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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 67, Number 8

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 21, 2012

Christianity: encounter with love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Far from being just a moral or ethical code, Christianity is "an experience of love; it's welcoming the person of Jesus," Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Many people today have a limited concept of what the Christian faith is because they identify it with a mere

system of beliefs and values and not with the truth of a God revealing himself in history, eager to communicate with humanity one-on-one in a relationship of love," he said.

Faith "isn't an illusion, escapism, a comfortable safe haven or sentimentalism,"

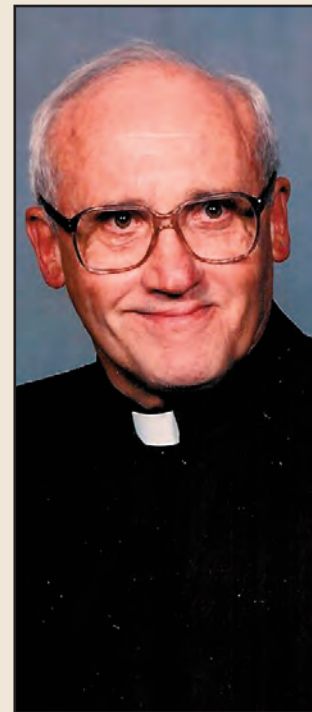
rather it is something that engages one's whole life and it proclaims the Gospel with courage, the pope said Nov. 14 during his weekly general audience.

United with God, people of faith are "not afraid of showing their beliefs in everyday life," and they are open to di-

alogue "that expresses deep friendship for the journey of every person," the pope told some 8,000 pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall. In addition, he said, people of faith know how to bring a sense of hope to people's quest for "redemption, happiness and a future."

REST IN PEACE, MSGR. CHRISTMAN

Former NCC editor dies in Florida



Moro. Bernard E. Christman, a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 53 years, died Nov. 11 at his retirement home in Indian Harbor Beach, Fla. In addition to his service as editor of the *North Country Catholic* from 1971 to 1998, Msgr. Christman served as pastor of Lisbon, Morristown, Lowville, with Glenfield, Grieg and Houseville and in Lyon Mountain. He retired in 2005 and moved to Florida.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

Year of Faith Pastoral

The second part of Bishop LaValley's pastoral letter to mark the opening of the Year of Faith is printed on page three.

The bishop focuses on "faith as gift," writing "indeed, faith is a mystery, but it is also a gift. Through baptism, God holds open the door of faith for each one of us. For this reason, the beginning of faith is always possible. We cannot produce faith on our own. We must, however, respond to the Lord's call to enter through the gate. No one else can do that for us."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Witnesses of Faith

Coverage of the Nov. 18 prayer service opening the diocesan observance of the Year of Faith will appear in next week's NCC

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Many of the priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are shown during their annual Presbyteral Assembly held in Alexandria Bay in May. This week's issue of the *North Country Catholic* is the annual priest appreciation issue.

YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE: Priests are the superheroes of today... p. 20

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Rest in peace, Father, teacher and friend

In this week's *NCC*, we're celebrating Thanksgiving by expressing our appreciation for the special priests in our lives.

It's my privilege to remember one of the most important priests in mine.

This week, our diocese mourns Msgr. Bernard E. Christman who died Nov. 11 in his retirement home in Florida.

A beloved pastor and gifted musician, Father Christman will always be known to me as the best boss in the world!

From 1971 to 1982, Msgr. Christman served the Diocese of Ogdensburg as editor of the *North Country Catholic*.

Leading a Catholic newspa-

per through the upheaval of the post-Vatican II church was not for the faint of heart.

"The ravages of post-Vatican II had nearly decimated the effectiveness of a Catholic press – everyone was either angry or discouraged," Father Christman wrote in his farewell editorial Feb. 17, 1982.

"Perhaps it was a mark of providence to appoint an editor who did not know enough to be either," he said.

Father Christman was called "liberal, left-wing and progressive" by some and "conservative, right-wing and reactionary" by others, but he usually managed to tread the fine line which kept most of the people happy – or at least

interested – most of the time.

For more than a decade, he put out a local Catholic paper that brought home national Catholic press awards.

Father Christman's bravest move may have been giving a job to a new college graduate, armed with a psychology degree (!) and solid streak of shyness. In the four years we worked together, he taught me everything I know about working for the *North Country Catholic* – from the proper use of semi-colons to how to talk to bishops.

Father Christman had no expectation that he would work in a newspaper when he was ordained a priest for the diocese in 1959. He had two degrees in music, for pete's sake!

Obviously, Bishop Brzana saw something in this priest

that he didn't see himself.

What a blessing for our diocese that Father Christman said "yes" first and wondered "how?" later.

Since his retirement in 2005, Msgr. Christman has been living in what was his parent's condominium in Florida but he never forgot his friends up here. His cards and letters through the years have offered encouragement for my work and concern for my family and his friends in the North Country. Christmas this year won't be the same without his card.

On Nov. 11, Msgr. Christman celebrated one final Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Indialantic, FL, went home and then went home to his Father.

He will always find a home in my heart.

Rest in peace, Father C.



Mary Lou
Kilian

After all these years, I still love being a priest!

I truly love being a priest.

I must admit that it wasn't an easy decision to enter the seminary and then to choose ordination to the priesthood but, somehow, I knew that it was the right thing for me to do.

After all of these years, I still love being a priest. God has blessed me with many great assignments, wonderful experiences for me to work hand in hand with the Lord.

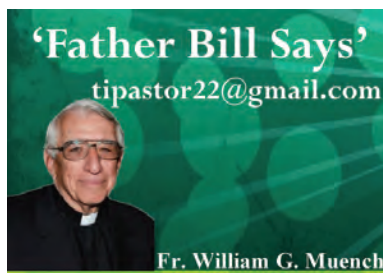
I have found real happiness in the opportunities I have had to serve the Lord and the Church.

I have been blessed to know and pastor so many wonderful families, so many wonderful people.

I have also been a part of a wonderful family of priests right here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

During these past few weeks as I have worked on this column, I have been immersed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. The Council Fathers prepared and promulgated two documents that concerned the priests.

The Council promulgated these documents in the years that I was just beginning of my



priesthood so it is interesting for me to re-read what was written back then. I now have the unique opportunity to realize how this message was part of my life as a priest.

These documents of the Second Vatican Council on priesthood set a high standard for priests – a call to perfection. Like all other Christians, my call to perfection began with Baptism, "the sign and gift of the calling and grace of all Christians."

Every baptized person through Baptism shares in the priesthood of Jesus and receives the universal call to holiness. Every baptized person then is called to perfection.

So, Baptism is that first sacrament that joins us all in our journey toward the Lord as Christians. Chosen as special by the Lord. Jesus says, "You,

therefore, must be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt. 4:48)

The document of the Second Vatican Council is entitled, "The Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests." It reminds and challenges every priest to strive for perfection: "Priests are bound by a special reason to acquire this perfection. They are consecrated to God in a new way in their ordination and are made the living instruments of Christ the eternal priest."

Personally, there are some days when this challenge to achieve perfection is impossible. I wonder how it is possible to really know if I am growing in perfection. I can tell you how many Masses I have offered, how many sacraments I have administered, how many people I have brought into the Church, how many homilies I have given, how many confessions I have heard.

But how do you put a number on the rise to perfection?

The Council tells me that "priests will acquire holiness in their own distinctive way by exercising their functions sincerely and tirelessly in the

Spirit of Christ." The Council points me to recognize that my priestly functions are my road to holiness, perfection and sanctity.

So as I look back, my faithfulness to my functions as a priest are my steppingstones on my road to the perfection to which God calls me.

First of all, the Council mentions the Sacred Scriptures. The Bible has always been an important part of my life as a priest. Each time I celebrate Mass the Scriptures present to me the message for the day and give me the basis of the homily that I will present in my homily.

