Phillips Memorial Home.

**North Bangor** – Wallace "Pete" King, 89; Funeral Services Sept. 30, 2012 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Francis A. Mariano, 71; Memorial Mass Sept. 22, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Kathleen "Kathy" (Brenno) Ginter, 49; Funeral Services Sept. 27, 2012 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in

Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Dolores C. (Bremner) Harris, S.F.O., 81; Funeral Services Sept. 29, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Raymondville** – Marjorie E. (Rollins) Beaulieu, 86; Funeral Services Sept. 29, 2012 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Massena.

**Watertown** – LeRoy H. Draper, 90; Funeral Services Sept. 27, 2012 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Pauline E. (Gauthier) Moriarty, 91; Funeral Oct. 13, 2012 at Holy Family; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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I really enjoy the NCC in its electronic 'green' form. The pictures are much better, the articles easy to read (and enlarge for my older eyes) and the same familiar format is there. I love it!

This was a superb idea –  
thank you!  
~ Bill Kellerhals

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## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# Citizen of Heaven

By Amanda Conklin  
Contributing writer

Respect Life Month is more monumental this year than ever before.

January 22, 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in our nation. We have endured 40 years of our children being killed in the womb and 40 years of families being scarred by the pain of abortion.

Life issues are also at the forefront of debates as a Presidential election nears.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a document entitled "Faithful Citizenship." This document contains guidelines for Catholics to consider when voting and explains how our vocation includes being an active citizen.

Many criticize Catholics for putting a huge emphasis on abolishing abortion when determining which political candidate to vote for. Some refer to these Catholics as "single-issue voters." The USCCB does a great job at addressing this in the document:

In paragraph 42. "As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a sin-

gle issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support."

Many have said that abortion is the greatest evil of our time. While there are many important issues to think about when voting, abortion is certainly one of the most heart-wrenching intrinsic evils. In fact, if a Catholic citizen knowingly votes for a candidate who supports abortion they are indirectly participating in the sin themselves.

The USCCB highlights this in paragraph 34: "Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods.

A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who takes a position in favor of an intrinsic evil, such as abortion or racism, if the voter's intent is to support that position. In such cases a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and

dignity."

There are many life issues to consider in this upcoming election: abortion, euthanasia, stem-cell research, cloning, outreach to the poor, healthcare access and even war. Because of this, voting can often be a stressful and confusing time for Catholics.

I encourage all Catholics to read this document in its entirety before making their decision. I would also like to point out that the document highlights that in certain cases, it may very reasonable for someone to choose not to vote.

Being Catholic is not a feeling, it is not merely part of someone's ethnic heritage, it is not a hobby. Being Catholic is intrinsic to our being, part of who we are. Being Catholic means sharing in the beautiful, liberating, ancient, tradition, that is the Church.

The pope, cardinals and bishops are here to adhere to Christ's plan for the Church and to help guide us in our important decisions, such as voting, with our rich tradition as a roadmap. I urge you to listen to the voice of the Church when considering life issues during this Respect Life Month and especially in November at election time.

(A link to the Faithful Citizenship document is available at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

## Around the diocese

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

### LEWIS

#### ST. HEDWIG'S POLISH FEST

**Houseville** - Save the date for St. Hedwig's Polish Festival.

**Date:** Oct. 21

**Time:** at noon after the celebration of the 11 a.m. Mass.

**Features:** The Fest will feature a delicious Polish Platter, Theme Basket Raffles, Baked Goods, Ice Cream Sundaes and a 50/50 Raffle. Proceeds to benefit church restoration and repairs.

**Contact:** 348-8735 or 348-6260.

### ST. LAWRENCE

#### LIFECHAIN

**Potsdam** - A Lifechain has been planned for Respect Life Sunday

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Market Street at Main Street

**Features:** A peaceful, prayerful, pro-life presence. Open to all faiths. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs are provided.

**Contact:** Chris LaRose at 315-403-8123 for more information.

#### RUMMAGE SALE

**Canton** - Rummage Sale to held.

**Date and Time:** Oct. 12 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Oct. 13 7:30 a.m. to 11

**Place:** St. Mary's School Gym

**Features:** Oct. 13 will also feature a bag sale.

#### FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

**Massena** - St. Mary's Church is holding a special rosary to mark First Saturday.

**Date:** Oct. 6

**Time:** 3:15 p.m.

**Features:** Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to Her Immaculate Heart and for world peace. A 15 minute private meditation on the Luminous Mysteries will follow. Confessions are available from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 and Saturday anticipated Mass will begin at 4.

#### CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

**Heuvelton** - Msgr. Robert Giroux Knights of Columbus will be having a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 13

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

**Place:** St. Raphael's Parish Center

**Donation:** \$7

#### GUN AND KNIFE SHOW

**Brasher** - The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Gun and Knife Show.

**Date:** Oct. 13 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. & Oct. 14 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** K of C Hall

**Cost:** \$3; under 12 free must be accompanied by an adult.

**Features:** Dealers will be present with hunting, fishing, archery and sporting items. Dealers wishing to reserve tables can contact Phil Davis at 315-389-4627. Concessions stand open all day, breakfast served until 11 a.m.

#### LIFECHAIN

**Massena** - Lifechain to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** Main Street at Rt. 37

**Features:** A peaceful, prayerful, pro-life presence. Open to all faiths. We stand for life rain or shine. Signs are provided.

**Contact:** Pastor Clifford Boice at 315-764-1242 for more information.

#### K OF C BRUNCH

**Norfolk** - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

**Date:** Oct. 14

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18

### DIOCESAN EVENTS

#### INTERNATIONAL ROSARY

Diocesan Catholics have been invited to join a continuous praying of the Rosary throughout the world.

**Date:** Oct. 7

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Features:** Participants Will pray 20 decades of the Rosary at 2 p.m. The intention is: "That the mystery of the Rosary will help us to reflect on our faith as we continue to celebrate the Year of Faith." Our Blessed Mother is a force for Faith. Who better to lead and guide us than she who is the Mother of Faith. Pray alone, with family, or with friends. We encourage you to take part in this wonderful opportunity to join in prayer with our brothers and sisters, all over the world, who will be praying for Faith.

#### WITNESSES OF FAITH

**Ogdensburg** - The diocesan observance of the Year of Faith will officially open with a prayer service called Witnesses of Faith Celebration.

**Date:** Nov. 18

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral

**Features:** Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the service which will celebrate the lives of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Mother Marianne Cope, OSF, and St. Brother Andre Bessette, CSC. The main speaker for the Prayer Service will be Sister Kateri Mitchell, a Sister of St. Anne and native of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation. Sister Kateri is the executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference in Great Falls, Mont. A reception will follow

#### METANOIA RETREAT

**Port Henry** - A Metanoia Retreat will be held sponsored by the Office of Young Adult Ministry.

**Date:** Oct. 5 and 6

**Time:** 7 p.m. both days

**Place:** St. Patrick's Church

**Contact:** Lorraine Turgeon at 315-323-4989 or [lturgeon@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:lturgeon@dioogdensburg.org).