

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Year of Faith...Story of Faith from Potsdam man | PAGE 4

Catholic Campaign for Human Development | PAGE 5

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 14, 2012

Pursuing greater good

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI called on people to never be satisfied with their earthly achievements because true happiness entails seeking out the greater good.

He said people should "not be discouraged by fatigue or by obstacles born of our sins," because striving for the greater good is demanding

and cannot be built or provided by mere human effort.

During his audience talk at St. Peter's Square Nov. 7, the pope spoke about "the mysterious desire for God," which lies deep in every human heart. Despite rampant secularization and people's claims of being indifferent to God, an innate

yearning for God "has not completely disappeared and still today, in many ways, appears in the heart of mankind."

People always strive for happiness and a well-being that is "often far from spiritual," and yet they are also aware there still remains a deeper yearning for some-

thing that could truly satisfy their "restless heart," he said. "Every wish that arises in the human heart is echoed by a fundamental desire that is never fully satisfied," he said.

True love pushes people to think beyond themselves, to be at the service of the other up to the point of self-sacrifice, he said.

Annual report of diocesan Foundation



622 Washington Street • Ogdensburg
Scott Lalone, Executive Director • 315-393-2928 (Ext. 330)

Building A Bridge For The Future



2011-2012 Annual Report

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION, PAGES 7-10

Donations for Sandy

Donations for the victims of Hurricane Sandy may be sent to Catholic Charities, 6866 State Highway 37, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669

A DAY AT ST. JAMES



PHOTO BY DAYNA LEADER

Bishop Terry R. LaValley continued his autumn visits to each of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Nov. 6 with a trip to St. James School in Gouverneur. He is shown above during the homily at the school Mass.

YEAR OF FAITH

Bishop writes pastoral letter



Gary Ryan, left, and Sherman Luck of St. John's Parish in Plattsburgh hang a Year of Faith banner at the Blessed John XXIII Newman Center. The diocesan observance of the Year of Faith officially opens Sunday, Nov. 18, with a Witnesses of Faith Celebration at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral. Bishop LaValley has marked the opening of the Year of Faith with a pastoral letter, noting that "it is important that we rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever dearer lights on the joy and enthusiasm of the encounter of Christ."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

VATICAN LETTER: Four years later, a different approach to Obama... p. 16

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLICBox 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669

USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY

President

MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER

Vice President


SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

General Manager


 Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in January, one week

in March and every other week in July by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.orgEntered at the
Post Office:Ogdensburg, NY
13669 as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication should be addressed to PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication.

Paper is printed each Monday; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0326

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Voices of faith for a Year of Faith

Regular readers will notice a bit of re-arranging on this page to make sure we give Father Muench a little more breathing room.

His column has quickly become one of the most popular features in the *NCC* – again – and, it's safe to say, some of his most ardent fans appreciate the larger type!

My first memories of the church come from the early days of the Vatican Council so it's been a delight to read the memories of someone who stood on the other side of the altar rail back in 1962.

Mary Lou
Kilian

As we've heard, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council is among the reasons that we're now observing a Year of Faith.

Bishop LaValley has taken advantage of the special year to release a pastoral letter on faith for all Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

A comprehensive document, the pastoral letter will be printed in four parts beginning on page 3 of this week's *North Country*

Catholic.

The letter will also be posted in its entirety on the diocesan

Year of Faith webpages - <http://dioogdensburg.org/yearoffaith/>

We are blessed to have a bishop who can express so beautifully what it means to be Catholic; we would be wise read his message with an open, prayerful heart.

We'd also be smart to take advantage of the diocesan celebration for the Year of Faith Sunday at 2 p.m. at the cathedral.

This will be a chance for us to honor some of "our" saints - St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Mother Marianne Cope, OSF, and St. Brother Andre Bessette – and to listen to a very special guest, Sister Kateri Mitchell.

And, it will be a wonderful

opportunity for us to gather as a family of faith, joining together with friends from across the diocese who are also striving to "taste again for the first time."

See you on Sunday!

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

Bishop LaValley has requested that donations for the victims of Hurricane Sandy be given to North Country parishes or sent to the local Catholic Charities office so that a diocesan gift may be made to the victims. Checks should be sent to Catholic Charities, 6866 State Highway 37, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669. "Hurricane Sandy Relief" should be written in the memo line.

We are called to be people of peace

"Some More Urgent Problems"

This is the title of the second part of *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* (Latin name – *Gaudium et Spes*), the document that I considered with you last week

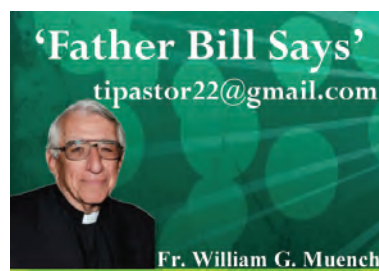
This week I would like to share with you one of these problems. The Vatican Council speaks out on peace in the world in the chapter is entitled "Fostering Peace and Establishment of a Community of Nations."

The Council calls upon all Catholics to make the world a better place by fostering peace.

As I again read this section, I immediately thought of the Sign of Peace at Mass, a rite that was added to the Mass after the Second Vatican Council. The Sign of Peace is a wonderful way to remind us that we are called to be people of peace.

Each time we turn to each other and offer some sign of God's love and peace we have a unique opportunity to recognize our liturgical family, those with us at the Mass.

This ritual demonstrates a sign of unity – our care and concern for each other – as we prepare to unite ourselves with the Prince of Peace in the



Fr. William G. Muench

Blessed Eucharist. As we turn to each other, we are saying that our world could be so peaceful as we are today.

The document offers a plan for peace in the Spirit of Pope John XXIII who pleaded for peace in his encyclical letter, "Mater et Magister."

The Council includes this call for peace simply because we follow in the spirit of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. In that spirit, we must always work, plead and speak out for peace throughout the world.

Now, I am fully aware that this message of the Second Vatican Council was written 50 years ago and our world has not experienced much peace in the years since then.

Yet, the Catholic Church continues – must continue – to be a voice that calls for peace. The Council Fathers made it clear that this cause for peace is important to Catholics.

Some may say that peace in our world is impossible.

I say that we, Catholics, must never stop calling for peace, nor stop believing that peace is possible.

If we ever stop believing that peace is possible, all will be lost.

The message of peace of the Second Vatican Council in this *Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World* is summed up in this way, "The Council proposes to outline the true and noble nature of peace, to condemn the savagery of war, and earnestly to exhort Christians to cooperate with all in securing a peace based on justice and charity and in promoting the means necessary to attain it, under the help of Christ, author of peace."

The Council goes on to challenge the Church – then and now, especially all Bishops and priests – to preach the Gospel and make "a contribution to the strengthening of peace over the whole world and help to consolidate the foundations of brotherly communion among all peoples.

The message of peace is meant for all the People of God – you and me right now – to be people of peace.

I see this in the lives of

Catholics and Christians.

I see this when a person lives with respect for all others in his or her community.

I see this when parents strive to make their homes the most peaceful places on the face of the earth, caring in love for their children, teaching them how to establish good relationships within their families and with others.