The readings of the Scriptures are always the center – the heart and soul – of my daily meditations. The Bible is bound up with all that I do as a priest and will always be my way to finding God in my life. And so it will be my guide along the road to perfection.

Then there is the celebration of the Holy Mass. At each and every Mass, I remember and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of my Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FOLLOW ME

Faith as gift... called to belong

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Faith as Gift

Indeed, faith is a mystery, but it is also a gift. Through baptism, God holds open the door of faith for each one of us. For this reason, the beginning of faith is always possible. We cannot produce faith on our own.

Pastoral Letter for the Year of Faith (Part II)

We must, however, respond to the Lord's call to enter through the gate. No one else can do that for us, not the strong faith of our parents or grandparents or the faith of a spouse. Faith is first and foremost, a personal relationship with God, expressed and nurtured in prayer. Blessed Pope John Paul II tells us that it is possible for baptized Catholics to be "without any explicit personal attachment to Jesus Christ; they only have the capacity to believe placed within them by Baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit." (*Catechesis tradendae*, 19, 1979)

The sacred characters we received at Baptism and Confirmation make us capable of believing in God, hoping in Him, and loving Him. Although faith is a gift, in order for it to be activated, a personal act of faith, under the grace of God, transforms one from a person who *can* be a believer into one who *is* a believer.

However, because faith is a mystery, Vatican Council II reminds us that the "grace of God and interior help of the Holy Spirit must precede and assist, moving the heart and turning it to God, opening the eyes of the mind and giving joy and ease to everyone in assenting to the truth and believing it." (*Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Rev-*



In the second part of his pastoral letter for the year of Faith, printed here, Bishop LaValley writes, "This prayer for an increase in faith in the Eucharist can be most powerfully experienced before the exposed Blessed Sacrament."

elation, 5, 1965)

The Year of Faith prompts you and me to take a serious look at our personal and communal prayer life. How disciplined is my daily prayer? Even in the midst of hectic and sometimes chaotic days in our family living, time set aside to nurture our intimate relationship with Jesus is essential.

The gift has been given. It must be unwrapped.

Called to Belong

In the greeting of his letter to the beloved of God in Rome, St. Paul tells the Romans that they, indeed all people, are "called to belong to Jesus Christ" (*Rom. 1:6*)... called to follow the One to Whom we belong. Later, in that same letter, he speaks of our relationship with others: "We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (*12:4-5*) Paul, as he does in other letters, then goes on to speak about the gifts of the individual members that help to build up the One Body of Christ.

Archbishop Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, tells us that we must "avoid traveling alone...by nature we are Catholics, that is, open to all and wishing to be alongside each person to offer them the company of the faith."

(*Fisichella, Origins, Vol. 42, No. 14, Sept. 6, 2012*)

We are all companions on this one journey of faith. We all belong to Christ, one family of faith. There can be no lone rangers when it comes to living out our Catholic faith.

With the communion of saints, we are numbered among a vast multitude of fellow travelers, offering help to one another in our personal journeys. Baptism gifts us with membership. But faith is more than responding "Present" to a roster check. "Belonging" is all about relationship.

The Sacraments of our Church provide us with profound moments of grace that enhance our belonging to Christ. They are instances where we can "**Taste Again, for the First Time**" the new life Jesus Christ came to bring us in His living, dying, and rising.

This Year of Faith is an invitation to rejuvenate our commitment to celebrate the Sacraments, both as individuals and as families.

To begin with, in the Sacrament of Penance, with honest self-reflection in the context of God's enduring mercy, we have a graced opportunity to encounter Jesus sacramentally and know His love and forgiveness. Humble acknowledgment of our sinfulness clears the way for conver-

sion of heart and readiness to start anew as a pilgrim of faith and hope.

What a tremendous gift the Lord has given us through this Sacrament! Even more, what a tragedy so few avail themselves of the gift! On our pilgrimage, Holy Eucharist summarizes everything! It is food for the present journey (Word and Sacrament) and it is the foretaste of where the following of Jesus will ultimately take us.

St. John of Avila, recently named Doctor of the Church, wrote: "Nor is it enough that, when we were baptized, the priest put his finger into our ears, saying, 'May your ears be opened to hear the Word of God,' if we keep them shut to the word of God and thus fulfill in ourselves what the psalmist said about idols: 'They have eyes and see not. They have ears and hear not.'" (Ps. 115:5-6) (*The Classics of Western Spirituality, John of Avila, 41, 2006*)

St. Paul reminds us, too, that "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ." (*Rom. 10:17*)

Furthermore, as suggested earlier, there is a great and real need to "**Taste again for the first time**," the awesome gift we have in Holy Eucharist. When we receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass, our "AMEN!"

should be a heartfelt acclamation of affirmation of the tremendous Gift of Jesus Himself given to us in this Sacrament. Ours should not be a half-hearted or murmured "Amen" or a polite "Thank you." Ask for the grace to increase your belief in Jesus made really present.

This prayer for an increase in faith in the Eucharist can be most powerfully experienced before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Quiet time at Eucharistic Adoration provides the perfect setting to silently and prayerfully listen to Jesus.

A follower of Christ must take the time to be with Him. Gazing upon the Eucharistic Christ gives us the focus upon which our eyes must constantly be fixed throughout our earthly journey. It is when our eyes lose such focus that we can lose our way, when the turbulent waters of life can swallow us.

Another important element of belonging is being willing to talk about what it means to belong.

For too long, Catholic Christians have been hesitant, if not defensive, in sharing our faith stories. People need to hear how God has and is touching our lives. People need to hear about our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Not only is it good for us, but it gives permission for others to reflect upon and even share their own stories. Isn't this what we find when we study and pray the Scriptures – the faith stories of our ancestors in faith?

Again, ours is a personal but not a private faith. The sense of belonging is made stronger, relationships with other pilgrims are strengthened, and faith is deepened when stories are told. Faith comes from what is heard. That is how the Good News of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) was first spread. People must hear our story.

YEAR OF FAITH... STORY OF FAITH

Faith: the greatest unsolved mystery

Father Bryan Stitt
Diocesan Vocation Director

Do you remember the show that ran in the late 80's and through the 90's called "Unsolved Mysteries?" It was hosted by a man with a chilling voice named Robert Stack.

Too many nights in my childhood, I tried to go to bed after Stack left me scared to even close my eyes.

Nevertheless it was an episode of "Unsolved Mysteries" that was a turning point in my faith life. But before we get to that, you need a little more of the background.

When I was in my senior year of high school, I had started questioning my faith. I had grown-up Catholic. I went to Mass with my family on Sundays. I was educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Mary's in Ticonderoga, and by all accounts I appeared to be a "good Catholic boy."

But during my days in public high school, I started connecting with people whose faith and morals were far different from how I was raised. Case in point was one of my favorite teachers. He didn't teach from the book, and he didn't teach to the test. He didn't need to! He knew the material frontwards and backwards.

He loved his work so much, that he inspired us to



Father Bryan Stitt, pictured with his niece Grace Cruess, writes that an episode of the TV show "Unsolved Mysteries" was a turning point in his faith life.

know it and love it as well. Through the course of my classes with him, I discovered that he was an atheist. What's more, he was an atheist who was a former Catholic. What's more, he was an atheist, who was a former Catholic, who had studied philosophy and knew things like St. Thomas Aquinas' five proofs for God's existence.

I wondered how someone so smart and inspiring could not continue to follow the Catholic faith in which he had been raised.

And more to the point, since I wanted to be smart and inspiring like him, I

wondered if I shouldn't believe any more either!

Thus I began to question everything I had ever been taught about faith, morals, and religion.

That's when Robert Stack (or more accurately the Holy Spirit) brought an episode of "Unsolved Mysteries" into my family's living room. The subject matter for the day was not a murder case or a prison break. Instead that night's show was on the mystery of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

I watched as the program related the story of a beautiful woman appearing to Juan Diego near Mexico City



in the sixteenth century.

