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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT 31, 2012

Pope proclaims new saints

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Proclaiming seven new saints - including St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Marianne Cope from North America - Pope Benedict XVI said they are examples to the world of total dedication to Christ and tireless service to others.

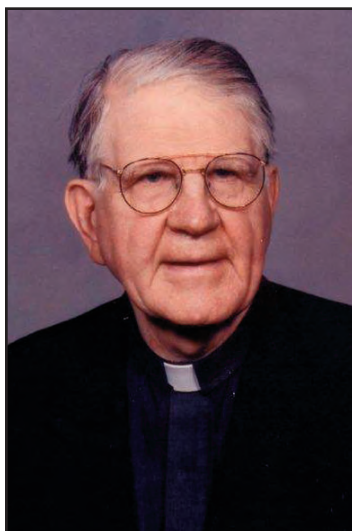
In a revised canonization rite Oct. 21, the pope prayed for guidance that the church would not "err in a matter of such importance" as he used his authority to state that the seven are with God in heaven and can intercede for people on earth.

An estimated 80,000 pilgrims from the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Italy, Spain, Germany and Madagascar filled St. Peter's Square for the canonization of the holy women and men who ministered among their people.

In his homily, Pope Benedict prayed that the example of the new saints would "speak today to the whole church" and that their intercession would strengthen the church in its mission to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

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Rites held for Fr. Michael A. Jarecki, 95



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A day for teachers

Teachers from Catholic schools in the diocese gather in Lake Placid Oct. 12

for annual Superintendent's Day
FULL STORY, PAGE 5

NORTH COUNTRY PILGRIMS IN ROME



Among the 80,000 pilgrims who gathered at St. Peter's Square Oct. 21 for the canonization of seven saints, including St. Kateri Tekakwitha, was a large contingent from northern New York. Above, from left are, St. Joseph Sister Mary Christine Taylor, who has offered pastoral ministry at the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation for more than 40 years; members of the Mohawk choir from St. Regis Mission at Akwesasne; and Father Joseph Giroux, pastor of the Malone Catholic Parishes. See pages 7 and 10 for more photos, article.

STORIES OF FAITH: Meet the new diocesan director of evangelization... p. 4

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

Learn about the candidates and vote!



In this week's "Follow Me" column, Bishop LaValley writes about the importance of making informed decisions on Election Day Nov. 6. "It is a formidable task to be an elected leader today, especially on the State and National scene... When we choose someone to lead and represent us, it is incumbent upon us to learn as much as we can about the candidate and then go to the polls. I urge all eligible voters to make the effort to know the candidates better and compare Church teaching with the candidate's positions." This week's *North Country Catholic* offers some guidance in the centerfold "Faithful Citizenship" section.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Rest in peace, Fr.
Michael Jarecki

We're hearing a lot about evangelization these days as the Year of Faith begins and the Bishop's Synod on Evangelization concludes.

But the call for Catholics to learn about their faith and share it is hardly a new idea.

These days, evangelizing Catholics take advantage of Facebook, Twitter and television to spread the Good News.

Back in the 1940's, the Catholic message was sent directly to people's homes through the *North Country Catholic*, of course, and through the radio.

Father Michael A. Jarecki, whom we mourn this week, knew this well. An early issue of the *NCC* featured an account of Father Jarecki's Lenten presentation on "temptation" which aired March 13, 1946, on WMSA radio in Massena.

A young man of deep faith, he was not afraid to warn his listeners about the work of the devil and the need for mortification.

Other messages showed his deep devotion to Mary which was evident throughout his 68 years of priesthood.

Msgr. Paul Whitmore who spent ten years as pastor of St. Martin's in Port Leyden, the church from which Father Jarecki was buried this week, has fond memories of "Father Mike."

"When I was a freshly-ordained priest in 1954, Father Mike Jarecki was a very popular assistant in Massena who frequently played cards at the Menard household. He was fond of "Frankie" (Fr. Francis Menard) and his family.

"Father Mike had a brilliant mind, with a good grasp of theology. His devotion to Mary was a mark of his priesthood. However, he struggled with the decisions of Vatican II, especially the liturgical changes.

"Eventually he was afflicted with severe eye disease that left him nearly blind.

"Always loyal to his priesthood and to the many bishops of our diocese, he depended on lay friends like the Joseph Kraeger family of Port Leyden for physical needs, then on the Benedictines of New Hampshire for their kindness and care.

*"May he rest in peace!
Indeed, may he rest in peace.*

Mary Lou
Kilian

Reflections on the anniversary day

I am writing this column on October 11, the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council – a very important day in my life and in the life of the Church. Today is also the day that Pope Benedict XVI has chosen as the beginning of the Year of Faith. This is a year to remember and celebrate the Second Vatican Council and, also, a time for all to renew and strengthen our faith. It's a time for a new and widespread evangelization, reaching out in a special way to Catholics who have left the Church. At this time, the second largest religious group in our country is former Catholics. May this be the year when we can reach and invite them back.

I have been using these columns to remember and celebrate the Second Vatican Council. I have noticed in the weeks approaching the celebration of the anniversary of the beginning of the Council a flood of books and magazine articles remembering the Council and commenting on the present effects of the Council. So I have had lots to read lately helping me to better my understanding of the Council and its effect. These excellent theologians have broadened my knowledge and understanding of just what happened 50 years ago what effect the Council has today.

This week, I would like to share with you what I learned from an article by Ladislav Orsy written in this week's *America Magazine*. Father Orsy is a Jesuit priest who is on the faculty of the Georgetown University Law Center. He was personally involved in the Council as a periti, an expert advisor to a Bishop. His article begins with a positive and hope filled note: "The Second Vatican Council lives." He goes on to urge the Church to remain open to the Spirit, the Spirit that so touched the Second Vatican Council that the Church may do the work of the Spirit – to continue the Council's work. He urges the study of the documents of the Second Vatican Council during this Year of Faith that all, especially the young, may read and understand the message of the Council. Father Orsy sees the message of the Council still "full of restless energy." His hope is that this energy will explode in God's own appropriate time.

I find a great deal of hope from Father Orsy – I want to join him in spirit. I have a great deal of hope and confidence in the message and recommendations of the Second Vatican Council. The Bishops of the Council, the Council Fathers, demonstrated that the Holy Spirit was alive in our Church and in faith, I believe that the Holy Spirit is still alive in and well in our Church.

I worry that some of this Spirit, some of the Council's message is being lost. Many do not know or understand or have forgotten the wisdom of the documents of the Second Vatican Council. It is for this reason that I accepted the challenge of reviewing with you those documents of this great Council.

So I will continue each week to delve back with you into the discussions and recommendations of the Council. I feel they are important – I don't want them lost or undermined.

The Council formed and enriched my life as a young priest and showed me the way to exercise my ministry. My hope is that I can share that spirit with you.

In his article in *America*, Father Orsy challenges the Church and me to make the Council's work flourish and expand. He reminds us that Pope John XXIII called the Council a new Pentecost – a new descent of the Holy Spirit – a new opportunity for us as the Catholic Church to become enthusiastic Christians.

So, he urges us to promote the right environment for healthy development by a new and stronger trust in the Spirit in the Church. He further reminds us that truth reveals itself best through conversations within the community that is the Church; debates can only take place in an atmosphere of freedom.

I want to add here that I believe the great challenge of the Spirit of the Second Vatican Council is in the participation of the laity – the non-ordained baptized. This is their time – you, lay men and women, can make the difference – you must challenge the Church to become alive in this new evangelization. This Year of Faith is a perfect time for lay men and women of faith to transform their Catholic Church by asking for a new and alive Catholic Church.

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FOLLOW ME

I wonder who God would vote for....

Can a conscientious voter today make an informed decision about whom to vote for by believing the political ads, watching the evening news or surfing the internet?

Such sources often, subtly or not so subtly, mislead and misinform.