I see this when people strive to form a real community spirit within their parish and community. We may not change nations yet, when we make an effort to bring peace into our piece of the world, we have truly become peacemakers.

Peace is not just some sort of sitting around quietly and avoiding others – although that may be good at times. Peace may demand that we challenge ourselves and others to do something that will make the world a better place, a happy place.

May we strive to remove from our hearts and our world anything that is of violence. May we pray often that our country will always work to bring peace to a torn world – and may we pray that one day peace will reign supreme in this world of ours.

Follow Me

By Bishop Terry LaValley

Soon after Archbishop Sambhi informed me that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI had chosen me to be the 14th Bishop of Ogdensburg, I realized that I needed to select an Episcopal Motto. The words that I would choose were to capture the essence of how I would fulfill my office as Bishop.

Pastoral Letter for the Year of Faith (Part 1)

I had always been inspired and challenged by two simple words that Jesus directed to His closest followers as well as to all who would be His disciples: *Follow Me*. They have become a rallying cry, of sorts, of my episcopal ministry.

Two simple words, to be sure, but put them together and the phrase becomes a lifetime challenge. Our faith tradition is rich in imagery. One familiar Scriptural metaphor that is often used to describe life on earth is that of a pilgrimage. The Hebrew Scriptures are steeped with colorful stories of the chosen people as pilgrims of faith, led on the journey by men and women, such as Abraham, Moses, Miriam, Deborah, David, and Esther responding to God's call in their own lives.

To be a pilgrim is to be a person always headed towards some destination, always on the move.

The word, follow, is an action verb. One simply cannot follow by standing still. When Jesus called His first disciples, Peter and Andrew, they had to leave their fishing nets behind, as did James and John, to follow Jesus. (*Matt. 4:19-22*) After having finished breakfast when the risen Christ appeared to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, Peter asked Jesus about John's future. Essentially, Jesus responded by telling Peter not to worry about the beloved apostle, but to just follow Him. Again, there is no "staying put" for the first apostle. (*John 21:20-23*)

Clearly, the apostles and first disciples are not to be the only followers. Jesus said to all those with Him: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) Sacrifice, carrying one's cross each day and following Jesus, is the condition of discipleship.

It is important that we never become comfortable and content with our relationship with Jesus Christ. We know that, biologically speaking, if we do not grow, we die. We simply die. The same can be said about our spiritual life. If we are not moving ever closer to Jesus and His Body, the Church, we are dying.

My responsibility as bishop is to ensure that our following of Jesus, our spiritual growth, remains healthy and robust.

The second word of my episcopal motto is *Me*. I am sometimes teased and/or accused by my friends of directing them to follow *me*. While, God willing, I would not lead anyone astray, the



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop LaValley, shown above at St. Mary's Cathedral at the recent Religious Jubilee, has released his pastoral letter for the Year of Faith. It will be printed in four parts beginning on this page and continuing in the Nov. 21, 28 and Dec. 5 issues of the NCC. The diocesan observance of the Year of Faith officially begins on Sunday with the Witnesses of Faith celebration at St. Cathedral at 2 p.m.

"Me" is, of course, Jesus, the risen Lord. The mission has been set, the pilgrimage lies before us as we breathe the air and tread the ground below our feet: **Follow Me**. But, who is this risen Jesus that I am beckoned to follow?

My fervent prayer for every person who calls the North Country home is that this *Year of Faith* will be the opportune time to seek the answer to this life-altering question.

Let's desire "**To taste again for the first time,**" to know Jesus even more and, with renewed energy and grace, embrace His mission of love that we received at our Baptism and reaffirmed at our Confirmation.

Year of Faith

With the Apostolic Letter of October 11, 2011, *Porta fidei*, Pope Benedict XVI declared a Year of Faith, marking the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council in Rome and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This Holy Year will conclude on the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, November 24, 2013.

In announcing this special *Year of Faith*, the Holy Father desires to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others.

The Pope begins his Apostolic Letter reminding us that "the door of faith is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime." (*Porta Fidei*, 1).

At the very start, the Holy Father uses that image of journey to provide us with a way of understanding the dynamism of what to expect, i.e., a pilgrim people on the move—following Christ.

It is important that we rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and enthusiasm of the encounter of Christ. The Holy Father hopes that this Year will help lead people out of the desert, towards friendship with the Son of God who gives us life in abundance.

Don't we all desire that joy and enthusiasm that will last forever? We learn too late the futility of hanging all our hopes on the fleeting pleasures that the world has to offer.

Faith as Mystery

Faith is a Mystery. It's a leap in the dark, but who likes walking and stumbling in the dark?

In our world today, we demand to know all the reasons for everything. Everything must be seen and explainable in clear, scientific terms. There is little room or patience for mystery.

Faith does not take away the darkness of the unknown (for instance, read the life story of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta), but it does tell us that Jesus is leading us by the hand. We may stumble and even fall. However, even in the dark, we know that we are going where Jesus wisely chooses to take us.

So, with deep faith, we accept His invitation, "Follow Me." Even when we are criticized, misunderstood, seemingly unsuccessful, underestimated and disregarded, or broken physically and emotionally, God promises to bring good out of it all (cf. Rom. 8:28). Faith is our rock because it assures us that we are no longer in our own hands, but in those of our Savior, so we follow Him.

The Holy Father reminds us, "Faith is above all a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, and to experience His closeness, His friendship, His love; only in this way does one learn to know Him ever more, and to love and follow Him ever more." (*Benedict XVI, General Audience, October 21, 2009*) Perhaps, for too long, we have neglected tending to this personal encounter with our Savior.

We know from our personal experience that in order for any close relationship to be established and for it to flourish, it needs an investment of time and attention. We must prepare the soil, open the door, to allow such an encounter, such an intimate relationship to develop.

Faith is not merely an assent to a set of statements but a personal engagement, a continuing act of loyalty and self-commitment, offered by the human person to God.

YEAR OF FAITH...STORIES OF FAITH

'Like St. Paul, I fell in love with Jesus!'

By Chris LaRose

Missiary of the Gospel of Life
Parishioner, St. Mary's, Potsdam

I was born in 1950 and attended the Congregational Church in Massena with my mom; dad was a non-practicing Catholic. After many restless years, I ended up in Connecticut where I married in 1983. Our first daughter was born in 1984 in New Hampshire.

God was not on my mind, yet I was still restless.

As my dad was dying from cancer in 1987, we moved back to my hometown. With my dad's death, I spiraled into depression; I cried out to God for help.

Unbeknownst to us, God was already working as He guided us to enroll our daughter in a summer Vacation Bible School at a small Methodist church nearby. The pastor began visiting us, praying for us and we soon attended his small church. In 1990, I attended a Methodist Cursillo; like St. Paul I fell in love with Jesus!

I quit smoking and drinking, began praying and devoured Holy Scripture and spiritual classics.

With the local Catholic parish, we brought Father Swizdor, a Franciscan priest with a healing ministry to our towns. Afterwards, my wife and I traveled to Pittsburgh to a Catholic Conference in 1992. Here we met some Catholics from up by us who were in a "community", the Brothers and Sisters of Charity.

I became a Stephen Ministries leader, prepared for ordination and became a local Methodist pastor.

One day watching TV I discovered



Mother Angelica and EWTN!