Then they showed how Juan Diego was asked to collect roses in his cloak as a sign for the bishop from the Blessed Mother. I saw that when Juan Diego unfurled his cloak, he revealed not only the roses but also that miraculous image of the Virgin Mother upon the cloak.

And most important to my mind hungry for the truth of empirical and scientific data, I learned that scientists were unable to explain the creation of the image.

I was dumbfounded. This show that normally ran fear down my spine just gave a shot of adrenaline to my soul. I started doing the necessary mental gymnastics: "If this is true, then there is something to Mary."

"If Mary is true, then there must be something to Jesus."

"If Jesus is true, then God's existence, the Eucharist, the Church... It only makes sense that they are all true as well!"

I wish I could tell you that from that moment I never looked back. But that

wouldn't be accurate. There was more questioning; there was more searching; and there was and still are times of darkness.

But I do know that questioning my faith was good because by the grace of God, it led me to seek truth.

My senior year inspiration from the most unlikely of sources helped me realize that my faith was not irrational, and that I would only find happiness if I pursued Truth throughout my life.

May I conclude with one more reference to pop-culture?

Comic book junkies know that Superman's costume was of a special material that stretched as he grew. The outfit he wore to fight for truth, justice, and the American way was the same costume that Ma Kent made for him when he was a boy - but it obviously fit him and his life in a different way as a man.

My faith has likewise grown with me over the years. As I have developed intellectually, physically, and emotionally over the years my faith-life has also had to develop.

But it is still the very same faith that was given when I was initiated into the Church. And with all due respect to the Man of Steel, my faith is even more important to my identity than Superman's red cape was to him. It may be an unsolved mystery, but it is the way that my life makes sense.

Father Muench

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Each time I am allowed to pray the words of the Eucharistic Prayer, the words of consecration, I am united in a special way with my Savior and with all the people of this congregation. I am then transformed; I am united with the Lord in such a special way that I truly become a new person each

and every time.

At each Mass, I am being formed, transformed by the Lord in holiness. Each Mass guides me along the path to perfection.

Finally, the road to holiness is formed for me as a priest each time I have the opportunity to celebrate the sacraments with the people

that are my parish.

Each time, I am transformed when I am allowed to baptize a child.

I become united with the Lord and also become a part of a young family each time I celebrate a marriage with a loving couple, joining myself with my Lord to bring sacramental grace on this

union. Each time I celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, guiding someone as they find forgiveness from the Lord and discover just how much God loves them and each time I stand with a dying person, bringing the Anointing of the Church, the gift of peace as they prepare to meet the Lord, I experi-

ence lessons in holiness - my way to perfection.

In so many ways, the people that I minister to are my guides to holiness. So each of us - priests and people - answers our particular call to holiness in our own particular way within the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ on earth.

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*To the Priests of the
Diocesan Offices...our
Colleagues and Friends:*

*Bishop LaValley • Msgr. Lawler
Father O'Brien • Father Seymour
Msgr. Snow • Msgr. Aucoin
Father Lucia • Father Stitt*

Giving Thanks

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to
mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance
in hope our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father,
knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen."*

-From St. Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians

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Former editor of the North Country Catholic dies Nov. 11 in Florida

Funeral held for Msgr. Bernard Christman, 81

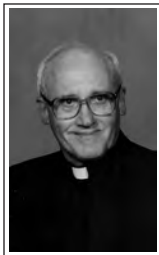
INDIALANTIC, FL—A Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, Jr., 81, was held Nov. 16 at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

A priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for 53 years, he died Nov. 11 at his home in Indian Harbor Beach, Fla.

Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery at Palm Bay, Fla.

Msgr. Christman was born Nov. 5, 1931, in

Akron, Ohio, the son of Bernard E. Christman and Helen Charlton Christman. He attended grade school and high school in Ohio, later attending Ohio State University for two and one half years.



Msgr. Christman

Msgr. Christman studied for the priesthood at St. Joseph's Seminary in Louisiana, St. Meinrad's in Indiana and Catholic University of Amer-

ica in Washington, D.C. He earned advanced degrees in music from Ohio St. and Catholic University.

Msgr. Christman was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg May 16, 1959 at St. Mary's Cathedral by Bishop James J. Navagh.

After his first assignment as assistant pastor at Holy Family Church in Watertown, Father Christman served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Rouses Point; and St. Patrick's, Brasher Falls; as administrator of St. Andrew's, Norwood, and pastor of Sts. Philip and James, Lisbon and St. John the Evangel-

ist, Morristown.

In 1971, while continuing as pastor in Morristown, he was appointed editor of the *North Country Catholic*, a position he held until 1982. During Msgr. Christman's tenure the diocesan newspaper received several awards from the Catholic Press Association, including a first place for general excellence for two years.

During his years as editor, he also served as organist and choir director at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

In 1992, Father Christman was named Prelate of Honor

with the title of Monsignor. He served the diocese as a member of the Diocesan Council of Priests and the *North Country Catholic* editorial board.

In 1982, he was named pastor of St. Peter's in Lowville with additional responsibilities as pastor in Glenfield and Greig added in 1985. In 1991, the parish in Houseville was added.

In 1996, Msgr. Christman was named pastor of St. Bernard's in Lyon Mountain and chaplain of the Lyon Mountain Correctional Institution.

After his retirement in 2005, he moved to Indian River Beach, FL in the Diocese of Orlando. Msgr. Christman helped out in Holy Name of Jesus Church in Indialantic, FL. prior to his death.

Fr. Timothy Canaan,

Thank you for your unfailing love, commitment, and service to your parish family.

What a wonderful shepherd you are for all of us. We are also blessed and thankful for our Parochial Vicar,

Fr. Bill Edwards and our retired priest, Fr. Normand Cote.

May the peace of Christ shine upon you.

The parishioners of RCC of St. John the Baptist



*To the Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley,
Rev. Philip T. Allen &
Rev. Joseph A. Morgan:*

Here's a sincere wish that you all enjoy good times, good health, good friends, and countless other blessings from the many gifts God sends to each of you.

~Mae and Michelle Baildon



*How can we thank you?
What medal would we bestow on you?
What honor would befit you?*

*You who have walked with us
in our grief,
counseled us in our trouble,
held us in our joy,
led us in the faith...*

*by absolving our sin,
raising us in prayer,
breaking with us Eucharist,
being for us
pastor, priest, friend and guide.*

We love you Father Jim...


*The people of Notre Dame Church
Ogdensburg, NY*

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



*We are blessed in having you as our Pastor,
Father Douglas G. Comstock!*

*God Bless,
Deacon Bernie Slate & The Catholic Community
of Alexandria
(St. Cyril of Alexandria Bay &
St. Francis Xavier, Redwood)*




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We are blessed to have Father Mickey Demo as our administrator of St. Philip of Jesus Church, Willsboro and St. Joseph's Church, Essex.
Father has made our Catholic Faith very important in our lives. We have many beautiful church services that Father has prepared for us. We will always be grateful to him for making our lives more Holy and Spiritual.
We will also be thankful to him for the work he has accomplished in our Church.

-Catherine Sullivan



Father William Reamer,
We appreciate your service to
OLV Church and CVPH.
Be assured of our prayers and support.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Louis wish you many
graces in your ministry.

To all the Priests of the Diocese

In appreciation of your ministry &
your lives of sacrifice!
We are eternally grateful!

~Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society



OUR READERS WRITE

Thanks from the Knights

I am writing to thank the people of the North Country for their faithful support of the 49 Knights of Columbus councils in communities from Champlain to Ticonderoga in the east to the Watertown region in the west.

Thanks to you, in the last year our 49 councils were able to donate over \$315,000 to parishes and local programs serving youth, the elderly and communities.