At one time, Americans might have felt comfortable trusting a Walter Conkrite, not so today. No, today statistical gymnastics and word games are performed with such ease. Candidates and their supporters can manipulate the numbers to "prove" their point. No commentator or candidate is immune from such "creativity."

So, should I rely on the words and stances taken by the political party with which I have been affiliated all my life? Will I find truth there? Should party loyalty trump Church teaching? No. The well-informed voter today (which each of us must be) has the responsibility of sifting through political rhetoric and search for facts

in deciding which candidate to vote for. A good place to start is to look at a candidate's actual voting record on critical issues.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Of paramount importance are life issues, first and foremost, the right to be born. Our nation has seen a creeping tendency to push faith to the peripherals of life. Our religious liberty is at great risk, evidenced in the recent Health and Human Services mandate where the government is attempting to mold its own definition of what makes us Catholic.

Our families and marriages are fractured. How have our candidates worked to strengthen them? What about the poor, the vulnerable among us? Millions of people continue to go to bed (if they have

one) hungry every night.

We have heard precious little about poverty, yet our Church Fathers taught that we must live a preferential option for the poor. The silence is deafening in a society where the poverty level continues to rise.

It is a formidable task to be an elected leader today, especially on the State and National scene. There are a multitude of issues that impact people's lives.

When we choose someone to lead and represent us, it is incumbent upon us to learn as much as we can about the candidate and then go to the polls.

I urge all eligible voters to make the effort to know the candidates better and compare Church teaching with the candidate's positions.

My office has sent out to all of our pastors a Voter's Guide as well as a comparison chart on major issues for the presidential candidates. If you haven't studied it, I invite you to review it before Election Day.

I wonder who God would vote for. He knows the candidates through and through. We don't. But we must know them better before we enter the voting booth. I urge you to please vote. It is true, if I choose not to vote, I have little reason to complain about the result.

I pray that our faith informs our vote.

Funeral held Monday for Fr. Michael Jarecki, 95

PORT LEYDEN – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass of Christian Burial for Father Michael A. Jarecki, 95, Oct. 29 at St. Martin's Church.

Father Jarecki died Oct. 22 at the St. Benedict Center in Richmond, N.H. He had been in failing health for some time.

Michael Alexander Jarecki was born in Turin, Oct. 6, 1917, the son of Vincent and Irene (Black) Jarecki.

He attended the Martinsburg District Schools and Lowville Academy until his graduation.

In 1936, he entered Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg for his minor seminary training. Upon completing his course there, he enrolled in St. Bernard's Major Seminary in Rochester, NY.

Father Jarecki was ordained by Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart in the old St. Mary's Cathedral on June 3, 1944, and offered his first Mass the next day, Trinity Sunday.

After ordination, Father Jarecki was a summer assistant at St. Agnes, Lake Placid, then assistant pastor at Sacred Heart, Massena. In 1954, Father Jarecki was made pastor of St. Ann's, St. Regis Falls and St. Peter's in Santa Clara.

In 1963, he was named pastor of St. Mary's in Constableville and then, in 1968 pastor of St. Michael's in Witherbee. In 1973, he was named to the College of Consultors and pastor of St. Martin's, Port Leyden and St. John's in Lyons Falls.

Father Jarecki was appointed Dean of Lewis Deanery in 1973. In 1980, prior to his retirement, Father Jarecki

was parochial vicar in St. Mary's, Ticonderoga.

After his retirement in 1987, Father Jarecki lived in residence in Brushton and then in Constable. During that time, he was also helping groups of Catholics loyal to the Traditional Latin Mass in various locales in New York and New England.

Eventually, he devoted much of his time and labor to two apostolates that were dear to his heart: Saint Benedict Center in Richmond, N.H.; and the promotion of the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

Since 1997, Father Jarecki lived in Richmond, N.H. with the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (M.I.C.M.) at Saint Benedict Center.

Father Jarecki is survived

by his brother, Vincent John Jarecki, of Rome, New York, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Father Jarecki



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YEAR OF FAITH...STORY OF FAITH

From Netherlands to the North Country

By Marika Donders
Diocesan director of evangelization

If someone had told me thirty years ago that I would be a practicing Catholic and working for the Church, I would have laughed out loud.

I grew up in a nominally Catholic family in the south of the Netherlands, a traditionally Catholic area of the country. As such, the public school in town was affiliated with the Catholic Church, which meant that once a week, the parish priest would come and teach catechism class. I don't remember much about those classes, except that we were always happy to see our elderly priest, because he told fabulous stories.

I made my First Communion with my second grade class. I would occasionally attend Mass with friends whose parents required them to go and, once in a while, I would sing with the children's choir (where we would play in the back to the choir loft during the "boring parts" of the Mass).

Looking back, music was an integral part of my faith story. Even though my parents didn't practice the faith, many a Sunday I would sit and listen to choral music with my dad.

We moved to the Atlanta, Georgia when I was eleven and I stopped going to Mass all together. Unlike our small town in Holland, it wasn't like you could walk or bike to Mass. There weren't that many Catholic churches in Bible-belt suburban Atlanta. And since my parents didn't go, I didn't go. It just dropped off the radar completely. Until my sophomore year in college.

I was living in an apartment with three girls and one Sunday morning I wanted to go listen to a choir. Unlike most college kids, I was an early



Marika Donders

morning person and at six a.m. in the morning, it wouldn't have been appreciated by my sleeping housemates if I blasted choir music on my stereo.

So, where do you go on a Sunday morning when you are a broke college student and want to go listen to good choir music? I could have gone to the little Church of God, Inc. down the street, which had a decent gospel choir but I was in the mood for something more akin to what I used to listen to with my dad. So, I dug out the yellow pages, looked up the listing for the Catholic Cathedral where I assumed they would have a decent choir (it took a while to find, since it was under R for Roman Catholic Church). I ended up going to the 10:30 Mass and sat in the middle of the church, in the middle of a pew so that I could see when to stand and when to kneel, but far enough forward so I could hear the choir.

And the music was glorious! But just as I had done as a kid, during the "boring parts" of the Mass, I let my mind wander. No, I didn't go play in the back, but as an architecture student, I investigated the stone construction of vaulted ceilings and tried to make out the images on the stained glass windows.



My gaze turned back to what was going on in the front of the church just in time to see the priest raise the host and say "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper." And I could not take my eyes off of Him. I remembered this. There was a sense of coming home that is hard to describe that took my breath away.

From that point forward I would make it to church every once in a while. Then one Saturday afternoon, I walked into a new building on campus at Georgia Tech. It had no signage, but since I had watched the construction progress, I decided that it might be interesting to go and see what the inside looked like. I was surprised to find an open space with a fireplace, couches and a big screen TV.

As I walked further in, I noticed a small chapel, with a candle flickering next to the tabernacle. Then, as I looked into a big open room, a girl playing guitar looked at me hopefully and asked: "Do you sing?" I answered: "Teach me the songs and I'll sing."

And so I sang for Mass at the Georgia Tech Catholic Center that day and every Sunday after that and

ended up finding my home away from home in that community.

Eventually the faith that was awakened at the Cathedral and fed in the GA Tech campus ministry, would lead me to join a religious order with a Eucharistic spirituality and a charism for evangelization through media.

Although community life was not for me, the formation I received continues to guide my life to this day. I would eventually earn a Master of Arts in Ministry degree, would work as a campus minister and now am starting a new chapter in my life as the director of evangelization for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

And as I look back, I think back to being a kid in my rural town in the south of the Netherlands. There is a moment that I have come to recognize as a foreshadowing of things to come.

I was perhaps in third grade, maybe fourth. I was in church early, waiting for the kids choir practice. Our elderly parish priest shuffled up the aisle, and as he climbed the three steps to enter into the sanctuary, he put his left foot on the first step, touched his right knee to the second step, and with much effort got up and continued into the sanctuary.

I remembered thinking even then, that there was something special here. There was something different. I mean, we don't bow or kneel for anything these days. Even the queen shakes hands like to normal person. But here, an old priest, who had difficulty walking, made the effort, in what he thought to be an empty church, to genuflect.

