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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 12, 2012

## Advent: a time to renew faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Advent's liturgical preparation for Christmas calls Christians to renew their faith in the reality of God's great love and to make a commitment to bringing his love to the world today, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Advent, he said, "places be-

fore us the bright mystery of the coming of God's son, the great plan of God's goodness through which he desires to draw us to himself to let us live in full communion, joy and peace with him."

Addressing an estimated 4,000 people at his weekly

general audience Dec. 5, Pope Benedict continued his reflections on the Year of Faith, which he opened in October.

Accepting God's love and freely choosing to follow his ways "brings a fundamental change in how we relate to

the entire created reality. Everything appears in a new light; it is a true conversion. Faith is a change of mentality because God, who has made himself known in Christ and has made his plan of salvation known, draws us to himself," the pope said.

## Year of Faith: mark your calendars

Special events planned for the coming year include:

- Pilgrimage opportunities to holy sites in the diocese and in the surrounding area.
- Parish missions
- Spiritual direction opportunities
- Catechesis on Penance,
- Celebration of faith in music
- Celebration of faith in visual arts
- April workshop on the documents of the Vatican II
- Corpus Christi celebration in Ogdensburg.
- Year of Faith gathering in Lake Placid Sept. 29, 2013.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Year of Faith Story of Faith

Twenty-six-year-old Watertown women reflects on the growth of faith through her life  
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## A VISIT FROM SAINT NICK



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Father Kris Lauzon, pastor of Holy Name Church in AuSable Forks, dressed up as Saint Nicholas and shared the story of the saint with the children of Holy Name School Dec. 6. Each child received a candy cane surprise after his visit. "Saint Nick" is shown above with Ms. Snyder's kindergarten class.

**NCC FOR CHRISTMAS:** The gift that keeps on giving week after week... p. 5

## PARISH NURSES

### Bishop LaValley commissions 18 for ministry



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Linda Hurley of St. Cecilia's Parish in Adams, was one of 18 registered nurses from Jefferson County who were commissioned as parish nurses by Bishop LaValley Nov. 3 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. The nurses had completed a course on parish health ministry sponsored by Catholic Charities and presented by Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings, Ed.D., R.N. of Mercy Care of the Adirondacks, shown above. Parish nurse ministry combines medical knowledge with spiritual care.

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Observing Advent - 'intentionally'

Our observance of the Year of Faith is well underway as we reflect on the magnificent opening celebration Nov. 18 and look ahead to all the special events planned for the year. We will have so many opportunities to learn about our faith and celebrate it.

But none of it will mean anything if we don't start at the very beginning: with a conscious lived relationship with God.

That may sound obvious but, if we're honest, we know that it would be quite easy to attend Mass every week of your life, join parish groups and or even

work for the Church without having a living, growing love relationship with God.

Bishop LaValley and the team preparing the Year of Faith events have no interest in merely making everybody's life busier.

The expectation is that Catholics in our pews will make a conscious decision to know and follow Jesus so that they can draw others to him... that they can become real disciples.

It's not usually my style to "preach" like this but a few of my colleagues in the Chancery office have discovered a gem

of a book - "Forming Intentional Disciples: the Path to Knowing and Following Jesus" by Sherry A. Weddell - and want to encourage every Catholic to read it.

The book offers a vision of what a parish should be: "a Catholic community that nurtures the faith and gifts of lay Catholics, enabling them to become effective committed disciples of Jesus Christ who have discerned and are living out their God-given mission in life."

At a time when only 30% of Americans who were raised Catholics are still practicing

and only 60% of Catholics believe in a personal God, we have a lot of work to do. (The Pew U.S. Religious Landscape Survey," 2008)

The diocesan Evangelization Office recommended this book to pastors for the Year of Faith so there are some parishes planning an Intentional Disciples prayer/study experience.

For everyone else, my friends and I are encouraging a visit to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.siena.org](http://www.siena.org) where you can purchase an inexpensive - yet *priceless* - Advent gift for yourself!

MLK

## FATHER BILL SAYS

## The Christmas Spirit in this Year of Faith

I am thinking today of Christmas Spirit - especially Christmas Spirit in this Year of Faith.

This Year of Faith was called by Pope Benedict to encourage all Catholics to strengthen their faith in a new and more wonderful way so as to make their lives more faith-filled and alive in the Lord.

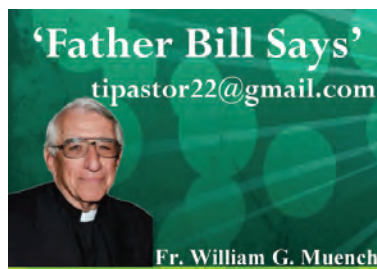
In this way, our lives will be a witness of the joy and happiness of faith in the Lord for all people to see, a joy that comes as we renew our faith in the Birth of Our Savior thus bringing peace and joy to all those that we meet.

In order that we may find this Christmas Spirit the Church gives us the gift of Advent.