While Knights of Columbus councils focus on supporting Catholic parishes they also contribute volunteers and monetary support for local needs such as hosting a fundraiser for a family undergoing a medical crisis; conducting a food drive for a food shelf; or contributing monies to a local youth sports or scouting program. Last year our 5,000 members, supported by their families, contributed over 105,000 hours of volunteer service supporting these programs.

This is a time of year to be thankful

for our Lord's many blessings. The Knights of Columbus Councils in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are grateful for the public's continuing support.

DAVID L. CLARK
CHAIRMAN
NORTHERN CONFERENCE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
PLATTSBURGH

Thanks from the Vatican

At the Holy Father's direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of \$26,023.80 which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence offering of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the year 2012.

His Holiness thanks you and your people for this charitable contribution, which assists him in the exercise of his ministry. He deeply appreciates your willingness to share in his concern for the needs of the universal Church.

Praying that Almighty God will grant joy and peace to you and to all those entrusted to your pastoral care, the Holy

Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain
YOURS SINCERELY IN CHRIST,
ANGELO BECCIU
SUBSTITUTE
VATICAN CITY

True issues of the election

To Kathleen Gallagher: Your article titled, "Putting it all together" barely mentioned the true issues of this election like abortion, religious freedom and homosexuality, but went on and on about domestic violence (around 75% of the piece).

You made a point that we don't hear much about this "important issue."

Of course, it's important, no one denies that – I doubt any candidate for any office is going to come out in favor of domestic violence, yet you go on that you want to know what their positions are and do some "digging." Why bother, this issue is frankly pretty moot when it comes to the realtroubling issues sup-

ported by President Obama.

This piece skirts around the intrinsically evil issues (listed below in Bishop Ricken's letter) and blurs the line on those key non-negotiable issues. Simply put a very poor message by someone of your caliber.

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken – Bishop of Green Bay recently published a letter in his diocesan newspaper where he spoke on the election and on – "the set of non-negotiables. These are areas that are 'intrinsically evil' and cannot be supported by anyone who is a believer in God or the common good or the dignity of the human person. They are:

1. abortion
2. euthanasia
3. embryonic stem cell research
4. human cloning
5. homosexual 'marriage'

But what does this have to do with the election? ... To vote for someone in favor of these positions means that you could be morally 'complicit' with these choices which are intrinsically evil.

This could put your own soul in jeopardy."

Wow! This is a powerful statement by an Apostle of the Church. It says the Truth quite plainly.

We need to hear more from our church/diocesan leaders proclaiming these truths, especially at Masses.

FOR HIS CHILDREN,
CHRIS LAROSE MEV MI
POTSDAM

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:

Dec. 4 - 6 p.m. St. James School, Gouverneur

Bishop's Schedule

Nov. 21 - 9:45a.m., Episcopal Council meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

Nov. 23 - 10:50a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Nov. 25 - 11a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Nov. 26 - 10:30a.m., Essex Deanery meeting with priests at St. Patrick's Church in Port Henry

Nov. 27 - 9 a.m., prayer service, visit and lunch at Immaculate Heart Central Primary School in Watertown; 12:15 p.m., prayer service and visit at Immaculate Heart Central Intermediate School in Watertown

Nov. 28 - 11 a.m., Hamilton-Herkimer Deanery meeting with priests at St. Mary's Church in Indian Lake

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. 21 - Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

Nov. 22 - Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

Nov. 23 - Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

Nov. 24 - Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950

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

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

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**, Terrienne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: aicsnn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401



A light for those in darkness.

"Fathers, Thank you for letting Christ's light shine in a dark world - and for inspiring others to Follow Him!"

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Give Gifts That Give Hope

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

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Serve coffee that serves others.



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

FAIR TRADE CRAFTS

Give gifts that give hope.



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

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE

Make the world sweeter.



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

THE CRS FAIR TRADE FUND

Expanding Fair Trade.



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

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

Catholic Charities supports Fair Trade. For more information contact Catholic Charities at 315-393-2255



"Walking through the door of faith"

The Seton community extends sincere gratitude to our pastors, Bishop LaValley, Fr. Cannan, Msgr. Duprey, Fr. Reamer, and Fr. Seymour for their priestly ministry and their unwavering support of Catholic education.

The Parishes of St. James, Carthage & St. Mary's, Copenhagen and the faculty, staff and students of Augustinian Academy are proud and blessed to have Father George F. Maroun & Father John Cosmic in their midst.
Ad multos annos!



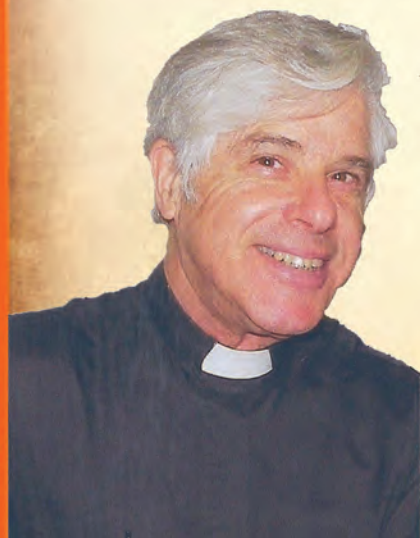
My husband and I enjoy the homilies we hear at our Masses. We are from Ellenburg (St. Edmund's.) We want to thank our Priest, Father Ted Crosby, for his excellent sermons.

(Especially, the one we heard on November 4th, this is the one about a fourth wise man. Riding a camel in search of baby Jesus. This search lasted 33 years.)

-Faye & Loyal



Thank you,
Fr. Seymour,
for your
ministry to the
parishioners of
the Catholic
Community of
Hammond,
Rossie, and
Morristown.



*Father Marullo,
God bless you for all you do for our
Parish Family!*

St. John's Catholic Church, Lyons Falls;
St. Martin's Catholic Church in Port Leyden;
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Constableville &
St. Mary's Nativity Church in West Leyden

RESPECT LIFE

Bravo for the demise of assisted suicide

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

Bravo to the voters in Massachusetts who went to the polls on Election Day and rejected a proposal to legalize so-called "death with dignity." They didn't buy it. They saw through the gushy gobbledegook of "aid-in-dying" for the terminally ill, and unmasked the ballot initiative for what it truly was: the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide.

Here's why voters did the right thing.

Common sense says we should prevent suicide, not enable it. Our society has always recognized suicide and attempted suicide as a tragedy. We say to the man on the ledge "Don't jump!" and we send first responders to help him. Bridges post signs that say "Life is Worth Living" and attach telephones with a 24-hour suicide prevention hotline number. Those who attempt suicide are generally depressed and in need of psychiatric evaluation. They cry out for our love and assistance, not a lethal dose of drugs.

We must maintain the physician's role as healer. The Hippocratic Oath says "First, do no harm" and "I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked." Massachusetts medical groups including the medical society, nurses association, hospice and palliative care federation, family physicians, pharmacists – all lined up against the assisted suicide referendum. They know it would undermine the doctor-patient relationship, and they are committed to providing high quality end-of-life care. Their job is to kill the pain, not the patient.

Most pain can be controlled. Advances in pain management have come a long way. Today, pain is recognized as a vital sign, just like blood pressure, and it is monitored, assessed and

treated on a regular basis. Once that is done, according to Dr. Kathleen Foley, a pain specialist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, requests for death disappear. Suffering can be alleviated without resorting to intentional death.

Patients would feel financial pressure to end their lives. There is no question that dependent and vulnerable patients would be pressured – by insurance companies, government payers, HMOs, family members – to choose the least expensive course of treat-

ment. In Oregon and Washington, the only two states where voters have approved assisted suicide, health insurance covers the cost of a deadly prescription, but often will not cover the more expensive treatments desired by those with a terminal diagnosis.

In 1994 NY Governor Mario Cuomo's Task Force on Life and the Law soundly rejected doctor-assisted suicide and said this: "The growing concern about health care costs increases the risks presented by legalizing assisted suicide and

euthanasia. This cost consciousness will not be diminished, and may well be exacerbated, by health care reform." Amen to that.