A little seed was planted that day which would help me to recognize Christ again in the raising of the Host, and in the community at Georgia Tech, so that in many moments to come I could taste again for the first time the gift of faith.

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SUPERINTEDENT'S DAY 2012

A DAY FOR TEACHERS

Catholic school teachers of the Diocese of Ogdensburg gather in Lake Placid Oct. 12



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the opening Mass of the 2012 Superintendent's Day held Oct. 12 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Lake Placid. At the end of the Mass, he presented certificates to teachers in recognition of significant years of service including Tanya Murdie who has been teaching at IHC in Watertown for 15 years. Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, is also shown.



Robert Sweetgall, president of Creative Walking, Inc., addressed the teachers on "The Miracle of Movement... Physical Activity and the Positive Transformation of Education."



St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of schools, welcomes the teachers and school administrators.



Father William Muench, administrator of St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake; chats with St. Joseph Sister Sharon Anne Dalton, principal of St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. Father Muench was pastor in Ticonderoga from 1996 to 2011.



Karen Reynolds of Seton Academy and Lita Paczak of Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh served as leaders of song for the Superintendent's Day Mass.



St. Joseph Sister Mary Ellen Brett, diocesan mission director, distributed world mission rosaries to principals Lisa Parsons of Immaculate Heart Central Junior/Senior High in Watertown; St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Herrmann, Seton Academy in Plattsburgh; and Marianne Jados, St. Mary's in Canton. The rosaries were made by parishioners of St. Mary's in Copenhagen, and St. Alphonsus-Holy Name Parish in Tupper Lake and a group from the Diocese of Arlington, Va.

RESPECT LIFE

Putting it all together

By Kathleen M. Gallagher
Director of Pro-Life Activities
New York State Catholic Conference

There's a lot going on at this time of year. The U.S. Bishops have designated October as Respect Life Month, while coalitions of victims' rights groups observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For Respect Life Month

Political pundits continue to enjoy the "Year of Campaigning" while our Church has officially kicked off its "Year of Faith."

My head feels like a giant food processor and all of it is mixing together.

As it should. Let's take them one at a time and see how these threads might be interwoven.

Respect Life Month. Let's hear it for the Bishops who remind us each and every year to take time to renew our defense of human life and human dignity.

Respect Life is not a bumper sticker. It's not a single issue. It's an attitude, a lifestyle, a choice. And we do need the reminder.

The Bishops have been steadfast in their insistence that all human life is sacred and that all attacks on human life be vigorously opposed.

They have connected the dots for us, and shown us that issues of abortion, the death penalty, war, poverty, and limited access to health

care are not just some random assortment of social questions about which the Church takes a position.

Rather, our Church's teaching is a beautifully woven tapestry of charity and love of all human life; our actions and our advocacy must always be in support of human life.

Violence, whether in the womb or in the streets, in our hearts or in our homes, must be confronted and challenged.

Which brings us to Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The fatal beating of a college freshman in her dorm room on my son's campus just a few weeks ago has made me more sensitive to this issue this year.

The coed's boyfriend has been arrested and charged in the killing. And while my son did not know the victim well, he had sat next to her in a class; he knew her name, her face, her smile.

She was a living breathing child of God, and that alone justified respect, not to mention the protection of the law.

Domestic violence disavows respect for life. It spits in the face of human dignity. The Catholic Church has been a leader in raising awareness and breaking the cycle of domestic violence. Because many abuse victims feel safe in church, the church has become a kind of 'first responder' which provides safety, counseling and referral to shelter and other services.

I'm proud of our church's record in helping both the abused and the abusers to find help. But what about the rest of society? Shouldn't our government be taking a lead?

That question brings us to this election year.

So far I haven't heard the Presidential contenders say anything about domestic violence. So I'm doing my research. I want to know what the candidates plan to do to prevent it, and how they propose to help victims. Ditto for the candidates running for Congress and the State Legislature.

There are a number of issues important to me – and to our Church – about which we're not hearing much.

The talking heads on TV focus only on the issues they care about, while the candidates focus on what their polls tell them will portray them in the most positive light. I want to know more. So I'm digging.

In addition to the candidates' own websites (all accessible through the New York State Catholic Conference website at www.nyscatholic.org), I've gathered a great deal of info at the website www.ontheissues.org, which gives candidates' positions on everything from abortion and gun control to civil rights and environmental policies.

I've also placed phone calls to candidates' offices; I've had two call backs so far and I've actually received

some substantive information. Yes, it can be difficult and time-consuming work, but we are called to take our civic responsibilities seriously.

We should exercise due diligence in examining party platforms and candidates' positions through the lens of Catholic values and principles. We should look at a broad range of issues – all of those issues that combine and color the rich fabric of respect for human life.

And what better time is there to study the Church's teachings and deepen our understanding of the faith?

It's officially the "Year of Faith"! Take a few minutes each day to look something up in the catechism (available on-line through www.usccb.org).

Spend an evening reading the U.S. Bishops' statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" (www.faithfulcitizenship.org). Then get out and vote.

It's not only your right; it's your moral obligation.

Bishop's Schedule

Nov. 1 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 2 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Candidates at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Nov. 3 – 10:30 a.m., Commissioning Ceremony for Faith Community Nurses at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Nov. 4 – 1:30 p.m., Harvest Mass at St. Mary's Church in Brushton.

Nov. 5 – 10 a.m., Catholic Charities Corporation Meeting at the Spratt Conference Room in Ogdensburg; 12:30 p.m., Lewis Deanery Meeting with Priest's at St. Peter's Church in Lowville.

Nov. 6 – 8:30 p.m., Mass and Visit to St. James School in Gouverneur.

Nov. 7 – 11 a.m., Development Board Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

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

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

Nov. 3 – Rev. Thomas Plunkett, 1904
Nov. 4 – Msgr. Benjamin Harrison Staie, 1970

Nov. 5 – Rev. Bernard Wyzkowski, 1969; Rev. John Michael Wyzkowski, 1969

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Attention Snowbirds

going south for the winter!

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CELEBRATING SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA



The students and staff of Holy Family School in Malone held a prayer service Oct. 22 to celebrate the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. From left are fourth graders Logan Lavigne, Cordelia Adams, Ananya Gupta, Lydia Gratton and Olivia Franz.



Among the North Country pilgrims who attended the Oct. 21 canonization of seven new saints were Barbara and Dan Benware of North Bangor and Father Francis Flynn, pastor in Elizabethtown.

VOTE KAREN BISSO
115th Assembly District
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH



115th Assembly District: Clinton & Franklin counties and 4 towns of St Lawrence county (Brasher, Hopkinton, Lawrence and Piercefield)

OPPOSES

SUPPORTS

Sex Education for children in Elementary schools	Maintaining the traditional definition of Marriage (1 man/1 woman)
Public funding of abortions	Voluntary Prayer in Schools
Reproductive Health Care Act which allows for abortion up to gestation	Pro-Life Movement and Policies
Requiring religious groups to cover birth control and abortions in insurance for employees	Vouchers that allow parents to choose private schooling or for homeschooling for their children
Participation in Health exchanges as it relates to Federal mandates from ObamaCare	NYS Education Reform requiring all public school students to spend time each year studying the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
Further restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms	Strong Family Values
Use of taxpayer dollars to bailout private companies	Recreational use of public lands in NYS
The continued land grab by the state of NY	Registration of our side-by-side ATVs

Forming consciences...

Candidates' positions on issues of life

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - At the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., the differences on abortion between President Barack Obama and his Republican presidential opponent, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, were clear.

Speeches in prime time on successive nights touted the president's support for keeping abortion legal, and videos praised his stands on "reproductive choice" and "women's rights."

The speakers included Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America; Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America; and Sandra Fluke, a Georgetown Law School graduate who has spoken out against religious exemptions to the Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate.

At the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., there were few speeches that touched on abortion, but candidate Romney pledged in his acceptance speech to "protect the sanctity of life" and the GOP platform states that "the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed."