We began praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet as Protestants! I still couldn't understand the whole "Mary thing;" a Methodist gave me a book, *Medjugorje the Message* about miracles in Croatia where Mary had been appearing since June 24, 1981.

At a John Michael Talbot concert at the Cathedral in Syracuse, I prayed before a statue of Mary asking Mary, "I don't understand, what is your role?" She replied interiorly, "Chris, I am your mother." (John 19:27)

Tears of joy flowed spontaneously, I now understood!

We visited the "home" of the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Albans, VT – praying before the image, I touched "pregnant" Mary's belly and actually felt "the baby kick"!

In 1998 we were on pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Marmora Shrine in Ontario. At the 10th Station, visionary Dory Tan appeared to be communicating with the Virgin.



Chris LaRose

Everywhere were manifestations of the Holy Spirit: I looked directly at the sun which was changing colors and dancing!

People were shrieking in joy not fear. My breath was taken away, I was dizzy, confused, yet on fire for God!

Unlike Mary's faithful fiat to the Father (Luke 1:38), our yes to become Catholic took awhile. Finally we stepped out in faith and became Catholic at a Mass concelebrated by Msgr. Peter Riani and Father Thomas Moody at the Hope House of Prayer in Peru on August 2, 1993.

Being a true follower of Christ is not easy. "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" (Luke 9:23)

Receiving Him in my heart is an indescribable joy and completely turned my life around.

My darkest hour was when Janine left us in 2006. Back into depression I went. For the first time as a

Catholic, I stopped going to Mass. How could this happen, I had Jesus with me?!

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory. . ." (John 1:14) God actually has a glorified body and gives it to us at each Eucharistic feast of the Mass. "We abide in Him and He in us." (John 15:4)

Even though I thought I was dead, my faith was alive and saved me. In 2011, I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, which is fatal, has no cure and features severe shortness of breath with constant fatigue. "Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt." (CCC 157)

Christ proclaims, "Be not afraid . . . and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matt. 28:20)

The message of St. Faustina buoys my soul, "Jesus, I trust in you." Trust means that I agree to let God be God, instead of trying to be Him myself. In moments of agony, I echo the cry of Jesus, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

My life is in your hands, I surrender all to you; my worldly life is over, it is You who now lives in me. Victory has been won; (1 Cor. 15:54-58) You have overcome the world on the Cross. (1 John 5:4)

Help me to bear my cross Lord, to do the Father's will, whatever it may be. Help me to go forth loving You all the more, reaching out in humility to love all people with Your divine love every day. Amen.

Follow Me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Part I of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* treats the articles of the Profession of Faith we pray in the Nicene or Apostles Creed. Here we find a rich description of the truths of our Catholic faith.

We are reminded of the essence of what we, the communion of the faithful - fellow pilgrims all - who seek to follow Jesus, believe.

In the Creed, we profess to believe in God the Father, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit. We do not profess to have belief in the Church, per se. We believe in God, and it is He who reveals the Church as the Body of Christ and as His people.

Some have likened the Church to the moon that does not have its own light, but only reflects the light of the sun, which is Christ.

This Year of Faith can help us to once again find and embrace the Creed. The heated debates among the "experts" today about Church issues are quite irrelevant if we don't search for the reasons why the major tenets of our faith are under attack.

Jesus is being reduced to being simply a unique and curious historical figure. The Scriptures are relegated to being a collection of

uninspired stories of backward simple folk.

There is a growing popularity of writing off the miracles as mere fiction.

Large numbers of Catholics no longer believe in the Real Presence of Christ in Holy Eucharist.

The four marks of our Church proclaimed each time we pray the Creed: "one, holy, catholic and apostolic" no longer identify who and whose we are, ac-

ording to the more "enlightened" among us. These marks have become fodder for debate.

Indeed, there is an urgency that we reacquaint ourselves with and pray the Creed, the essence of what we believe as Catholic Christians.

We must embrace, not try to solve the Mystery of Faith.

(Next Week: Faith as Gift, Called to Belong)

Black and Indian Mission Special Collection to be held in addition at your parish
November 17-18, 2012



Fight Poverty. Defend Human Dignity.



Support the
Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

www.usccb.org/nationalcollections

Funeral held for Sr. Maria Goretti, SSJ

WATERTOWN – A Mass of Christian Burial for St. Joseph Sister Maria Goretti Sargent, 80, was held Nov. 3 at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

She died Oct. 31 at the motherhouse; burial followed in Glenwood Cemetery.

She was born Nancy P. Sargent Aug. 19, 1932 in Ogdensburg, daughter of Alfred and Jennie Lesperance Sar-

gent. She graduated from St. Mary's Academy and had attended Mater Dei College, both in Ogdensburg.

Sister Maria entered the Motherhouse in Watertown in 1956.

She received her habit Aug. 18, 1957 and made her final profession Aug. 28, 1962 with Bishop James J. Navagh presiding at both.

She had been an elementary teacher at Sacred Heart,

Watertown; Augustinian Academy, Carthage; St. Patrick's, Port Henry; St. Patrick's, Watertown; and Holy Name, Ausable Forks.

Sister Maria She taught from 1957 until her retirement in June of 1982.

She then did parish work at St. Mary's in Ticonderoga. After that, she cared for her mother for four years.

Sister Maria is survived by her two brothers, Leonard

and Richard Sargent, both in Ogdensburg; her sister, Winnie England, Troy, MO; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, including her niece, Sue Rupert, Ogdensburg.

Her two brothers, Allen and Kenneth Sargent, and her two sisters, Shirley Beldock and Norma Barr, all died before her.

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:

Nov. 13 - St. Philip and James Church, Lisbon, 6 p.m.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Religious Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: aycsnn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

Rites held for Sr. Ann Mildred Brown, OP, Plattsburgh native

MARIANDALE, NY – A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Ann Mildred Brown, 94, of the Dominican Sisters of Hope, was held Nov. 9 at the Ossining Center of Hope.

She died Nov. 3 at the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon, NY; burial was in the sister's cemetery at Mariandale in Ossining.

The daughter of the late Ernest Lebrun (Brown) and Josephine Duquette Brown, she was born Oct. 18, 1918 in Plattsburgh.

Sister Ann Mildred entered the novitiate of the Dominican Sisters of Fall River, Mass., Feb. 2, 1937; made her

first profession Aug. 20, 1938 and final profession Aug. 20, 1941.

Sister Ann Mildred taught at Dominican Academy in Fall River, Mass. from 1939-47 in the elementary school, and from 1953-58 and 1966-71 in the high school. She taught at St. Peter's elementary and high school in Plattsburgh, from 1947-53 and from 1959-66.

From 1958-59, she taught religious education in Chateaugay. From 1971-76, she taught at Bishop Gerrard High School in Fall River, Mass..

From 1976-78, she taught at Mt. Assumption High School in Plattsburgh. From 1980-87, she worked in pastoral care at Morton Hospital in Taunton, Mass. From 1987-90, she was a library assistant at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass. From 1990-95, she served in congregation administration and as archivist for the Dominican Sisters in Fall River, Mass.

In 1996, she moved to Plattsburgh and in 2003 she moved to Newburgh Center of Hope. She resided at the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon, NY since 2009.