It would be a slippery slope. The experience in the Netherlands is instructive. Euthanasia was first approved there in 1984 for the competent and terminally ill. But the practice has now been widened to include the non-terminal, the incompetent, those facing chronic depression, even infants born with disabilities. By some accounts, the rate of euthanasia in the Nether-

lands has increased by 73% over the past eight years.

Here in New York we have long had a law on the books that rightly criminalizes assisted suicide. In 1997 that law was unanimously upheld as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Bills have been introduced in our state legislature to overturn this ban, but they have never gained traction and generally die in committee. Let's pray that the defeat of the Massachusetts referendum signals a "final exit" for assisted suicide proposals here on the east coast.

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Msgr. Robert Aucoin -
Recipient of the
Lighting the Fire of
Faith Award*



*St. Mary's of Potsdam Altar & Rosary
Society & St. Patrick's of Colton
Altar & Rosary Society*



- Rev. Joseph Giroux, Pastor
- Rev. Thomas Higman
- Rev. Bryan Stitt

**Thank you, Lord, for the priests
whom you have sent to live in our
midst as those who serve.**

**We are most
grateful!**

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In Appreciation for our Priests

Fr. Kennedy, In appreciation for your service at Sacred Heart, Watertown.
~Suzanne Williams

Fr. Bill Edwards, A most compassionate Priest.
~A St. John's Parishioner

Our Healer, Our Breath of Christ, Fr. George F. Maroun!
~Leo M. Archer

Fr. Don Kramberg, You are our "Priceless Gift"! Merci!
~Rasco's

Fr. Ray, Thanks, Peace. Jesus love shines through you.
~Underwood's

We appreciate all that you have done for us over the years!
~Jane & Skip

Thank you for teaching me that business isn't only about money, but it's about kindness and making a difference in business and life.
~Vincent Thouin

Fr. John Looby, Thank you for your generous response to the Lord and for your continued support and encouragement.
~Deacon Brian Dwyer and Family

Thanks for all you do Fr. Don Manfred, Fr. Joe Elliot & Fr. Scott Fobare.
~From the parishioners of Massena and Louisville

Fr. Ted, Thanks for the great homilies.
~From the Millers

Fr. Jonas Tandayu, Welcome to Sacred Heart, Watertown.
~From Parishioners

Fr. Don Kramberg, Catholic Daughters #592, thanks YOU, our Chaplain.

Fr. Moreau, We appreciate your services, especially toward the children.
~A Grateful Parishioner

Fr. Ted, Thank you!
~From Court Little Rose #1300

Fr. Chris, You are the greatest!
~St. Peter's Altar Rosary

Fr. Chris Carrara, He was called by God! Thank you Lord.

Fr. Beyette, to a devoted priest. We appreciate all that you do.
~Deacon Gary and Arletha Brunell

Fr. Scott Seymour, We appreciate all that do for us.
~Reome Family

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

Father James Delbel,
Our lives are richer in spirit because of you.

Love and Blessings,
Darlene, Mary & Bob Baker



**Fr. William Muench, Fr. Mark Reilly,
Fr. Alan Lamica, Fr. Paul Kelly,
Msgr. C. John McAvoyn and
Fr. Patrick O'Reilly,**

Thank you for sharing God's grace with us in the sacraments, for your faithfulness and for your spiritual guidance. We are blessed.



From the parishioners of the Churches of the Mountains and Lakes in Saranac Lake, Bloomingdale, Gabriels and Lake Clear

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

CCHD provides \$500,000 grant to aid Hurricane Sandy victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Victims of Hurricane Sandy along the East Coast are getting an added boost in their recovery under a \$500,000 grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The special grant will support "people coming together to reorganize the fabric of their communities," Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, Calif., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, said in a statement released Nov. 13 during the bishops' annual fall general assembly. The infusion of funds is designed to help "build a resilient support system for those most vulnerable to natural calamities, the poor," he said. The subcommittee also introduced a national strategic grant program to address poverty-related issues. Bishop Soto described the initiative as an "innovative approach to poverty" that will complement CCHD's existing program that supports community-based organizations. More than \$2 million was approved by the committee to address systemic causes of poverty and empower local communities to implement lasting solutions to the challenges they face. The new grant program is one of a series of actions developed under CCHD's "review and renewal" in 2010 to empower low income communities. The effort will fund projects that focus on poverty and risk factors affecting family life and human dignity. CCHD officials are looking to fund proposals that "bring a holistic, pastoral approach" in addressing economic and psycho-social factors in family life

Bishops endorse sainthood cause of Catholic Worker's Dorothy Day

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- The U.S. bishops, on a voice vote, endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day, the co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, who was famously quoted as saying, "Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed so easily." The endorsement came at the end of a canonically required consultation that took place Nov. 13, the second day of the bishops' annual fall general assembly in Baltimore. Under the terms of the 2007 Vatican document "Sanctorum Mater," the diocesan bishop promoting a sainthood cause must consult at least with the regional bishops' conference on the advisability of pursuing the cause. In the case of Day, whose Catholic Worker ministry was based in New York City, the bishop promoting her cause is Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops' conference. The cause was first undertaken by one of Cardinal Dolan's predecessors in New York, Cardinal John O'Connor. Cardinal Dolan had earlier conducted a consultation with bishops in his region, and subsequently chose to seek a consultation with the full body of U.S. bishops. He and the other bishops who spoke during the consultation, some of whom had met Day, called her sainthood cause an opportune moment in the life of the U.S. church. Cardinal Dolan called Day's journey "Augustinian," saying that "she was the first to admit it: sexual immorality, there was a religious search, there was a pregnancy out of wedlock, and an abortion. Like Saul on the way to Damascus, she was radically changed" and has become "a saint for our time."

About new evangelization

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The church's new evangelization and its call to share the faith is the responsibility of all Catholics, said Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

"It's our moment ... it's our turn to share in this outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this new Pentecost," Cardinal Wuerl said.

That sense of a "new Pentecost" unfolding in the church, he said, was shared

by the 250 bishops from around the world who participated in the world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization convened by Pope Benedict XVI Oct. 7-28.

Cardinal Wuerl was appointed by the pope to serve as the relator of the synod, summarizing and reporting on the bishops' suggestions and recommendations.

In a recent talk at the Catholic Information Center

in downtown Washington, he gave an overview of the synod.

Just as the first disciples were called by Jesus to be his witnesses, Cardinal Wuerl said, today's Catholics must be witnesses to the good news and help others encounter the risen Christ in a world where many have not heard the Gospel or have drifted away or grown lukewarm in their faith.



Holiday 50/50 Challenge

Support your local economy by spending 50% of your holiday food and gift money within a 50 mile radius of where you live.

Here are some shopping ideas:

- * Buy things from your local craft persons.
- * Buy gift certificates to locally owned restaurants
- * Support locally owned businesses
- * Support businesses that sell local products
- * Don't forget your local farmer for cheese, maple syrup, apples, cider and other local food items for holiday meals & gifts

Just think...

If 25,000 families across the North Country spent \$100 at local businesses or on local products...that would add \$2,500,000 to the North Country economy

If 25,000 families across the North Country spent \$200 at local businesses or on local products...that would add \$5,000,000 to the North Country economy

Sponsored by Catholic Charities

Highlights of the US Bishops' meeting

Bishops passed documents on penance and better preaching, voted down one on economy

BALTIMORE (CNS)- During their annual fall general assembly in Baltimore Nov. 12-15, the U.S. bishops voted down a document on the troubled U.S. economy, passed documents on penance and better preaching, approved a reorganization of their Communications Department and endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day.

On the assembly's opening day, the bishops discussed on the nation's troubled economy and what their response to it should be, but a day later their proposed document "The Hope of the Gospel in Difficult Times: A Pastoral Message on Work, Poverty and the Economy" did not gain the two-thirds vote required for passage.