"We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and endorse legislation

to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children," the platform adds. "We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion or fund organizations which perform or advocate it and will not fund or subsidize health care which includes abortion coverage."

The Democratic Party's platform approved in Charlotte says the party "strongly and unequivocally supports Roe v. Wade and a woman's right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy, including a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay. We oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right."

Assisted suicide

On the issue of assisted suicide, neither candidate has taken a clear stand, although the Republican platform states: "We oppose the nonconsensual withholding or withdrawal of care or treatment, including food and water, from people with disabilities, including newborns, as well as the elderly and infirm, just as we oppose active and passive euthanasia and assisted suicide."

The Democratic Party's platform makes no mention of the issue.

In response to a question about assisted suicide in 2008, Obama said he was "mindful of the legitimate interests of states to prevent a slide from palliative treatments into euthanasia" but thought that "the people of Oregon did a service for the country in recognizing that as the population gets older we've got to think about issues of end-of-life care."

Assisted suicide has been legal in Oregon since voters approved it in 1994. It also is legal in Washington state and in Montana.

Embryonic stem cell research

As president, Obama re-



CNS PHOTO/JIM YOUNG, REUTERS

U.S. Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney and U.S. President Barack Obama shake hands at the start of the second U.S. presidential debate, held Oct. 16 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y.

voiced President George W. Bush's policy on embryonic stem-cell research, which limited such research to cell lines derived from embryos before August 2001. He allowed the National Institutes of Health to expand the acceptable lines to any embryos created for in vitro fertilization purposes and later discarded, if the couple agreed to such research.

Romney's campaign site calls stem-cell research "a great scientific frontier," but says it "must be pursued with respect and care."

"When confronted with the issue of stem-cell research as governor of Massachusetts, Mitt Romney chose to support life by vetoing a bill that would have allowed the cloning of human embryos," it added. "Quite simply, America cannot condone or participate in the creation of human life when the sole purpose of its creation is its sure destruction."

The campaign site expresses support for adult stem-cell research and "alternative methods to derive pluripotent stem cells, such as altered nuclear transfer and direct reprogramming" and says Romney as president "will focus his energy on laws and policies that promote this kind of research to unlock the medical breakthroughs that our loved ones so desperately need."

Death penalty

On the issue of the death penalty, the Democratic platform says it "must not be arbitrary."

"DNA testing should be used in all appropriate circumstances, defendants should have effective assistance of counsel, and the administration of justice should be fair and impartial," it adds.

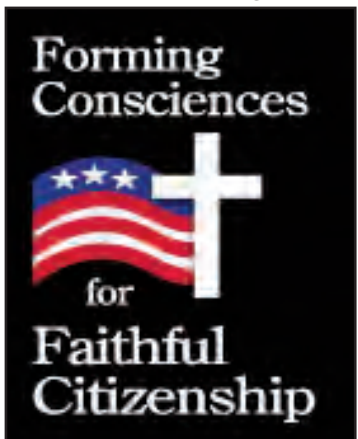
The Republican Party's platform says, "Courts

should have the option of imposing the death penalty in capital murder cases."

"Our national experience over the last several decades has shown that citizen vigilance, tough but fair prosecutors, meaningful sentences, protection of victims' rights, and limits on judicial discretion can preserve public safety by keeping criminals off the streets," it adds.

The U.S. Catholic bishops, in their document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," say "our nation's continued reliance on the death penalty cannot be justified."

They support efforts to end the use of the death penalty "and, in the meantime, to restrain its use through broader use of DNA evidence, access to effective counsel, and efforts to address unfairness and injustice related to application of the death penalty."



... for Faithful Citizenship

Nation's economy is a top concern

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The nation's economy, which has been put through the wringer, is on center stage for the November elections as voters look to what the two major presidential candidates are saying about the situation and what their response is for getting it back on track.

In August, about 12.5 million Americans were unemployed, while 8 million worked part time and sought full-time jobs.

A report released Sept. 27 by the U.S. Labor Department indicated a slight improvement - mainly for the first time since President Barack Obama took office, the number of jobs in the U.S. has increased.

In the year after his inauguration in January 2009, about 4.3 million jobs in the U.S. were lost, but new figures show that since that time 4.4 million jobs have been added.

White House officials emphasized there has been steady progress in rebuilding the economy under Obama, while Republican Mitt Romney's campaign said the president has failed to do enough to boost the nation's struggling economy or create more jobs.

Both presidential campaigns put a lot of emphasis on the economy and claim their respective plans will better help the middle class and create more jobs.

Obama's job creation plan puts emphasis on short-term efforts to stimulate hiring as well as promote jobs in "green technologies." His plan also emphasizes increased spending in education to better prepare the nation's future workforce.

Romney's job creation plan is centered on making the environment better for businesses through changing

current government regulations on businesses and reworking government taxation and spending policies.

Both candidates acknowledge the sluggish economy has a long way to go to improve.

The U.S. bishops similarly have noted the economy's poor condition but have taken it a step further to say it "represents a serious economic and moral failure for our nation."

In their quadrennial statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," offering Catholics guidance for election decisions, the bishops say: "The economy must serve people, not the other way around."

In a Sept. 15, letter Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, urged bishops and priests to preach about "the terrible toll the current economic turmoil is taking on families and communities."

In a July reflection titled "The Economy and the Election," the bishops of Kansas pointed out that even though the Catholic Church doesn't endorse "specific solutions to our economic challenges," it can point to the relationship between the economy and morality.

"Unlike issues involving intrinsic evils such as abortion, same-sex marriage and threats to religious liberty and conscience rights, Catholics of good will may have legitimate disagreements about how to apply church teaching in the economic sphere," they said.

The bishops urged voters to look to candidates who will practice stewardship and provide a safety net for the poor and vulnerable, and to judge "economic choices and institutions by how they protect or undermine the life and dignity of the human person."

Religious freedom at home and abroad

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.

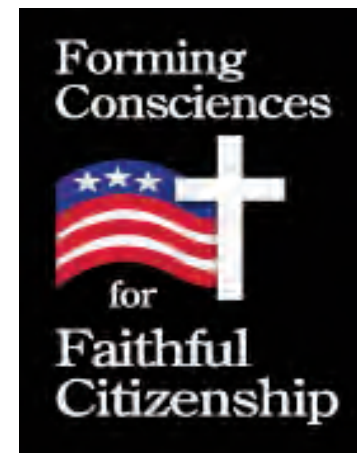
It has been at the forefront for the Catholic bishops since the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced in January that it would require most religious employers to provide free contraceptive coverage against their moral objections. The bishops have repeatedly described the mandate, which 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 and a forum at St. John's University in New York.

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.

At the close of the Republican National Convention Aug. 30 in Tampa, Fla., he gave thanks for the "singular gift of liberty" and prayed for a renewed "respect for religious freedom" and a "new sense of responsibility for freedom's cause."



During a closing benediction Sept. 6 at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., the cardinal prayed that God would "renew in all our people a profound respect for religious liberty: the first, most cherished freedom bequeathed upon us at our founding."

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Positions on environmental issues

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)-- Given their knowledge of Catholic social teaching on the environment, those who make it their stock in trade to promote stewardship of the earth using Catholic principles say the two major presidential candidates' positions on environmental issues leave something to be desired.

"Like many issues of concern to the Catholic community, neither President (Barack) Obama nor Governor (Mitt) Romney seem to give climate change or environmental justice the serious attention these issues deserve," said Dan Misleh, executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. "But the same could be said of reducing poverty, ending abortion

and the death penalty and so on."

Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, a senior representative for the Washington-based think tank Food and Water Watch, noted that both candidates are supporters of hydraulic fracturing, a process by which water is injected into rock to release natural gas.

"The organization I work for, Food and Water Watch, opposes hydraulic fracking, is opposed to both candidates' positions," Brother Andrews said.

"Fracking" is the colloquial term for the process. Opponents say it has the potential to contaminate ground water and affect air quality.