Sister Ann Mildred is survived by a sister, Gladys Champagne, of North Port, Florida and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by 11 siblings.

Donations in Sister Ann's memory can be made to The Dominican Sisters of Hope Development Office, 299 Highland Avenue, Ossining, New York, 10562-2327.

+Benedictus+

Created for Pope Benedict XVI on the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination.

Linden blossom, bergamot and frankincense create a soothing, refreshing aftershave.

Order now:

www.ExcelsisUSA.com or
888-357-3957



Plattsburgh Wholesale Homes

New or Used Manufactured and Modular Homes

7109 State Route 9

518-563-1100 or 1-800-640-1833

www.pwmh.com

Bring this ad in and receive \$1000 off the purchase of a new home!

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN

You now have the option to start receiving your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to

Please switch my current *NCC* subscription to E-mail

Name _____

Current Account Number (found on your mailing label) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg,

NY 13669

OR Call

Christine at

315-608-7556

to make the

change

Bishop's Schedule

Nov. 14-16 - United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's Meeting in Baltimore, MD

Nov. 17 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 4 p.m., Installation of Msgr. John Murphy as Pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Norwood and Church of the Visitation, Norfolk, and St. Raymond's Church, Raymondville at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood.

Nov. 18 - 2 p.m., Year of Faith Prayer Service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Nov. 19 - 9:30 a.m., Mass and Visit to Augustinian Academy in Carthage

Nov. 20 - 11 a.m., Council of Priests Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg; 6 p.m., Dinner for the Special Religious Education Program at Immaculate Heart Intermediate School in Watertown

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 14 - Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

Nov. 15 - Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C., 1980; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003

Nov. 16 - Rev. Alexis Trudeau, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011

Nov. 17 - Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976

Nov. 18 - Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931

Nov. 20 - Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939



The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

622 Washington Street • Ogdensburg
Scott Lalone, Executive Director • 315-393-2920 (Ext. 330)

Building A Bridge For The Future



2011-2012 Annual Report

Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As I travel around our Diocese, I see "Faces of Faith", united in an ever changing world. It is inspiring to see our Catholic communities commitment to the spiritual life and how it brings transformation not only to ourselves but to all those who are influenced by our witness.



In order to "Build a Bridge for the Future" and continue this strong sense of commitment, in 2007 the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY Inc. was established with the purpose of preparing the Diocese to meet the needs of tomorrow.

I am pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report. I hope you will take a moment to review not only the 40 endowments listed on the back page as well as all of the parishes, schools and agencies that are their beneficiaries but also our mission statement, what a Catholic Foundation truly is and how it works. Please also note the different methods you can help share your treasures and leave a legacy for generations to come.

Despite these current economic conditions, we are truly blessed and grateful for our donors and their foresight in contributing to the Foundation to benefit the future work of the Church. Through these endowment gifts, the principal of the gift remains and continues to grow as a perpetual source of revenue for the Diocese, the parish, the Catholic school or the Catholic organization or ministry.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for their willingness to serve, provide proper financial oversight, ensure legal and ethical integrity and ensure effective organizational planning for the Foundation.

If you have not already, I encourage you to consider developing an estate plan for the benefit of your loved ones and those ministries close to your heart.

Wishing God's blessings to you and your loved ones, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

WHY A CATHOLIC FOUNDATION

Endowments through The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc. provide permanent annual income for all years ahead solely for the specific religious purposes designed by the donor. Our donors enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that their gift will give steady annual income to the causes that have been most meaningful in their lives. Such causes include ministries and projects within parishes, agencies, organizations and Catholic schools.

HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG

Dear Friends,

Through the generosity of the people of the North Country, 40 Endowments (see back page) have been created since the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY Foundation was incorporated in 2007. Pastors establishing endowments to benefit their respective parishes and schools as well as generous donors have combined to leave a legacy for over 25 different funds creating a perpetual source of income for their respective beneficiaries.

Endowments are gifts that keep on giving. They are permanently invested by the Foundation generating interest that is used for the purpose you choose to support—parishes, ministries and projects within the parishes, agencies, organizations, Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

The principle of the gift is never touched and dividends from investments are allocated/distributed to the beneficiary of your choice (Diocese, programs/agencies, Catholic School, parish, etc.). It is a gift that lasts a lifetime as you know your beneficiary will continue to receive dividends while your original gift remains intact.

Please take a moment to review the endowments on the back page. I invite you to consider how you can share your resources to help protect human life, promote dignity, defend those who are poor, strengthen the Church and to seek common good for future generations.

An endowment can be opened with a contribution of cash, securities or other property and may be added to at any time by you or someone else who wishes to contribute to the same organization.

Our office will work with you to clearly define your wishes and to establish an endowment (or help you add to an existing one) that will utilize your gift exactly as you desire. Please contact our office if you have any questions or would like further information.

Sincerely Yours,

Scott M. Lalone
Executive Director

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.



Methods of Giving

Type of Gift	Form of Gift	Benefit to Church	Benefit to You
Outright Gift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities • Real estate • Insurance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perpetual income • Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income tax deduction • No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts
Wills & Bequests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Real estate • Personal property • Percentage of estate • Remainder of estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible estate tax deduction • Opportunity to make perpetual gifts
Charitable Gift Annuities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant remaining assets generate interest income for The Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible estate tax deduction • Opportunity to make perpetual gifts
Insurance Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost • Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred • Premium payments may be deducted as gifts
Real Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home • Land • Vacation Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be given with life use • Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation
Charitable Remainder Trusts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash • Stocks/securities • Real estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable or fixed income • Option to defer income • Income tax deduction • Reduction of estate taxes • No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)
Retirement Plan/IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name The Foundation as beneficiary of death benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant gift upon death of donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to make a major gift • Estate and income tax savings
Endowment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any of the above types of gifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final beneficiary(ies) will have a perpetual source of revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making a lasting gift that is a permanent legacy of your faith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
President

Reverend Monsignor Robert L. Lawler
Vicar General
Vice President

Mr. Michael J. Tooley
Diocesan Fiscal
Officer

Reverend Kevin O'Brien
Pastor
Attorney

Reverend Arthur LaBaff
Pastor, St. Mary's Church, Clayton &
St. John the Evangelist Church, LaFargeville

Miss Cathleen O'Horo
Canton, NY

Mr. H. Bruce Russell
Owls Head, NY

Mr. Philip Cosmo
Ogdensburg, NY

TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG FOUNDATION OFFICE
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg
Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x330)

Endowments Established

in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic

Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.

- Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment** – Support of Priests' Disabilities
- Catholic Charities Endowment** – Corporate purposes
- Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment** – Corporate purposes
- Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment** – Corporate purposes
- St. Joseph's Home Foundation Endowment** – Corporate purposes
- Catherine Aurelia Endowment** – Bishop's Charities and Religious Works
- Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment** – Support of the Diocesan Archives
- Building For Tomorrow Endowment** – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria
- Education of Seminarians Endowment** – Funding to the annual operating budget
- Faylene LeRoux Endowment** – Support of Catholic Education
- Formation For Ministry Endowment** – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget
- Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment** – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center
- Leona Schlafly Endowment** – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Reverend James Meehan Endowment** – Special care of priests
- St. Mary's Cathedral Endowment** – Support of general operations
- Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment** – General operating needs of St. Anthony's, Watertown
- Guggenheim Maintenance Endowment** – Maintain the main camp building, boathouse and grounds
- Spratt Memorial Endowment** – Support capital needs
- St. Alexander's Catholic Education Endowment** – Support of Catholic education at parish
- Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor
- Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor
- St. Augustine's Church Endowment** – General purposes
- Margaret Brothers Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
- Victor West Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point
- St. Mary's Champlain NY Endowment** – Support of St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's Church
- Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment** – Support of disabled priests
- Good Samaritan Endowment** – Christian charity to the people of the North Country
- Holy Family Strauss Educational Endowment** – Promote Catholic education
- Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment** – Education of Seminarians
- William Cornish Endowment** – St. Henry's Church, EWTN, Diocese
- Donald J. Grant Endowment** – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter
- St. Lawrence Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence
- St. Patrick's Church Shamrock Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls
- ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment** – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril's and St. Francis Xavier
- Special Care of Priests Endowment** – Funding for annual operating budget
- Alice Austin Mass Endowment** – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson
- St. Francis of Assisi Endowment** – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House
- William L. Patnode Endowment** – Education of Seminarians

NET ASSETS AS OF JUNE 30, 2012 - \$3,772,688



CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope sends Obama telegram, praying freedom, justice flourish

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI congratulated U.S. President Barack Obama on his re-election, saying that he prayed the ideals of freedom and justice that guided America's founders might continue to flourish. The Vatican did not make public the full text of the pope's telegram to Obama, which was sent via Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Nov. 7. "In the message, the Holy Father sent his best wishes to the president for his new term and assured him of his prayers that God might assist him in his very great responsibility before the country and the international community," the Vatican said in a statement. The pope also told Obama he was praying that "the ideals of liberty and justice that guided the founders of the United States of America might continue to shine" as the nation goes forward, the statement said. In remarks to reporters, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, voiced hopes that Obama would also promote "a culture of life and religious freedom." It is the hope of everyone that President Obama "respond to the expectations" of the American people and "serve law and justice for the well-being and growth of every person, by respecting essential human and spiritual values and by promoting the culture of life and religious freedom, which have always been so precious in the tradition of the American people and their culture," the priest said.

Voters in three states approve laws permitting same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Voters in Maine, Washington state and Maryland approved ballot measures legalizing same-sex marriage Nov. 6. In Minnesota, voters rejected a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as only a union between a man and a woman. The Catholic bishops in each state had urged voters to uphold the traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman and warned that religious liberties could be threatened by legalizing same-sex marriage. Maryland and Washington voters upheld laws permitting same-sex marriage that were passed earlier in the year by their legislatures and signed by their governors, but challenged in the referendum process. Minnesota's action does not make same-sex marriage legal. There is still a state law banning it, but by rejecting the constitutional amendment, voters cleared the way for the Legislature or courts to move to permit such marriages. Thirty other states have passed laws prohibiting same-sex marriages. Previously six states and the District of Columbia had allowed same-sex marriages through legislative action and court rulings. Voters in Maine approved a referendum authorizing same-sex marriage, a measure that bypassed courts and the Legislature, and reversed a 2009 referendum banning such unions. Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, called for renewed efforts to strengthen and protect marriage and family life and expressed gratitude to marriage protection supporters. Election Day was a disappointing one for marriage, he said. "The meaning of marriage, though, cannot be redefined because it lies within our very nature. No matter what policy, law or judicial decision is put into place, marriage is the only institution that unites a man and a woman to each other and to any children born of their union," he said. "It is either this, or it is nothing at all

Cardinal sees 'phenomenal' solidarity, compassion in Hurricane Sandy recovery

NEW YORK (CNS) - Everywhere New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said he has gone to visit people and communities in the hurricane-ravaged areas of the archdiocese, he has heard stories "not just of the pain and destruction caused by Sandy, but the overwhelming goodness of people in helping those in need."

He made the comments in a Nov. 8 statement to announce the success of special collection to respond to families, individuals, parishes, Catholic institutions and charities, and other community organizations harmed by Sandy.

Cardinal Dolan asked that all of the archdiocese's nearly 375 parishes hold a special collection the weekends of Nov. 3-4 and Nov. 10-11.

The final tally for the collection will not be known until sometime after the second weekend, but pastors were already "reporting a generous response from the people to this special appeal for help," the cardinal's announcement said.

The Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation and the Cardinal's Annual Appeal will each contribute an additional \$500,000 to the relief fund.

Cardinal Dolan praised the response of individuals and agencies alike to the devastation and hardship caused by the super storm.

"Catholic Charities and our parishes are doing a magnificent job in reaching out and providing help to people on Staten Island, in Lower Manhattan and elsewhere, as are so many other agencies and individuals," he said.

"This new fund will augment those efforts already under way in providing direct aid where it is needed most," he said.

A board of pastors from those areas of the archdio-

cese most affected by the hurricane will oversee distribution of the funds to ensure they go to the people and institutions most in need of help with their recovery efforts.

These people inspire me! They are a living homily

"We have an obligation - a sacred duty - to help those who are hurting," Cardinal Dolan said. "The efforts of the Catholic Church, along with so many other organizations and individuals, are helping us to fulfill this responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in need."

During a visit on All Saints' Day, Nov. 1, to emergency shelters, embattled firehouses and flooded churches in Manhattan and on Staten Island, Cardinal Dolan said he wanted to "bring a word of encouragement or inspiration" to people struggling to put their lives back in order after Hurricane Sandy.

Instead, he said he found himself being stirred by the New Yorkers he encountered.

"I got it backwards. These people inspire me! They are a living homily," the cardinal told Catholic New York, the archdiocesan newspaper, as he visited a shelter set up at John Jay College of Criminal Justice on Manhattan's West Side.

"What they say to us is like a page out of the Gospel. They say, 'My house is destroyed, all my earthly possessions are destroyed but I got my life, I got my faith, I got my friends, I've got my family, I've got my community.' That's a pearl of great price. Jesus said that," he said.

"These people are an inspiration. They are people of tremendously profound faith," the cardinal added.

"Faith comes through at moments of trial, and that's what we've got now."

After that visit, the cardinal immediately headed to Staten Island where he spent the afternoon comforting residents who were still reeling from the storm. He visited some of the areas hardest hit by Sandy, from South Beach to Tottenville.

Being with New Yorkers in the days after the storm, Cardinal Dolan said, had given him a heightened respect for how they handle themselves during a crisis.

"I admired New York from afar after 9/11," he said. "And now I've got a box seat. I don't have a box seat, I'm on the playing field! And they're just amazing with the solidarity, with the compassion. It's phenomenal."

After Hurricane Sandy made landfall Oct. 29 in New Jersey, the state as well as New York City, and Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island were among the areas hit the hardest. The storm surge reached 14 feet in some places, killing more than 100 people and leaving millions without power.

As of Nov. 9, fewer than 20,000 New York City residents were in the dark. New Jersey still had 253,000 customers without power and Long Island nearly 200,000, according to news reports. That tally was down from a total of 5.5 million in all three states at the height of Sandy.