When it was introduced Nov. 12, some bishops criticized the document for being too long to be practical and for failing to include a variety of points and historical references.

On preaching

On the assembly's second day, the bishops approved their first new document in 30 years on preaching. The document, "Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily," encourages preachers to connect the Sunday homily with people's daily lives. The document was prepared by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, chaired by Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis.

When he introduced the document Nov. 12, the archbishop said preaching must be done "more effectively in the context of the new evangelization. ... Our people hunger for better preaching, preaching that would help them rediscover their faith."

About penance

The bishops also overwhelmingly approved -- in a 236-1 vote -- an exhortation encouraging Catholics to

take advantage of the sacrament of penance, or reconciliation.

The text was prepared by the bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, chaired by Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis. The exhortation, to be made available in pamphlet form, will aim to ease the fears of Catholics who have not gone to confession for some time.

Dorothy Day

On a voice vote, the bishops endorsed the sainthood cause of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, USCCB president, is promoting Day's cause; her Catholic Worker ministry was based in New York City. The cause was first undertaken by one of Cardinal Dolan's predecessors in New York, Cardinal John O'Connor.

Cardinal Dolan and other bishops who spoke Nov. 13, including some who had met Day, called her sainthood cause an opportune moment in the life of the U.S. church.

Mass translation

A year after U.S. Catholics began using a new translation of the missal at Masses, the bishops agreed to begin revising the Liturgy of the Hours -- updating hymns, psalms, various canticles, psalm prayers, some antiphons, biblical readings and other components of the liturgical prayers used at various parts of the day.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans, chairman of the Committee on Divine Worship, said the work would probably take three to five years to complete and the aim would be to more accurately reflect the original Latin texts.

Communications department

The bishops approved a reorganization of their Communications Department

that would include hiring a director of public affairs who would work to unify messages on the activities and stances of the USCCB -- not individual dioceses or bishops -- and better carry out church campaigns related to new evangelization, according to Cardinal Dolan.

Cardinal Dolan said the USCCB's communications effort must take advantage of new communications technologies. The cost of hiring a public affairs director and support staff and other services is estimated at \$400,000 annually, according to the supporting document.

The plan calls for a reorganization of the Communications Department, which includes a media relations office, customer and client relations, creative services, which is responsible for on-line and video messages, and Catholic News Service.

National collections

The bishops were also urged to broaden their support for their national collections. In a Nov. 13 report, they heard that a decline in diocesan participation in since 2009 has been a loss of \$8.7 million to Catholic programs that benefit from the collection.

Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Dallas, chairman of the Committee on National Collections, described the collections as "an important mechanism for mobilizing collective action in the church universal and a way for all the faithful to participate in solidarity with the rest of the church."

New technologies

The bishops were initially scheduled to consider a document titled "Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities for the Exercise of the Teaching Ministry of the Diocesan Bishop," developed by the Committee on Doctrine. The document urged bishops to take advantage of

new technologies -- social media, blogging and cell phone technology -- to respond and explain church teaching when it is portrayed inaccurately, particularly by theologians.

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, committee chairman, withdrew the document in favor of a more comprehensive statement in line with the bishops' new communication plan and the ongoing work throughout the USCCB related to the new evangelization.

Strategic plan

The bishops voted for a strategic plan that will guide the USCCB's work for the next four years, a "road map" to shape conference programs and activities to strengthen the faith of Catholics and help them actively live out their faith.

During the first year, the focus will be on faith and activities closely tied to the Year of Faith. In 2014 and 2015, initiatives will strengthen parish life and worship. The final year calls for Catholics to be witnesses to the wider world.

Collection for military services

The bishops also approved a 2013 budget of \$220.4 million and agreed to add a national collection for the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. The budget for 2013 represents a 1.3 percent increase from 2012.

The new collection for the military archdiocese would begin in 2013. Under the plan, it would be taken voluntarily in parishes every three years. Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston, W.Va., USCCB treasurer, said the 2013 budget includes a surplus totaling more than \$749,000.

From Cardinal Dolan

In his presidential address to open the assembly, Cardinal Dolan Nov. 12 told the bishops they cannot engage

culture, dialogue with others or confront challenges unless they first recognize their own sins and experience the grace of repentance.

The cardinal also said the sacrament of penance was something the USCCB planned to stress for all Catholics year-round with reflections on re-embracing Friday as a day of penance, including the possible reinstatement of abstinence on all Fridays.

After Election Day

The bishops' assembly, which opened nearly a week after Election Day, included discussions about religious liberty, marriage and immigration.

In a statement issued Nov. 13, Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, as chair of the migration committee chair, urged President Barack Obama and congressional leaders to work together on a bipartisan immigration reform bill. He also encouraged people to make their voices heard in support of an immigration system "which upholds the rule of law, preserves family unity and protects the human rights and dignity of the person."

During a news conference just after the statement was released, several bishops underscored their support for immigration reform.

The bishops' assembly, which opened nearly a week after Election Day, also included discussions about religious liberty and marriage.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said Nov. 12 the work of defending religious liberty would continue despite "setbacks."

San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, said Election Day was "a disappointing day for marriage," which points to the need to "redouble our efforts."

SCENES FROM THE BISHOPS' MEETING IN BALTIMORE



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrates Mass at the start of the bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 12.



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC
Auxiliary Bishop Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services attends the U.S. bishops' annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 13. The bishops approved the taking up of a special collection in U.S. parishes to benefit the work of the military archdiocese.

Pope tells young to welcome Christ's embrace

By Cindy Wooden
 Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - When young Catholics from around the world gather in Rio de Janeiro in July, they will be under the gaze of the city's famous statue of Christ with outstretched arms, a reminder of his desire to embrace all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his message for World Youth Day 2013, the pope asked young people to welcome Christ's embrace and share with others the joy of being loved by him.

In preparation for the international youth gathering July 23-28, Pope Benedict asked young Catholics to "reread your personal his-

tory," looking at how the faith was passed down to them from previous generations.

The pope also asked them not to wait to begin the task of sharing their Christian faith with others.

"We are links in a great chain of men and women who have transmitted the truth of the faith and who depend on us to pass it on to others," he said in the message released Nov. 16 by the Vatican.

The theme of World Youth Day 2013 is: "Go and make disciples of all nations."

"This mandate should resound powerfully in your hearts," the pope told young people.

In fact, he said, the heart has a major role to play in

bringing them closer to Christ, motivating them to share his Gospel and determining the words and actions they should use in approaching others.

"Many young people today seriously question whether life is something good and have a hard time finding their way," the pope said.

Faith helps people see that "every human life is priceless, because each of us is the fruit of God's love," he said. "God loves everyone, even those who have fallen away from him or disregard

him."

Pope Benedict asked young Catholics to reach out with love to their questioning or doubting peers, helping them find the hope and meaning faith brings.

As the Catholics most impacted by globalization and new technology, Pope Benedict said, young people need a special awareness and have special responsibilities in those areas.



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Christ the King: good triumphs over evil

Today marks the last Sunday of the Church year, celebrating the coming of the Son of Man on the clouds of heaven at the end of time. In every century, Christians have found immense consolation from these readings that give us hope that, despite the violence, wars, and crimes against humanity of our times, God's justice will prevail at the end.

Just when we seem to be heading for cosmic, social, economic, and political disaster, we are reminded that God is still in charge, and that we belong to a kingdom that will never fail us, an

eternal kingdom of justice, peace, and love.

God speaks to us today through the writings of two great visionaries—the Old Testament prophet, Daniel, and the New Covenant writer, John. Although they are “dream visions”, we can confidently believe that they carry God's inspired truth.

Daniel wrote at a time of great distress for the Jews under

the Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes II. Such visions gave the people courage to endure, just as today's second reading about Jesus “coming on the clouds of heaven” encourages us.