"So far in the election, the quality of the environment is really not on the map," said Walt Grazer, a consultant for the National Religious Partnership on the

Environment and a former director of the U.S. bishops' environmental justice program.

"Whether that changes between now and the election, or in the debates, remains to be seen," he said.

Grazer, though, gave credit to the Catholic bishops for keeping the environment on their national agenda.

"They're right on the mark," he said. "They call it a moral issue, protecting the earth and the environment, and then they attach it right away, I think, to issues of vulnerability."

In the U.S. bishops' statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," it says: "We have a moral obligation to protect the planet on which we live -- to respect God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Seven new saints

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Proclaiming seven new saints - including St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Marianne Cope from North America - Pope Benedict XVI said they are examples to the world of total dedication to Christ and tireless service to others.

In a revised canonization rite Oct. 21, the pope prayed for guidance that the church would not "err in a matter of such importance" as he used his authority to state that the seven are with God in heaven and can intercede for people on earth.

An estimated 80,000 pilgrims from the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Italy, Spain, Germany and Madagascar filled St. Peter's Square for the canonization of the holy women and men who ministered among their people.

The pilgrims applauded the proclamation of the new saints, who included: Kateri, an American Indian who was born in the United States and died in Canada in 1680; Mother Marianne, a Sister of St. Francis who traveled from Syracuse, N.Y., to Hawaii to care for people with Hansen's disease and died in Molokai in 1918; and Pedro Calungsod, a teenaged Philippine catechist who was martyred in Guam in 1672.

The other new saints are: French Jesuit Father Jacques Berthieu, martyred in Madagascar in 1896; Italian Father Giovanni Battista Piamarta, founder of religious orders, who died in 1913; Sister Carmen Salles Barangueras, founder of a Spanish religious order, who died in 1911; and Anna Schaffer, a lay German woman, who died in 1925.

In his homily at Mass following the canonization, Pope Benedict prayed that the example of the new saints would "speak today to the whole church" and that



(CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING)

Sister Kateri Mitchell, left, a member of the Mohawk nation, presents a relic of St. Kateri Tekakwitha during the canonization of seven new saints by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 21. Among those canonized were two North Americans — St. Kateri, an American Indian born in upstate New York who died in Canada in 1680, and St. Marianne Cope, who worked with leprosy patients on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. Sister Kateri, who is a native of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation and now executive director of the Tekakwitha Conference in Great Falls, Mont., will be the main speaker at the Diocese of Ogdensburg Witnesses of Faith Celebration Nov. 18 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

their intercession would strengthen the church in its mission to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

The pope also spoke about each new saint individually, giving a short biographical outline and highlighting a special characteristic of each for Catholics today.

Pope Benedict called St. Kateri the "protectress of Canada and the first Native American saint," and he entrusted to her "the renewal of the faith in the First Nations and in all of North America."

The daughter of a Mohawk father and Algonquin Christian mother, St. Kateri was "faithful to the traditions of her people," but also faithful to the Christianity she embraced at age 20. "May her example help us to live where we are, loving Jesus without denying who we are," the pope said.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, who is of American Indian descent, told Catholic News Service, "I think many young people today are embarrassed about embracing the Catholic faith because they live in a secular culture that's hostile toward religious experience."

St. Kateri also "grew up in a place where there was great hostility toward Christianity," Archbishop Chaput said, but she resisted all efforts to turn her away from her faith, "so in some ways she would be a model of fidelity in the face of persecution on religious freedom grounds."

Archbishop Gerald Cyprien Lacroix of Quebec told CNS that the canonization of the first aboriginal of North America is "huge for us." St. Kateri, he said, is an excellent model for young people of "living a simple life, faithful

to the Lord in the midst of hostility."

St. Kateri's life and canonization show that "saints don't have to do extraordinary things, they just have to love," Archbishop Lacroix said.

Francine Merasty, 32, a Cree who lives in Pelican Narrows, Sask., said, "Kateri inspires me because she's an aboriginal woman. According to sociologists, aboriginal women are at the lowest (social) strata, and for the church to raise up to the communion of saints an aboriginal woman is so awesome and wonderful."

Speaking about St. Marianne of Molokai in his homily, Pope Benedict said that a time when very little could be done to treat people with Hansen's disease, commonly called leprosy, "Marianne Cope showed the highest

love, courage and enthusiasm."

"She is a shining example of the tradition of Catholic nursing sisters and of the spirit of her beloved St. Francis," the pope said.

Leading a group of Hawaiian pilgrims, including nine patient-residents from Kalauapa, where St. Marianne ministered, Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva said St. Marianne is "an inspiration for those who care for those most in need, which is what all Christians are called to do. Now, with universal veneration, she can inspire people around the world."

With thousands of Philippine pilgrims in St. Peter's Square, Pope Benedict praised St. Pedro, a catechist who accompanied Jesuit priests to the Mariana Islands in 1668. Despite hostility from some of the natives, he "displayed deep faith and charity and continued to catechize his many converts, giving witness to Christ by a life of purity and dedication to the Gospel."

The pope prayed that "the example and courageous witness" of St. Pedro would "inspire the dear people of the Philippines to announce the kingdom bravely and to win souls for God."

Pope Benedict also cited St. Anna Schaffer as a model for a very modern concern.

St. Anna was working as a maid to earn the money for the dowry needed to enter a convent when an accident occurred and she "received incurable burns" which kept her bedridden the rest of her life, the pope said. In time, she came to see her pain and suffering as a way to unite herself with Christ through prayer, he said.

"May her apostolate of prayer and suffering, of sacrifice and expiation, be a shining example for believers in her homeland, and may her intercession strengthen the Christian hospice movement in its beneficial activity," the pope said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope names six new cardinals, including US Archbishop Harvey

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI surprised pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Oct. 24 by announcing he would create six new cardinals, including 63-year-old U.S. Archbishop James M. Harvey, prefect of the papal household, in late November. The pope said the consistory to create the new cardinals, who come from six countries, would take place Nov. 24, the eve of the feast of Christ the King. It will be the smallest group of cardinals created since the 1977 consistory when Pope Benedict, the then-Archbishop Joseph Ratzinger, received his red hat from Pope Paul VI along with three other churchmen. The new cardinals also will include: Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai, 72; Archbishop Baselios Cleemis Thottunkal, 53, head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church; Nigerian Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja, 68; Colombian Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez of Bogota, 70; and Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle of Manila, 55. Pope Benedict made the announcement at the end of his weekly general audience, which was attended by about 20,000 pilgrims. As is usual, Cardinal-designate Harvey was seated next to the pope during the audience. While he did not visibly react when his name was announced, the new cardinal-designate smiled and had a brief moment with the pope before returning to his normal duties of helping lead important guests up to the pope. The pope said he was naming Cardinal-designate Harvey the new archpriest of Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Material progress not enough to make people free, happy, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The world's huge technological and scientific progress hasn't always made people freer or happier, Pope Benedict XVI said. While scientific knowledge and advancements "are important for human life, it's not enough on its own," the pope said Oct. 24 at his weekly general audience. "We need not just material sustenance, we need love, meaning, hope and a solid foundation" that helps people live with courage even in the face of doubt, difficulties, and everyday problems, he said. Before an estimated 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope continued a new series of catecheses to accompany the Year of Faith, which runs until Nov. 24, 2013. His talk focused on the nature of faith and what it means to believe. The pope said, "Despite the great magnitude of scientific discoveries and technological successes, humanity today does not seem to have become truly freer and more human." Along with signs of progress and increased well-being, there also are "many forms of exploitation, manipulation, violence, tyranny and injustice." Faith gives people a solid sense of certainty in uncertain times because "faith is believing in this love of God that never fails in the face of human wickedness, evil and death, but is capable of transforming every form of slavery, offering the possibility of salvation," he said. "Faith is not the simple intellectual approval by man of truths concerning God; it is an act in which I freely entrust myself to a God who is Father and loves me," the pope said. In fact, having faith is above all about having a relationship with a God whose love is "indestructible" and who understands people's problems, he said.