The New York City subway continued to work toward resuming full service; drivers faced a gas rationing system that when into effect Nov. 9 in New York City and Long Island, nearly a week after New Jersey put in place a similar system.

The economic damage created by the storm could reach \$50 billion, according to an AP report.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A call to review our lives: will we pass muster?

We're fast approaching the end of another Church Year. In two weeks, Advent will commence.

Beginning today, the readings speak of the final days of justice, when all that is hidden will be brought to light, both our good deeds and our evil deeds.

With all the horrors of war, terrorism from Al-Quada, and sins against the dignity of human life, we almost welcome the descriptions of the end times.

We ponder some of these today in the prophecies of

Daniel, and of Jesus Himself. The prophet Daniel wrote during the Greek persecution of the Jews under the infamous Antiochus IV Epiphanes, one of the cruelest rulers of all time.

Just one hundred and fifty years before Christ, the prophet expressed his belief in the resurrection of the dead: "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth

shall awake: some shall live forever, others shall be in everlasting horror and disgrace."

Then he describes the

other side of justice - justice for all who have patiently endured and courageously witnessed to the truth: "But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."

These are words that stir up our hope in eternal life, and vindicate the efforts of all who fight injustice.

We do not suffer in vain, This prophecy contradicts those who tell us there is no God, and prayer is useless.

Even more dramatic is the prophetic vision of Jesus in the Gospel.

Jesus, who knows already that He is to be the Judge of

NOV. 18

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Mark 13:24-32

all creation on the Last Day, realizes too that He is soon to offer His own Body and Blood on the cross once and for all in expiation for the sins of the world.

(This theme is treated in today's second reading from Hebrews).

In this vision of the final days, Jesus declares that a cosmic collapse of the pow-

ers of heaven and earth will occur first, then He Himself will come in glory to gather those He has chosen.

Then, He gives his listeners a warning to be on the alert.

Only God the Father knows the exact day and the hour.

This Sunday is a call to review our lives. Will all our deeds "pass muster" before the keen gaze of Jesus, the Just Judge?

Are there corrections we need to make here and now in the direction of our deeds and attitudes?

Since we know not the day nor the hour of Christ's coming, are we ready this very day should He come?



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The hard work of faithful citizenship continues

By Tony Magliano
NCC columnist

Struggling to figure out what candidates would do the most good and the least harm - especially to the poor and vulnerable - and then showing up to vote, was the easy part.

Now the hard work begins!

With so many elected officials enjoying the security of a full term in office largely due in many cases to huge financial support from corporations, super PACs (political action committees) and wealthy individuals - who will expect special attention and favors - it is morally essential for every Catholic, and all people of good will, to become the voice of the voiceless.

Because the unborn, poor, hungry, homeless, war-torn, medically uninsured, undocumented, unemployed and underemployed had no money to feed the financially engorged political beasts of both major parties, and because they were

struggling to survive and had no time for political organizing, they went unheard and unseen during this last political campaign - and virtually every campaign before it.

After the election, it is morally essential that all people of good will become the voice of the voiceless

The voices of the invisible poor and vulnerable will surely continue to remain unheard by the powers in Washington, D.C. and state capitols through the United States, unless you and I put our faith into action.

Yes, voting is certainly important, but committed lobbying throughout the years after the elections, is even more important!

Church efforts to pass pro-life, peace-building, social justice and environmental legislation often fail because most Catholics remain silent. Elected officials monitor their phone calls, letters, and e-mails to deter-

mine how their constituents want them to vote. Our silence sends them the wrong signal.

Make no mistake about it, when we fail to infuse Gospel-based moral values into the political arena; others rush in to fill the void with immoral public policies. We must not let that happen!

In their document "Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility," the U.S. bishops urge us to remember that "Jesus called us to 'love one another.' Our Lord's example and words demand care for the 'least of these' from each of us. Yet they also require action on a broader scale.

Faithful citizenship is about more than elections. It requires ongoing participation in the continuing political and legislative process."

Because very few elected officials demonstrate passionate concern for the poor and vulnerable in the U.S. and throughout the world, it is up to us to put and keep the pressure on them to

enact legislation and advance public policy that will protect the lives and promote the dignity of every single human being.

It has been accurately noted "That most politicians do not see the light until they feel the heat." So let's turn up the heat!

The following outstanding organizations are ready to help us:

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity
- Your state Catholic Conference www.nyscatholic.org
- Pax Christi USA/National Catholic peace organization/www.paxchristiusa.org
- Catholic Peace Fellowship/www.catholicpeacefellowship.org
- Just Foreign Policy/www.justforeignpolicy.org
- Catholic Relief Services/U.S. Catholic international emergency relief and development agency/www.crs.org
- Catholic Charities

USA/National Catholic domestic emergency relief and development office/www.catholiccharitiesusa.org

- Bread for the World/www.bread.org
 - Priests for Life/www.priestsforlife.org
 - The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform/www.abortionno.org
 - Network/National Catholic social justice lobby/www.networklobby.org
 - Parents Television Council/www.parentstv.org
 - Union of Concerned Scientists/www.ucsusa.org
 - Greenpeace/www.greenpeace.org
 - Catholic Climate Covenant/www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
 - Institute for Global Labour and Human Rights/www.globallabourrights.org
- Please sign-up to receive their action alerts.
- Politically, U.S. Catholics are 66 million weak. With your help we can turn that around to 66 million strong for the voiceless!

AT THE MOVIES

LINCOLN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

With the unsurprising exception of Jesus Christ, more books are said to have been written about President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) than about any other person in history.

As for the screen, our most fascinating - and arguably greatest - chief executive has been portrayed by such Hollywood luminaries as Walter Huston ("Abraham Lincoln," 1930), Henry Fonda (1939's "Young Mr. Lincoln") and Raymond Massey ("Abe Lincoln in Illinois," 1940).

Those estimable names notwithstanding, it's hard to imagine that any actor has ever inhabited the persona of the legendary rail-splitter quite as convincingly as Daniel Day-Lewis does in director Steven Spielberg's splendid historical drama "Lincoln" (DreamWorks). Day-Lewis' bravura performance is undeniably the highlight - though by no means the only asset - of this engrossing profile.

The plot focuses on the Civil War president's passionate yet wily struggle, during the closing days of that conflict, to steer a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery through

Congress. Aided by his secretary of state, William Seward (David Strathairn), but distracted by his troubled personal life - Sally Field plays his famously high-strung wife, Mary - Lincoln uses rhetoric to win over his hesitant Cabinet and patronage to woo his congressional opponents.

As for the Great Emancipator's ostensible allies on Capitol Hill, irascible Rep. Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania (a marvelous Tommy Lee Jones) hurls withering sarcasm at all and sundry and openly avows his mistrust of Lincoln.

Whether in line with history or not, a scene showing Stevens sharing his bed with his mixed-race housekeeper presents a curious moral quandary: Assuming that they could not marry by law, but would have tied the knot if permitted to, the guilt, if any, attaching to their relationship must have been considerably mitigated by the force of unjust circumstances.