In John's time, Christians

were already suffering persecution under the Emperor Domitian. As the Jesus was with the Father at the creation of the world, so will be He be the one to judge all nations at the end of time.

He says of Himself in John's vision, “I am the Alpha and the Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet). He is our past, our present, and our future King.

Every living follower of Christ has reason to find meaning and purpose in the wonderful statement John makes about our role in this kingdom.

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be the glory and power

NOV. 25

The Feast of Christ the King

READINGS

Daniel 7:13-14

Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33b-37

forever and ever. Amen.”

In the Gospel, Jesus boldly affirms to Pilate that He is that Son of Man who will come on the clouds of heaven as a king.

In effect, Jesus is saying, “Don't worry, Pilate. I'm not here to take your job, or to dethrone Caesar, for my kingdom is not political but spiritual. It's not on your maps!” When Jesus affirms that His whole purpose is to testify to the truth, Pilate

cynically asks, “What is Truth?”

If Pilate had waited for an answer, would he have believed it? Would he have dared to act on it?

We can ask the same questions about today's world leaders.

More to the point, how do we ourselves react to the truth that Christ is the world's universal king to whose rule all must submit before the end of the world?

May the words of John in the second reading serve to melt all pessimism, doubt, and despair about the ultimate triumph of good over evil, and of the effectiveness of our witness through prayer and suffering as we struggle to serve His Kingdom.

MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

Thinking clearly about consciousness, abortion

Imagine a deadly scenario like this: a successful businessman is rendered unconscious by medical professionals to help him heal after a serious car accident, using powerful pharmaceutical agents to cause a medically-induced coma.

Those who lack consciousness or awareness are still human, and should be cherished and protected as much as anyone else with limitations or disabilities

A few days later, a business competitor, wanting him dead, enters the hospital and kills the comatose patient. During his trial, when questioned about the murder, the competitor tries to argue, with an unnecessarily detailed explanation, that, “the medically-induced coma rendered him quite incapable of feeling any pain, because those parts of his

brain involved in sensory processing and pain perception were clearly decoupled from consciousness. So killing those who are unconscious, at least on the grounds that they might feel pain, should not be seen as problematic nor should it be restricted as a personal choice.”

Anyone would appreciate the absurdity of such an argument, much as they ought to recognize the unreasonableness of a similar conclusion reached by neuroscientist Dr. Daniel Bor in a recent piece in *The Dallas Morning News*:

“The evidence is clear that a fetus can respond to sights, sounds and smells, and it can even react to these by producing facial expressions. The evidence is equally clear, however, that these responses are generated by the most primitive parts of the brain, which are unconnected to consciousness, and therefore these actions don't in

any way imply that the fetus is aware. Furthermore, the fetus is deliberately sedated by a series of chemicals produced by the placenta, so even if it had the capacity for consciousness, there is almost no chance it could ever be conscious in the womb. Consequently, it can't consciously feel pain. ... There are therefore no scientific reasons for restricting abortion on the grounds that the fetus will experience pain, at least until very late in pregnancy. This evidence has heavily influenced my views here, and consequently I am very much pro-choice.”

As a neuroscientist and an ethicist myself, it's clear how Dr. Bor's conclusion does not follow from his premises. He seeks forcibly to crown consciousness as

king, turning it into the highest good, elevating it above life itself.

Consequently, he misses the deeper truth that human consciousness (and particularly self-consciousness) is a feature of certain kinds of beings, namely human beings, who are valuable in and of themselves.

Our humanity precedes our consciousness, and affords the necessary basis for it, with our value and inviolability flowing not from what we might be capable of doing (manifesting consciousness or awareness) but from who we intrinsically are (human beings and members of the human family).

Regardless of whether we might or might not be able to manifest consciousness at a particular moment (as when we are asleep, under anesthesia, in a coma, or

growing at early timepoints *in utero*), our humanity is still present and deserving of unconditional respect.

Those who lack consciousness or awareness are still human, and should be cherished and protected as much as anyone else with limitations or disabilities.

Some might reply that a sleeping or comatose person's consciousness is merely dormant. If they wake up, they will have memories, awareness, etc. For a very early human embryo, on the other hand, no consciousness exists yet, since the brain has not developed, or may not have developed sufficiently. Until that development occurs, the argument continues, there is “nobody home,” and therefore nothing important can be stripped away by abortion.

But it would be false to conclude that “nobody is home.” As that embryonic human continues to grow

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore



Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk Ph.D.

AT THE MOVIES

SKYFALL

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

Don't be misled by the Chicken-Little title, "Skyfall" (Columbia) is high-flying entertainment, a rousing return for James Bond and a much-needed injection of vitality into the 50-year-old film franchise built around him.

Director Sam Mendes ("Revolutionary Road") helms British Secret Agent 007's 23rd adventure, a smart mix of reverence, nostalgia, and humor. Purists will be delighted by the spectacular set pieces and characteristically exotic locations.

It's not all fluff, as the script, by Neal Purvis, Robert Wade and John Logan, is thoughtful and character-driven, raising issues of loss, responsibility, patriotism and loyalty amid the battle of good vs. evil.

"Skyfall" opens in familiar territory: Bond (Daniel

Craig) is in Istanbul, chasing a bad guy who has stolen a computer disc containing the identities of every secret agent in the world. At his side is field operative Eve (Naomie Harris), who proves as handy with a straight razor as she is with a rifle.

The crime is big trouble for "M" (Judi Dench), the head of British intelligence unit MI6. It was M herself who lost the disc, and its theft proves the perfect excuse for rival government official Gareth Mallory (Ralph Fiennes) to challenge M's competence, force her retirement, and shake things up at the agency.

"It's a young man's game now," Mallory tells Bond, tipping his hope -- as the new century progresses -- to rely more on cyber technology than spies on the ground.

Trouble is, neither Bond nor M is quite ready to pack it in. Aided by the new "Q" (Ben Whishaw), a computer genius, they redouble their

efforts to solve the robbery as its malignant mastermind orchestrates a reign of terror across London.

Called Silva (Javier Bardem), said villain is a sleazy megalomaniac (naturally) who seeks world domination (of course). In a twist, Silva is a disgraced former agent with unique knowledge of M's past, which fuels his desire for revenge.

At Silva's side is the exotic Severine (Berenice Marlohe), who warns Bond to be very, very afraid. But 007 pours on the charm ("It takes a certain type of woman to wear a backless dress with a Beretta 70 strapped to her thigh"), and Severine rethinks her loyalties.

The search for Silva is a scenic one, sending Bond to Shanghai and Macau, as well as the depths of London's underground and the Scottish highlands.

The violence quotient is undeniably high in "Skyfall," but no more so than is typi-



CNS/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Daniel Craig stars as James Bond in a scene from the movie "Skyfall."

cal for a Bond film, which always seems to involve new and creative ways to blow things up and kill baddies with "style."

The film contains scenes of intense action violence and torture, implied non-marital sexual activity, mild sensuality and innuendo as

well as some profane and rough language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Thinking clearly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

up, she will develop a brain, as well as memories, awareness, and consciousness. Such carefully choreographed and remarkable embryonic development will occur precisely in virtue of the kind of being she already is, namely, a very small human being. All of us, in fact, are embryos who have grown up.

The human embryo is special because of her humanity, not because of her consciousness, which will invariably arise as long as she is afforded even the smallest chance at life. We actively deny her the right to manifest her future personality, her individuality, her consciousness and her genius by selecting her for termination.

Hence, we should appreciate an argument like Dr. Bor's

for what it really is, namely, an attempt to carve out a subclass of human beings (those deemed weaker than the rest of us due to their diminished personal consciousness) so that they can be singled out for death by abortion.

This move constitutes an unjust form of discrimination against a voiceless class of humans, cloaked in a specious intellectual construct that misconstrues both the essential character of being human, and the essential

moral obligations we have towards each other.

--
Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncb-center.org.