Faith in Jesus means being optimistic about the future

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Despite the growth of secularism, increased hostility toward Christianity and sinful behavior by some church ministers, members of the Synod of Bishops said they are optimistic about the future because of Christ's promise of salvation.

Message from the synod

Addressing a message to Catholics around the world Oct. 26, synod members said they were certain God "will not fail to look on our poverty in order to show the strength of his arm in our days and to sustain us in the path of the new evangelization."

Even if the world often resembles a "desert" for Christians, "we must journey, taking with us what is essential: the company of Jesus, the truth of his word, the eucharistic bread which nourishes us," the fellowship of community and the work of charity, the message said.

Pope Benedict XVI and the synod members -- more than 260 cardinals, bishops and priests -- along with priests, religious and laymen and women serving as synod observers and experts, began meeting at the Vatican Oct. 7 to discuss ways to strengthen Catholic's faith and to encourage lapsed Catholics to come back to church.

The synod members approved their "message to the people of God" Oct. 26. They were to vote on proposals to make to Pope Benedict, who will write an apostolic exhortation on the new evangelization, and were to concelebrate the synod's closing Mass Oct. 28.

While the message described forces hostile to the Christian faith today, the synod members also said, "With humility we must rec-

ognize that the poverty and weakness of Jesus' disciples, especially of his ministers, weigh on the credibility of the mission."

At the same time, they said, they also were "convinced that the Lord's spirit is capable of renewing his church and rendering her garment resplendent if we let him mold us."

"It is our duty, therefore, to conquer fear through faith, humiliation through hope, indifference through love," the message said.

At a news conference about the message, Philippine Cardinal-designate Luis Tagle of Manila was asked how the bishops could take the line of optimism when Catholics in some parts of the world were leaving the church because of the clerical abuse scandal.

The cardinal-designate said that "no one pretended there was no problem. There was no such blindness in the synod hall," but the bishops "are believers" and the Catholic faith teaches that with real conversion, God will help the church and its ministers respond to "those really painful and scandalizing moments in the church."

The message included special words of thanks and encouragement for Catholics in different regions of the world. It said synod members were grateful for the generous charity and missionary work of North American Catholics, but it also said Catholics in the United States and Canada "need to recognize the many expressions" of their culture "which are today far from the Gospel."

Addressing Catholics' involvement in political life, the synod message insisted "politics requires a commitment of selfless and sincere care for the common good by fully respecting the dignity of the human person from conception to its natural end, honoring the family founded on the marriage of a man and a woman," and

working to end "injustice, inequality, discrimination, violence, racism, hunger and war."

Looking at specific areas of church and social life, the bishops first highlighted the role of the family, "where women play a very special role," in teaching the faith.

The bishops promised greater efforts to strengthen and accompany Catholic families, particularly through marriage preparation and post-wedding programs. While they condemned efforts to move away from a traditional definition of marriage, they expressed particular concern for divorced, separated or unmarried couples.

"To all of them we want to say that God's love does not abandon anyone; that the church loves them, too; that the church is a house that welcomes all; that they remain members of the church even if they cannot receive sacramental absolution and the Eucharist," it said.

In the message, the bishops offered thanks for the work of priests, religious and deacons whose ministry is crucial for the church. And they recognized the many men and women who witness to Christ in the world, including other Christians "with whom unity, unfortunately, is not yet full," but who share baptism in Christ.

Synod members said they were "concerned, yes, but not pessimistic" about the situation of young Catholics around the world because while they often are under "the most aggressive attacks" of secular culture, they have "deep aspirations for authenticity, truth, freedom, generosity, to which we are convinced that the adequate response is Christ."

While many synod members spoke during the meeting about the importance of using new forms of communication to spread the Christian message, it earned only a brief mention in the 11-page message.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Making the journey towards perfect love

This Sunday's readings are all about love.

They're so familiar that we're in great danger of not listening to what Jesus is really saying.

So let's "dig in" to find something in them that we haven't understood before.

Pope Benedict XVI, has done that for us in his very first Encyclical, *God is Love*.

In it, he tells us that love is basically a journey that

combines two kinds of love—possessive love (eros) and giving love (agape).



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Many people consider divine love and human love to be miles apart, both in their nature and in their practice. That's because we identify divine love with spirit and human love with flesh.

We think of one as very objective and disciplined, and the other as warm and passion-

ate.

The Pope tells us not to

separate them that way.

The Old Testament is full of references to God's love for Israel as warm and passionate.

God's creative love is full of mystery and power, but God's love for people is similar to human love...therefore perfect love includes both possessive love and giving love.

Isn't that awesome!

Love is a journey in which we gradually progress from imperfect love (loving God without loving our neighbor, or loving our neighbor without loving God), to perfect love which includes both.

NOV. 4

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 12:28b-34

How do we progress to this level of loving?.

We have to "fill up" on God's love through prayer which expands our spirit to include our neighbor in our care and concern.

If we love as God intends

us to love, we will also allow other people to love us.

Love can be a humbling as well as a painful experience!

The scribes in today's Gospel were surprised and some them delighted at Jesus' understanding of the Law.

Jesus insisted that there are two great laws, and not just one. If we exclude either one of them, we will not be complete human persons as God intends.

We all have much to learn about loving perfectly as we travel on our journey to perfect Love.

OUR READERS WRITE

Threats to freedom

Today we face unprecedented threats to our faith and freedom. We each hold

the future of America as we have known it, in our hands on Nov. 6th. How we vote will decide what kind of America we want for ourselves and the entire coun-

try. We must vote for biblical values, for the protection of all human life, for the sacrament of marriage between one man and one woman, for our religious liberties, in short for goodness in all its truth.

Our churches have a high calling to speak the truth about the issues so critical to our well-being. Silence is not an option!

There is an ongoing battle for the soul of America. Many of our laity need the guidance and education from our churches on the issues that are non-negotiable: abortion, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning and homosexual "marriage."

When you wake up on Nov. 7th, please don't regret that you did not take a stand to protect and preserve our country, our Constitution, based on the founding principles.

There has been more than enough documentation in the way the current administration is moving our country toward socialism, with its connections to the Muslim Brotherhood; with its disregard for the respect of human lives, with its cover-ups and lies regarding international issues. Doesn't it make you angry that BILLIONS of your tax money continues to be given to Planned Parenthood who is killing our pre-born children within our communities? There should be OUTRAGE, but there is only silence from the majority. And we ask God to bless America?

America, wake up and begin the

change that is so desperately needed on Nov. 6th.

Otherwise, as Mark Levin has stated on his radio show, it could be "Good night America, good-bye America, we are closed, lights out, doors shut. we are no more!"

NANCY MONETTE
PLATTSBURGH

Addressing poverty

Mitt Romney is being portrayed as a dispassionate person who does not care for the poor. This is truly unfortunate.

Writing in Time Magazine (October 8) Jon Meacham shares a different insight. "Romney's personal engagement in charitable works is formidable ... He and his wife are generous donors: in 2010 the Romney's gave \$3 million to charity - 1.5 million went directly to the church. The church runs more than 300 employment resource centers and 80 family-services offices. Some 9,800 missionaries work in welfare services teaching English as a second language, improving agriculture and medical practices and distributing clothing. Mormon families also forgo two consecutive meals a month and give the money that would have been spent as a "fast offering" for the poor.

Would that all wealthy people followed this example.

Contrast this with the other side. Despite the fact that many black Americans still live in poverty many Black elites have aligned themselves with Planned

Parenthood. Historical documents prove that Planned Parenthood acted as the willful arm of the American Eugenics Society and developed a plan, the Negro Project, as a propaganda program to infiltrate the black community with a "birth control for health" campaign through their civic leaders.