Along with the tension created by Mary's neurotic behavior, Lincoln is also burdened by grief over the untimely death of his son Willie two years before the events of the movie. Though not especially close to his oldest son Robert

(Joseph Gordon-Levitt) -- whose intense desire to join the Army poses a threat to Mary's sanity, and thus presents his father with a terrible dilemma -- Lincoln dotes on his youngest child, Tad (Gulliver McGrath). Like the Lincoln marriage, however, their touching bond is tinged by the tragedy of Willie's absence.

The trajectory of Spielberg's tale is, by its nature, uplifting, while Lincoln's multifaceted personality - which encompassed idealism, political shrewdness, melancholy, humor and even a few endearing foibles - is vividly illuminated in Tony Kushner's screenplay. As his script reveals, however, Lincoln was not above telling an earthy anecdote if it advanced a point he wished to make, nor were those around him too refined to employ vulgarity for the sake of emphasis from time to time.

Still, some parents may consider the educational value and moral import of the film - which is based, in part, on Doris Kearns Goodwin's 2006 book "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" - sufficient to overcome the elements listed below, thus allowing for patronage by older adolescents.



CNS/DREAMWORKS

Actor Daniel Day-Lewis portrays U.S. president Abraham Lincoln in a scene from the movie "Lincoln."

The film contains intense but mostly bloodless battlefield violence, a scene involving severed limbs, cohabitation, about a dozen uses of profanity, racial slurs, a couple of rough terms and occasional crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service clas-

sification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Catholic news from around the world and the Diocese of Ogdensburg delivered to your home with a subscription to the North Country Catholic

A Harvest of Good News!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:

North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

****Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal****

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30

I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____



For a New or Used Car
MORT BACKUS & SONS
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
Phone
315-393-5899

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
is on
FACEBOOK

- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

Like

CLINTON

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: Noon

Features: All are welcomed. RSVP to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253. Donations appreciated

SETON DINNER AND AUCTION

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic High School is planning its 8th Annual Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction

Date: Dec 2

Time: 12-5 PM

Place: Seton Catholic High School
Cost: Seniors (55+) \$7, Adults, takeouts \$9, kids 5-12 years \$5, Under 5 FREE

Features: Holiday wreath sale, cash & carry items, 50/50 Drawings, Seton Sweepstakes tickets, Each adult who brings in an item for the Seton food drive or a new, unwrapped toy for the toy drive will receive \$1 off their meal
Contact: 561-4031 ext 121 for take outs

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Sciota – Monthly prayer group to be held second Friday of the month.

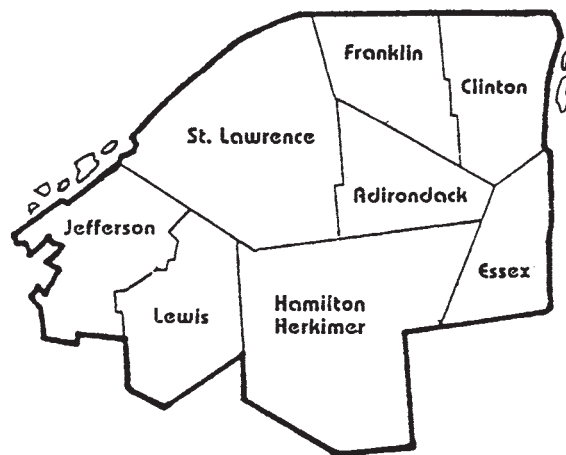
Time: 2 p.m.

Place: To be determined, contact Nancy Monette at 561-8225 for details

Features: praying the Rosary, The Divine Chaplet, centering around creative prayer and music. Our prayers are offered for the sick in our parishes.

PRAYER MEETING

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).



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.

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church, St. Brother Andre' Chapel.

Features: Prayers and songs of praise, y devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet/Novena

SOAKING PRAYER

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer have soaking prayer.

Date: Every 3rd Monday.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11

Features: be immersed in prayer with individual prayer time for specific needs

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Soaking Prayer is offered every second and fourth Wednesday of the month under the direction of the Living Water's Healing Ministry.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Upper room at St. Peters

Features: A quiet prayerful environment, to be soaked in God's love

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Keeseville – The Keeseville Altar Rosary Society will sponsor a Sunday weekly Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament.

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

ESSEX

HOLIDAY FAIR

Willsboro – St. Philip of Jesus Church is having their 7th Annual Holiday Fair.

Date: Nov. 17

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

Features: Crafts, bake shop, raffles

FRANKLIN

CHRISTMAS TEA

North Bangor – The CC of St. Augustine will hold their annual "O Come All Ye Faithful" Christmas Tea.

Date: Dec. 2

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

Place: John C. Dwyer Parish Center
Features: handmade crafts, bake table, candy booth, cake walk, a Chinese auction, raffles, etc. Christmas cookies, coffee, tea & punch. Homemade soup, sandwiches & soda will be for sale.

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Nov. 29

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

BENEFIT DINNER

Adams – The K of C Council #7364 will be hosting a benefit spaghetti dinner for the Jamie and Julie Otis family.

Date: Nov. 17

Time: Takeouts start 3:30 PM, Dinner. 4 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Cecilia's Parish Center

Donations: Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus # 7364, % St. Cecilia's Church, 17 Grove Street, Adams, NY, 13605

Contact: Bill Ose, 315-232-4433

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting has been planned

Date: Nov. 19

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Hearthside Hospitality Center of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Features: Cheryl Gmitter will discuss why grieving is necessary.

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.

ST. LAWRENCE

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ogdensburg – A Free community Thanksgiving Dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: Doors open at 11:30 a.m., dinner is served at noon

Place: K of C Hall

Reservations: by Nov. 21 by calling 393-7990 after 4 p.m.

Features: Volunteers are needed on Thanksgiving Day and on Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Monetary Donations and donations of food stuffs appreciated. Checks can be made payable to Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner, 721 Hasbrouck Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 Attn: PGK Harry Lucchetti. Food can be dropped off between 4p.m. and 8. Donations of dessert should be dropped off the night before or Thanksgiving morning. Volunteers are also needed to deliver and provide transportation to the event.

Contact: To volunteer call 393-7990.

SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

Canton – The Surviving Spouse Friendship and Support Group meets the first Thursday of the month.

Time: 9 a.m.

Place: Best Western University Inn

Contact: Lita Maroney at 379-1650 for .

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 home-made dessert for \$1 and there is a cash bar. All processed benefit K of C Charities.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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)

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral holds a monthly Holy Hour to pray for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Nocturnal Adoration continues through the night

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg – Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel

Date: Tuesday evenings

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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. Reception will follow.



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

A time of thanks

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

Thanks to all of you throughout our North Country who have so generously given to our brothers and sisters in the developing countries. I give thanks to Almighty God when I reflect upon your generosity in prayer and sacrifice for the missions. Reaching out to offer material and prayerful support evokes a feeling of unity and solidarity within our entire human family.

Traditionally in the Catholic Church, November has been dedicated as a time of special prayer for our deceased and remembering fondly the joy they brought into our lives. It is indeed an opportune time the Mission Office to give thanks for our benefactors who were witnesses to the Gospel by their prayers and sacrificial offerings to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

We remember in prayer especially the faithful departed who remembered the Missions in their will. This remembrance of the mission church is a lasting testament of their good will so others may hear the good news about Jesus Christ's love for them.