Advent - a time of prayer, especially at Mass - gives us the opportunity to remove ourselves from the busyness of other Christmas preparation so that we can find a spiritual preparation for Christmas.

Now, I love the decorating and the Christmas cards - and even the shopping - but it is good to escape from all that for a time to prepare our hearts and souls for Christmas.

Advent in the Year of Faith - actually every year - is a time of real renewal, a renewal of faith in the Mystery of the Incarnation .



Fr. William G. Muench

Jesus, the Son of God - God among us - became one of us, a human like us all. He lived as we do, died as we must and showed us the way the new life in the Resurrection.

For us, the best way to achieve that Christmas Spirit is in the Blessed Eucharist - the Holy Mass - our principal prayer. The Mass has a profound influence on the life of all the baptized. One of the important messages of the Second Vatican Council was a call to all people for a greater participation of all in the Mass. All of us, clergy and laity, are joined together to participate in the spirit and sacrifice of the Mass. The Council calls for a unity of all as one people, the People of God. In this way, we will find a new and stronger faith united in the strength of our faith as the People of God.

We discover that unity best in our Eucharistic celebration - in the Mass. Actually, long before the Council, Pope Pius X was concerned that the Mass

was becoming a private devotion so he spoke out to encourage a more active participation in the celebration of the Eucharist by the laity. He is also well known for encouraging more frequent reception of Holy Communion by lay people. And also he changed the age for the reception of First Communion from 15 years of age to seven.

In many ways, these efforts were to bring back to the Mass qualities that were part of the liturgy in the early days of the Church.

In that same spirit, the Second Vatican Council also worked to lead the baptized to a fuller participation in the Mass, the Paschal Mystery of Christ. The Council wrote that the action of the liturgy is the action of the whole Church.

The Council continued to encourage active participation by the laity as their inherent right by reason of their baptism. In this way, the Council called for a renewed appreciation of the dignity of all the baptized faithful as members of the People of God through their more active participation in the liturgy of the Mass.

Participation was an important focus of the Council especially in the document on the liturgy. The interesting thing

about the changes that the Council initiated is that they reached back to the early days of the Church, bringing back many rites that were lost over the centuries. These rites returned to the laity their active participation and the Mass united all together in a new and better way.

Much of what the Council considered began with the words of St. Peter in his First Letter: "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people." (1Peter 2:9) So, all of us are united in a most unique way in the priesthood of the baptized - celebrating together the sacrifice of Jesus at the table of the Lord.

The Council writes this: "In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit."

So even now the Church must continue to do all that it can to unite us - clergy and people - in the active participation of the celebration of the Mass. We must continue to think about this challenge in the coming weeks.



Father Bryan Stitt, a graduate of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, presented a virtual tour of St. Peter's Basilica at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown Dec. 4. The program, one of numerous opportunities planned for the Year of Faith will, be repeated Feb. 21 in Malone.

# Planning for the Year of Faith

Bishop Terry R. LaValley closed the Nov. 18 "Witnesses of Faith" celebration with a call for full participation in the Year of Faith.

Special events planned for the coming year include:

- Pilgrimage opportunities to holy sites in the diocese and in the surrounding area. Other destinations, such as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. will also be organized.

- Parish missions
- Spiritual direction opportunities
- Catechesis on Penance,
- Celebration of Faith in Music
- Celebration of Faith in Visual Arts.

- April workshop on the documents of the Vatican II
- Corpus Christi celebration June 2, 2103. Catholics from across the diocese will be invited for Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg to be followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Ogdensburg to St. Mary's Cathedral for a time of prayer.

- Celebration of the Year of Faith at Lake Placid Sept. 29, 2013. All the parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will converge on Lake Placid to celebrate the Year of Faith at a solemn Mass with Bishop LaValley, pastors and fellow Catholics at the Olympic Center.

Complete information on the Year of Faith, including Bishop LaValley's Pastoral Letter for the year appears on the diocesan Year of Faith webpage.

The page can be accessed by clicking on the Year of Faith logo on the front page of the Diocese of Ogdensburg website ([www.dioogdensburg.org](http://www.dioogdensburg.org)).

## A VISIT FROM SANTA



Members of the Gabriel Project at St. Lawrence/St. Patrick's Parishes in the Brasher-North Lawrence area held a Christmas party for Gabriel Project families Dec. 1. Nineteen families attended with more than 50 children meeting Santa, sitting on his lap and receiving a gift. The party also featured a reading of the Nativity story with the children participating by ringing bells. All of the families received a family gift including a Christmas Tree ornament of the Nativity scene and enjoyed Christmas treats. The Gabriel Project Angels are pictured front, Nancy Hammill and Santa; and back, Kathy Kirschner, Debbie Beckstead, Judy Austin, Donna Steenberg, Gabriel Project coordinator; and Nicole Villnave.