Reproductive racism still exists. Racial targeting by abortion providers has demonstrably resulted in a disproportionate number of minorities obtaining abortions. Blacks are 14% of the female population and have 30% of all the abortions. Sadly, rather than seek positive solutions, many blacks of achievement promote the expediency of abortion as the solution for black poverty. (www.nationalblackproliferation.com)

BETTE HARTZELL
WATERTOWN

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

•Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

•We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

•Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org

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AT THE MOVIES

CLOUD ATLAS

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

For both good and ill, contemporary Western values underpin the sweeping screen version of David Mitchell's 2004 novel, "Cloud Atlas" (Warner Bros.).

Co-written and directed by Lana and Andy Wachowski and Tom Tykwer, the ambitious adaptation upholds many principles with which viewers dedicated to Judeo-Christian morality can agree -- the equal dignity of all human beings prominent among them.

But its implicit plea for the breaking down of racial and social divisions extends, under the familiar guise of universal tolerance, into an endorsement of behavior incompatible with a Gospel-driven life.

Tom Hanks leads an ensemble cast through the byzantine passageways of a narrative that interweaves six connected stories set at different times between the 19th and 24th centuries.

Joining him are Halle Berry, Jim Broadbent, Hugo Weaving, Jim Sturgess, Doona Bae, Ben Whishaw, Keith David and James D'Arcy -- all of them skillfully juggling multiple roles.

The messages conveyed through these half-dozen tales are mostly positive, if sometimes ponderously expressed.

Thus Victorian-era lawyer Adam Ewing (Sturgess) overcomes prejudice through his encounter with - and rescue of - a runaway slave named Autua (David Gyasi).

In the dystopian mid-21st century metropolis of Neo Seoul, a "fabricant" called Sommi-451 (Bae) rebels against her fate as a being genetically engineered to toil her brief life away in a McDonald's-like fast-food restaurant.

Back in 1973 San Francisco, crusading journalist Luisa Rey (Berry) may have to risk life and limb to expose a potentially catastrophic conspiracy at nuclear power plant.

Christian moviegoers are bound to welcome cine-

matic parables affirming the bonds that unite us all or celebrating the courage that's sometimes required to do the right thing on behalf of others. But the writing trio's script ventures into more divisive territory via a segment set in 1936 Britain.

The first time we meet roguish young composer Robert Frobisher (Whishaw), the protagonist of this subplot, he's in bed with his lover Rufus Sixsmith (D'Arcy). Robert deviates from their relationship - portrayed sympathetically throughout -- long enough to make a cuckold of Vyvyan Ayr (Broadbent), the distinguished melodist to whom he's apprenticed himself. His casual adultery with Jocasta Ayr (Berry) is treated as essentially harmless.

Other problematic elements include the debunking of a fictional faith - 200 years after her own time, Sommi-451 has been turned into a goddess.

Since the cult surrounding her is obviously idolatrous, its downfall is certainly a



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Susan Sarandon and Tom Hanks star in a scene from the movie "Cloud Atlas."

triumph for truth. But it remains unclear whether the incident is intended as an attack on real-life religion.

Additionally, there are hints in the dialogue that some of the characters may be reincarnations of people we've gotten to know in the earlier sections of the vast chronology.

The film contains considerable gory violence, including torture and a suicide, a benign view of homosexual acts and adultery, graphic premarital and nongraphic adulterous sexual activity, at

least 20 rough terms and occasional crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Victoria Justice, Chelsea Handler and Thomas Mann star in a scene from the movie "Fun Size." According to the Catholic News Service review, the film features "some enjoyable humor and a pleasingly innocent central romance...drowned out by discordant notes that bar endorsement for the targeted age group. These include frivolous treatment of homosexuality, adult cohabitation, implied nonmarital - and possibly underage - sexual activity, some sexual humor and a few crude and crass terms." The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.



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CLINTON

FOR GREATER GLORY

Plattsburgh – “For the Greater Glory” to be shown at Regal Champlain Centre 8.

Date: Nov. 1

Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:53

Cost: \$10

Features: Go online to

<http://www.tugg.com/events/1943>.

Event Info: The Knights of Columbus in collaboration with others present the true struggle of the Mexican people in this historical movie.

HARVEST DINNER

Peru – Court St. Monica of St. Augustine's parish is having their annual Fall Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 10

Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$10; children 4-12, \$4

HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville – The RCC of St. Alexander and St. Joseph is holding a Harvest Turkey Dinner.

Date: Nov. 11

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

Place: St. Alexander's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available by calling 561-5039. Harvest dinner raffle will be at 6 p.m. Grand prize, \$1,500; Second Prize, 32g Apple iPad; other prizes Visit the Country Store and Silent Auction.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

Contact: For more information about spending a special hour with Jesus weekly, or becoming a substitute, please call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

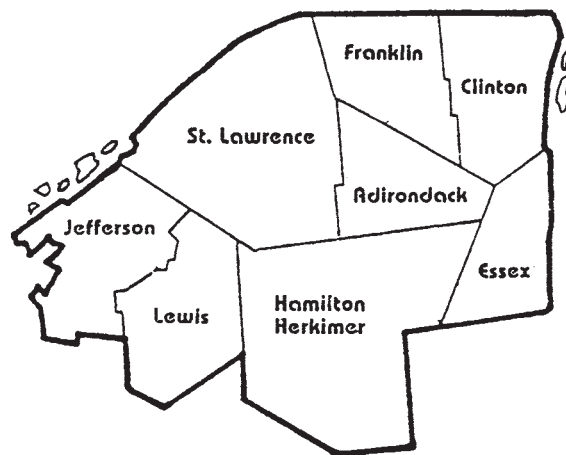
Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be hosting a Watercolor workshop.

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.

Contact: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or by calling 518-594-3253.



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.

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

CRAFT FAIR

Ticonderoga – St. Mary's School will be having their 23rd Annual Craft Fair.

Date and Time: Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Nov. 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: There will be over 30 crafters, a bake sale, white elephant sale, book fair, homemade luncheon, and basket raffle. Soups, chili, hot dogs, michigans, sandwiches, pies, and cinnamon rolls,

Contact: For further information call the school (585-7433).

FRANKLIN

CABBAGE ROLL SALE

Brushton – Cabbage roll sale to be held on Election Day.

Date: Nov. 6

Time: 6 a.m. until gone

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$4

Features: Take-outs only. Each roll includes a dinner roll. May be pre-ordered starting on Nov. 5 by calling 518-529-6580.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River Council 7471 Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner.

Date: Nov. 10

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

HAM DINNER

Alexandria Bay – St. Cyril's Church will be having an Election Day family style Ham Dinner.

Date: Nov. 6

Time: Take-outs from 4 p.m. to 5; Serving from 5 p.m. to 7

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children \$5; under 5, free

Deliveries: Call 955-4846

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

HARVEST BRUNCH

Lowville – St. Peter's will be having a Harvest Brunch.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: following the 9 a.m. Mass

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of November to be held.

Date: Nov. 4

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

Contact: 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

HARVEST DINNER

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

Date: Nov. 8

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, free

Features: Eat in or take-out.

CRAFT SHOW

Brasher Falls – The Altar Rosary Society of St. Patrick's Church will have their 22nd annual craft show.

Date: Nov. 10

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

Place: K of C Hall

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

Features: Luncheon and refreshments will be available.

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Nov. 11

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES

Ogdensburg – The K of C Council 258's Friday Night Fish Fries are back.

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 every Friday

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: Take-out will be available. The K of C Ladies Auxiliary provides homemade dessert for \$1 and there is a cash bar. All processed benefit K of C Charities. Choices of Fresh Haddock or Shrimp dinner with Macaroni and Cheese or French Fries or half and half

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

Star Lake – St. Hubert Church will have its annual Bazaar featuring live wreaths, floral arrangements, handcrafted items and several gift baskets.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch served from 11a.m. to 1p.m.

PARISH BAZAAR

Massena – St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Churches will be having a Parish Bazaar.