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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

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

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

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

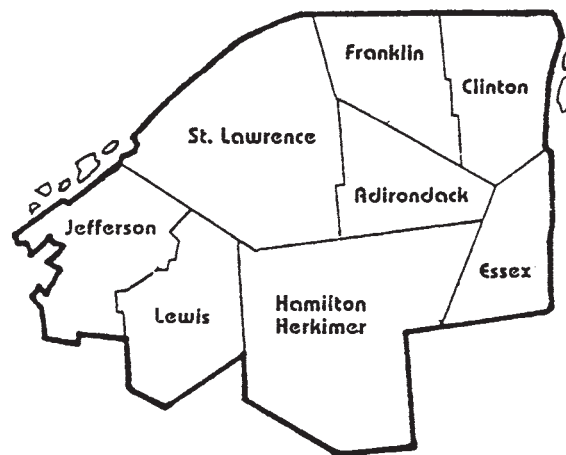
Time: 2 p.m.

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

ESSEX

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Crown Point – A Christmas Bazaar will be held.

Date: Dec. 1

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

Place: Sacred Heart Church

Features: Luncheon, Raffle Drawing & Cookie Walk.

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 & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

LIFERIGHT MEETING

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

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: The office has videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed. Topics covered: infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

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

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Dec. 2

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. All are welcome.

Contact: 348-6260.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Port Leyden – There will be a Christmas Bazaar to help benefit the Port Leyden Food Pantry.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Martin's Church Hall

Features: Many crafters will be on hand as well as a 50/50 drawing and a Lottery Tree drawing. Homemade doughnuts and coffee will be available in the morning with lunch consisting of homemade chili, chili dogs and beverages. Baked goods will be available for purchase throughout the day.

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 beginning 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.

CRAFT FAIR

Gouverneur – St. James School to have a Craft Fair.

Date: Dec. 1

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

Features: Santa Claus will visit at 1:30 p.m. Items available will include: jewelry, woodcrafts, ceramics, stuffed animals, homemade dolls, leather goods, candles, knitted items, country crafts, Christmas ornaments and decorations, baskets, etc. Over 50 vendors will be there. Lunch will be available. Admission is a donation.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Ogdensburg – The Knights of Columbus 258 Christmas Party will take on a dinner-dance format this year.

Date: Dec. 1

Time: Cocktails begin at 5 p.m.; dinner

at 5:45 with dancing from 7 to 11

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: \$8 per person or \$15 per couple

Features: The band will be the Fulton Road Band. All net proceeds will be split between toys for tots and PJ's for Christmas.

Contact: Reservations for dinner are required by calling the club rooms at 393-7990 at 4 p.m. Open to members, their guests and the general public

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 .

FISH FRIES POSTPONED

Ogdensburg – The K of C Council 258's Friday Night Fish Fries are suspended from Nov. 23 until Jan. 11 to accommodate Holiday parties.

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)

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.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

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

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 3:15 pm

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



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

Priesthood Appreciation in the Year of Faith

Our priests witness for me, men deeply rooted in faith in Jesus Christ. They are alert, aware and open to the needs of our people in the North Country and developing countries. They walk through daily planned and unplanned events with care and forgiveness.

Priests witness the impossible, the hard hearts softened, the broken healed and hostility giving way to peace. They truly minister with faith-filled prayer trusting that people will grow in their faith journey.

My favorite part of "Porta Fidei" is...

...the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ.

**Pope Benedict XVI,
Porta Fidei (n.)2**

I see our priests as models of trying to make this statement come alive in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and beyond. In this YEAR OF FAITH, Molly and I offer our prayers to Bishop Terry R. LaValley and our priests in their zeal for ministry to assist people in their joy and enthusiasm in encountering Christ. God bless.

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

OBITUARIES

Altona – Viola May (Warren) Lucia, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2012 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton – Lloyd J. Mayville Sr., 82; Funeral Nov. 13, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Canton – Marie D. (Demers) Christy, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Carthage – Mary E. (Raycraft) McGraw, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Coopersville – Melonie Ann "Sam" (Shields) Tetreault, 59; Memorial Services at St. Joseph's Church.

Dannemora – Ray E. LaHart, 66; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Dannemora – John S. Vaughan, 70; Memorial Services Nov. 14, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church.

Ellenburg – Viola (Grey) King; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at St. Edmund's Church.

Lake Placid – Patricia T. (Timmins) Smith, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville – Mafalda "Mae" Dileta Lorenzini Howley, 99; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in the Old Glendale Cemetery.

Malone – Nancy Marie Mills Bruso, 59; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – Wymouth K. Beckstead, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Herman A. Bell, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

Norfolk – Dale L. LaBarge, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Massena

Norfolk – Iva D. (Dye) Molnar, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Anthony W. "Tony" Murray, 54; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Phyllis J. (Tynon) Christman, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 20, 2012 at Allen-Nichols Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg – Michael J. Donnelly, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg – Francis "Fitz" "Brother" Fitzgerald, 88; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Ronald J. Garno, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lee C. Hurteau, 65; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Plattsburgh – Charles Francis Belknap XIII, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2012 at Blessed John XXII Newman Center.

Plattsburgh – Marion H. (nee Mero) Brewster, 94; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2012 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Port Henry – Dain Taylor Venne, 29; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's

Cemetery, Moriah.

Redford – Corey Michael Bulriss, 24; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2012 at Church of the Assumption.

Rouses Point – Harold D. "bud" Ashline Jr., 87; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Timothy J. Doyle, 57; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Carl F. Jacobs, 79; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Mountain View Cemetery, Gabriels.

Saranac Lake – Forrest "Dew Drop" Morgan, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Raymond Godin, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown – Madeline D. (DeFranco) Chirico, Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Mary Lou Cerow Coogan, 88; Funeral Nov. 15, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – John J. Donoghue Jr., 82; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

Watertown – Frank A. "Moe" Geno, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2012 at Cummings Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

West Chazy – Myrae A. (Kubic) Myers, 78; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

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YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

In Persona Christi

By Amanda Conklin
Campus minister, St. Mary's, Canton

Working for the Church has taught me very quickly that priests are truly the superheroes of our modern world.

Even in my short time at St. Mary's I have witnessed Father Doug Lucia's constant self-sacrifice.

He wakes at any hour of the night to attend to someone who is sick or dying and he often gives up his "days off" to celebrate a funeral or tend to some other parish business.

The truth is priests don't really get a "day off." That is one of the most beautiful things about the priesthood. They have totally given their lives to the Church, to Christ.

Many don't realize that priests deal with death on a daily basis. It is because of their faith in the resurrection of Christ, that even in the constant face of death, they are able to remain joy-



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Father Douglas Lucia, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton offers some encouragement and advice to the members of St. Mary's School boys basketball team.

ful and serve God's people. They go where many would fear to tread.

Priests are constantly called to approach delicate situations with love and have to learn how to meet

people where they are, while still remaining faithful to the teachings of the Church. This is often a daunting task!

While balancing all of this, they still find time for their

employees. I have never felt as valued and cared for as an employee than these past few months working at St. Mary's.

Father Doug has been struggling with a knee injury for about a month and

still sees to it that his flock is tended to. I know with my lack of pain tolerance, if I were in his situation I wouldn't be quite so resilient.

One thing to remember is that priests are human as well. Priests get lonely, frustrated, and tired.

While many lay people are planning long trips to visit family as the Christmas season approaches, priests are busier than ever, planning beautiful liturgies and carefully preparing to help make their parishioners' spiritual lives more fruitful during the Advent season.

I know that I don't thank the priests I know nearly enough. Priests act "in persona Christi" (in the person of Christ) and it is through them as servants to the Church, that we are blessed as Catholics to share in the amazing gift of the Eucharist.

During this month of thanksgiving, please remember to take a moment to tell the priests in your life how thankful you are for them.



St. Mary's School & Parish
are grateful for
Fr. Doug Lucia,
and are proud to follow in his
footsteps.