The Diocesan Mission Office wishes to acknowledge in thanksgiving the following bequests made to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, whose legal process has been completed this year.

2012 Bequests
As of November 10, 2012

Donor	Gift Amount
The Estate of Elizabeth J. Hannan	300.00
The Estate of James F. Lamitie	2,715.00*
Total:	3,015.00


*bequest specified Mass Intentions

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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

- Read Bishop LaValley's columns
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!



OBITUARIES

Brushton – Wayne Arthur Bolster, 56; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Sand Hill Cemetery.

Clayton – Gerald J. Wetterhahn, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Dannemora – Fred A. LaGoy, 93; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Ellenburg – Leo J. LaBombard, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2012 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Louisville – A Mass of Resurrection for Richard "Dick" G. Girard, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Malone – Anthony J. "Tony" Bailey, 49; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Massena – Domenico Jermano, 100; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Marie A. Proulx, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Lawrenceville.

Moors Forks – Dorothy (Dot) Bleau, 74; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2012 at St. Ann's Church.

Moors Forks – Theresa A. Patno, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2012 at St. Ann's Church.

North Lawrence – Elizabeth J. (Meacham) Engle, 80; Funeral Services Oct. 31, 2012 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lodine Raymon, 75; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Levi Sovie, 35; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Chester Walters, 56; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2012 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Edwardsville Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Dorothy Bouvia, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2012 at Robert W. Walker Memorial Chapel; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Deborah L. (LeClair) Coryer, 40; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Sherl A. (Manor) Drollette, 58; Funeral Services, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Catherine B. (DeFayette) Kipp, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Bernard B. Adams, Sr., 79; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Kathleen Murphy, 58; Fu-

neral Services Nov. 5, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – L. Florence (Charette) Tarbox, 90; Memorial Services Nov. 24, 2012 at Holy Name Church.

Tupper Lake – Charlotte M. Russell, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2012 at Holy Name Church.

Watertown – Dorothy J. Austin, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2012 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown – Jeffery A. Marra, 49; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Grindstone Island Cemetery, Clayton.

Watertown – Dawn M. (Adams) Shaw, 56; Funeral Services Nov. 3, 2012 at the Redd & Benoit Funeral Home.



Attention Snowbirds
going south for the winter!

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

SEE THE POPE ON YOUTUBE


THE VATICAN VISIT
WWW.NORTHCOUNTRYCATHOLIC.ORG

Religious Gifts For All Occasions

Medals Rosaries Statues
Bibles Crucifixes Prayer Books

Farrand's Flowers 

Next to Hep. Med. Ctr. 118 KING STREET
OGDENSBURG, NY 13669 (315) 393-5310



Support And Pray For Vocations

VATICAN LETTER

Four years later

Vatican takes a different approach toward President Obama

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The day after Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, hailed his election as a "choice that unites," exemplifying America's ability to "overcome fractures and divisions that until only recently could seem incurable."

Pope Benedict XVI sent the president-elect a congratulatory telegram the same day, noting the "historic occasion" of his election.

Four years later, the Vatican's reaction to Obama's re-election had a markedly different tone.

"If Obama truly wants to be the president of all Americans," said *L'Osservatore* Nov. 7, "he should finally acknowledge the demands forcefully arising from religious communities - above all the Catholic Church - in favor of the natural family, life and finally religious liberty itself."

Speaking to reporters the same day, the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, voiced hope that Obama would use his second term for the "promotion of the culture of life and of religious liberty."

The statements alluded to Obama policies favoring legalized abortion, same-sex marriage and a plan to require nearly all health insurance plans, including those offered by most Catholic universities and agencies, to cover sterilizations and contraceptives, which are forbidden by the church's moral teaching.

The insurance mandate in particular, which U.S. bishops have strenuously protested for the past year, has proven an even greater source of division between the church and the Obama administration than their previous disagreements and threatens to aggravate tensions between Washington and the Vatican during the president's second term.

From the beginning of Obama's presidency, his support for legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research inspired protests by the church and controversy within it. Some 80 U.S. bishops publicly criticized the University of Notre Dame for granting Obama an honorary degree in 2009.

Yet the Vatican itself remained largely aloof from such disputes, at least in public statements, and cooperated with the Obama administration on such common international goals as assisting migrants, working against human trafficking and preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

But seeing a threat to the freedom of the church itself, the Vatican changed its approach and chose to address matters more directly.

In January, Pope Benedict told a group of visit-



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican in 2009.

ing U.S. bishops that he was concerned about "certain attempts being made to limit that most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion," through "concerted efforts ... to deny the right of conscientious objection on the part of Catholic individuals and institutions with regard to cooperation in intrinsically evil practices."

Any hopes that the administration might change its policy to the satisfaction of the church grew faint as the year wore on and the election drew nearer, to the increasingly vocal frustration of several U.S. bishops.

Two days before Americans went to the polls, the papal nuncio to the U.S. made it clear how urgent a priority the nation's religious liberty had become at the highest levels of the universal church.

Speaking at the University of Notre Dame Nov. 4, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano devoted most of a speech about "religious freedom, persecution of the church and martyrdom" to the situation of the United States today.

"The menace to religious liberty is concrete on many fronts," Archbishop Vigano said, noting the insurance mandate, anti-discrimination policies that require Catholic adoption agencies to place children with same-sex couples, and mandatory public school curricula that present same-sex marriage as "natural and wholesome."

Recalling persecution of Catholics in fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, the archbishop said that the "problems identified ... over six decades ago that deal with the heavy grip of the state's hand in authentic religious liberty are still with us today."

A government need not be a dictatorship in order to persecute the church, the nuncio said, quoting the words of Blessed John Paul II that a "democracy without values easily turns into openly or thinly disguised totalitarianism."

If the mere timing of his speech was not sufficient to underscore its political implications, Archbishop Vigano concluded by lamenting the support of Catholic politicians and voters for laws and policies that violate church teaching.

"We witness in an unprecedented way a platform being assumed by a major political party, having intrinsic evils among its basic principles, and Catholic faithful publicly supporting it," he said. "There is a divisive strategy at work here, an intentional dividing of the church; through this strategy, the body of the church is weakened, and thus the church can be more easily persecuted."

Jesuit Father Gerald P. Fogarty, a professor of history at the University of Virginia and an expert on U.S.-Vatican relations, said it is extremely rare for a papal diplomat to comment publicly on a host country's politics in such a way. The closest thing to a precedent in the U.S., Fogarty said, occurred nearly a century ago, during the Vatican's efforts to persuade belligerent nations to end World War I.

The archbishop's speech would seem to suggest that the Holy See has made religious liberty in the U.S. an issue in its diplomatic relations with Washington. Yet Miguel H. Diaz, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican since 2009, said that the disagreements between the church and the Obama administration over the insurance mandate have not interfered with his efforts to cooperate with the Vatican on areas of common concern.

Asked whether such compartmentalization would be possible during Obama's second term, Diaz, who will step down in mid-November, voiced hope that current tensions, including the dispute over the insurance mandate, might be resolved soon.

"Perhaps my successor will not have the same kinds of issues" to contend with, he said, "because that person will likely have a whole set of different challenges."