Date: Nov. 10

Time: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

ST. JOSEPH'S ANNUAL DINNER

Ogdensburg – St. Joseph's Foundation is holding its annual steamship roastbeef dinner

Date: Nov. 17

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus

Cost: \$8

Features: There will be a silent auction and 50/50 drawing. Take outs welcome.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY:

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

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Features: Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima in reparation to Her Immaculate Heart and for World Peace will be prayed followed by a 15 minute private meditation on the Glorious Mysteries. Confessions begin at 2:45 pm and the Saturday anticipated Mass is at 4:00 PM.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's will have a Benediction and Adoration every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Mary's Family Room (adjacent to the altar)

DIOCESAN EVENTS

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 in the Bishop Brzana Hall



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

Faithful citizenship

From Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ

Diocesan Director

As we think about this world we live in and the enormity of it all, we go on a journey to strengthen our faith. How we prepare for that journey is to realize that faith becomes the heart and soul of life and is the key to understanding faithful citizenship in the Missions.

A call to responsibility for all in the world

Our model of compassion for others is Jesus. We are called to offer spiritual guidance to those who have never known God.

We can do this in many ways. Supporting schools, hospitals, orphanages and churches in the Mission lands are ways to show God who asks us, "what can you do for others?". If we entrust ourselves to Him and have Faith, the call to help other is easily heard.

Our faithful citizenship as citizens of this planet can be exemplified by how we treat the weakest among us like the unborn, the disabled, the sick, the poor and marginalized.

Our current economic crisis has devastated lives and livelihoods, increasing national and global unemployment, poverty, and hunger.

Our increasing debt compromises our abilities to respond effectively to protect the poor and its future generations.

Wars and terror raise questions on the use of force and its human costs in a dangerous world. There is an absence of justice, security and peace in the world that makes our Faith more important now than ever before.

As we choose our leaders, exercise your faithful citizenship. As we go about our day, we must remember that choices made here impact those in far away lands.

As the Church teaches, the Year of Faith emphasizes a call for a new understanding of politics that focus on morals, the defense of life, the pursuit of the common good and compassion for the weak.

Our political participation, if executed with faith and grace, reflects the social teachings of our Church and fulfills the call of the Missions both home and abroad.

If you pray the World Mission Rosary, you can help by praying for each region of our world. May your responsibility to faithful citizenship guide you on your way in making our world a better place for all.

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

OBITUARIES

Black Brook – William Rooney, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2012 at St. Matthe's Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Black River – Rosemary Bisnett, 61; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2012 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Champlain – Joseph Rascoe, 83; Funeral Services Oct. 20, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Chazy – Janice K. (Youngs) Dufresne, 75; Funeral Services Oct. 27, 2012 at the Hart & Bruce Funeral Home.

Colton – Sharron A. (Parrow) Welch, 68; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2012 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Croghan – Helen D. (Hathway) Jenack, 93; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2012 at the Scanlon Funeral Home; burial in Harrisville Community Cemetery.

Louisville – Marion L. (Boyce) Blanchard, 88; Funeral Services Oct. 27, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Louisville – Colbert "Bert" E. Bradley, 72; Funeral Services Oct. 23, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Lowville – Jay W. Russell, 69; Funeral Serv-

ices Oct. 22, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville – Anna Mae (Boshart) Strife, 95; Funeral Services Oct. 26, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena – Madeline "Tootsie" B. (Nadeau) Greene, 77; Funeral Services Oct. 26, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Virginia M. (Hurd) DiOrto, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norwood – John W. McGinnis, 90; Funeral Services Oct. 24, 2012 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Peru – Gladys M. (LaPier) Wade, 91; Funeral Services Oct. 23, 2012 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Plattsburgh – Harold F. Bleau, 88; Funeral Services Oct. 24, 2012 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Vivian A. Hackett, 90; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

Plattsburgh – James Franklin Hurd, 67; Funeral Services Oct. 19, 2012 at the Robert W. Walker Memorial Chapel; burial

in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Plattsburgh – Joyce M. (Thompson) Stone, 82; Funeral Services Oct. 21, 2012 at the R.W. Walker Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Saranac Lake – Paula M. (Gardner) Griffin, 62; Funeral Services Oct. 27, 2012 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Harrietstown Cemetery.

Schroon Lake – Patricia M. Mangiardi, 93; Funeral Services Oct. 22, 2012 at Our Lady of Lourdes; burial in Brooklyn.

Theresa – Frederick H. "Mr. B" Bourcy, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 24, 2012 at St. Theresa Church; burial in Penn Yan.

Tupper Lake – George Denis, 83; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Mary L. (Strauss) Hayes, 94; Funeral Services Oct. 25, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Constance Ann (Masiello) Howe, 84; Funeral Services held Oct. 24, 2012 at the Reed and Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown

Watertown – Anna (Mellon) Petty, 96; Funeral Services Oct. 24, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Greenlawn Cemetery, Warners.

Vatican approves Oct. 22 as memorial for Bl. John Paul II

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A new liturgical memorial - Oct. 22 - has been approved for Blessed John Paul II by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

The U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops announced Oct. 19 that the congregation had approved the "optional memorial" for the late pope in the calendar for U.S. dioceses.

The U.S. bishops last November approved the date for the memorial, which is the anniversary of his inauguration as pope in 1978.

The Vatican congregation's approval was the final step

to inclusion of the celebration in the liturgical calendar in the United States.

An earlier decree of the congregation had approved the celebration of a Mass for Blessed John Paul during the year following his May 11, 2011, beatification, at the designation of the diocesan bishop.

The Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar require the additional approval process to inscribe a permanent observance on the church calendar.

The office of readings and the Mass propers already in-

cluded prayers and readings for Blessed John Paul and are what would be used in celebrations of his feast.

Blessed John Paul was pope for almost 27 years, traveling the world, helping bring about the end of communism in his native Poland and reaching out to other faiths.

He opened new paths for the church such as the celebration of World Youth Day and other forms of outreach to young people and oversaw the creation of a new Catechism of the Catholic Church and a new Code of Canon Law.

Celebrate your favorite priest in the

**NCC PRIEST APPRECIATION
ISSUE**

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

The *NCC* will be honoring our priests in the Nov. 21st issue of the paper.

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

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\$40 - a 2 column x 2 inch ad featuring your message, a photo or graphic design

\$135 - Quarter page ad

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(The *North Country Catholic* provides design services)

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Nov. 14, 2012**

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Religious freedom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

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 the state of 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."

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 eth-

ical 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."

Environment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

human beings, especially children at their most vulnerable stages of development."

Later in the statement, it adds, "Protecting the land, water and air we share is a religious duty of stewardship and reflects our responsibility to born and unborn children, who are most vulnerable to environmental assault."

Obama has called for an "all of the above" energy strategy, which includes fracking, offshore oil exploration and drilling and nuclear power. The offshore oil exploration segment was delayed, but not dropped, after the Deepwater Horizon explosion and massive oil spill in Louisiana's Gulf Coast in 2010. While nuclear power is on the table, no new plants are being built, and existing plants still have no place to send their radioactive waste.

Romney has touted a "North American energy independence" platform which

would include energy from Canada and Mexico in a bid to keep energy costs down. He would eliminate tax breaks for solar and wind power, and has said that, if elected, he would approve the Keystone XL pipeline that would send crude oil extracted from Canadian oil sands through the Plains states and on to the Gulf Coast for refining.

"There are some clear differences that I see between the two parties and the two candidates on the environment," Misleh told Catholic News Service in a Sept. 26 email.

"For instance, Gov. Romney's website does not even include 'environment' as one of the issues his campaign discusses. There is an energy page but nothing about the environment. On the energy page, the discussion has primarily to do with more domestic production of fossil fuels but very little about al-

ternative fuels. The Obama campaign website includes both energy and environment and makes the case for an 'all of the above' approach to energy."

"What's the leadership role of the United States in terms of addressing the issues of poverty and climate change?" Grazer asked.

"These are very large issues and they are so intertwined in the way we run our country and our economy -- literally, to fuel our economy -- and again what's the environmental impact of that and what long-range policies can we adopt to minimize their impact (on the environment), while minimizing the impact on the economy?" he continued.

"These are challenging questions. I think the bishops are at a good place in addressing these questions because they have a good policy base from which to work."