## Virtual Holy Land tours set

Father Andrew Amyot will conduct two Virtual Holy Land tours this week as part of the diocesan celebration of the Year of Faith

One tour will take place Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral's Brzana Hall in Ogdensburg and a second

Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Emmaus Room in Plattsburgh.

Father Andrew Amyot, leader of numerous pilgrimages to the Holy Land will present pictures and stories from Nazareth, Bethlehem, and throughout the region to

help participants appreciate the Mystery of Christmas.

Further information is available about virtual tours is available from Father Bryan Stitt at 518-593-6044 or from the diocesan Year of Faith website [www.dioogdensburg.org/yearoffaith](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/yearoffaith).

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## YEAR OF FAITH...STORY OF FAITH

# What does faith mean to me as a 26-year-old?

By Tracy Leonard  
Contributing Writer

Faith is believing what is true. It does not allow time for evidence collection, rather it calls one to embrace, seize and hope in the truth. When the word became flesh, God openly invited each of us to enter into a deeper relationship with Him through faith. Only through relationship with Him do we discover who we really are.

This invitation is a challenge- a unique call to each of us. I learned in my own life, that faith in Him and acceptance of this call can be difficult to grasp, but I desire to freely and completely trust Him. Through faith, I have, and continue to open my heart so that He may fill it and I may radiate with His presence.

At a young age, faith was instilled in my heart by those who lived in my own home. My parents, the first teachers of the faith, demonstrated the truth of God through their words and actions. Surprising to many, our family of seven never missed a night together at the dinner table. Similar to the Eucharistic meal we share together as a church, my family gathered each and every night to pray and eat together.

At Christmas time, it never fails that we have a birthday cake for Jesus, we set up dad's nativity set he made when he was a little boy, and for a while growing up, my sisters and I even re-



enacted Jesus' birth in our living room for friends and relatives (because I'm the baby of five girls, I always got to be baby Jesus in the crib!).

These family traditions taught me the importance of God in our lives and what it meant to be a Catholic family who not only went to a church together every Sunday, but who also lived their faith daily.

In addition to these family traditions, my parents influenced me in the development of faith by embracing one another as a couple. As Christ loves His bride- the Church, my dad consistently showed genuine, self-sacrificial love for my mom, his bride. This sacramental union of my parents not only brought me physical life but spiritual life as well. It was their example as a couple which helped me to understand the awesome,

sacrificial love of our God.

As I grew a little older, it was time for me to head off to school. Again, because of the sacrifice of my parents, my sisters and I were blessed with the opportunity to attend a Catholic elementary and high school.

The teachings of faith in the home were supported and edified by our teachers and administrators. The presence, charisma and guidance of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart Central were a true testimony of faith. To name a few- Sister Mary Paul, Sister Bernadette, Sister Diane, Sister Mary Anne, Sister James Marie, Sister Cecilia, etc. were very instrumental in shaping my faith life, for it was their compassion and witness to the Gospel that inspired me to seek God.

Father Vincent Freeh and Father Mark Reilly, as well as various other priests in the Diocese, were also very influential in my development of faith. The time they spent with our family at church, at school and in our home taught me that God calls each of us to a special vocation in life, and through this call, we have the ability to minister to others in unique ways.

Serving as my spiritual fa-



Tracy Leonard is shown at left with her parents, Charlie and Diane Leonard of Watertown, her "first teachers of faith" who, she writes "demonstrated the truth of God through their words and actions." Tracy, a regular contributor to the NCC, is a graduate of IHC in Watertown and former Guggenheim staff member.

thers, it is the priest's love and authentic answer to God's call that has allowed me to grow in faith and encounter Jesus Christ through the sacraments of the church, especially the Eucharist.

Newly ordained Father Thomas Higman and Deacon Scott Belina have also profoundly aided me to grow in holiness and faith, for it is their fervor, courage and trust in God at a young age that inspires me to believe in the truth.

The blessing of these providential relationships has created zeal within me to know and live the faith, but it is various life experiences that have allowed me to share that faith with others and increase my own.

As a member of IHC's faith community service program, I was given the opportunity to grow in faith through personal ministry. There was an internal nudge in my heart to get involved with something that served and benefited other people. I didn't always feel equipped or prepared but I trusted that God would use me for the charity of others. As I began to get involved, I saw God doing amazing things. He used someone or something outside my comfort zone to build and expand my faith and help me

grow in humility.

As a member of the IHC Mystery Players, I've had the privilege of growing in faith with my peers as a high school senior and now as an adult moderator. In a unique way, this prayerful experience has become a powerful vehicle for the Holy Spirit to forgive, heal, renew and give peace.

This, along with my role as a Guggenheim staff member, has provided me the opportunity to bring Christ to the youth and various parishes within our diocese. Seeing His word become flesh has contributed to my growth in faith.

Lastly, it has been some difficult moments in life that my faith muscle has been exhausted by God in order that it has been built up. When I was in 6th grade, I was ran over by a car and parked on top of. This life threatening circumstance tested my faith, as I wasn't sure if I would live. It was the prayers and support of many that reassured me of the love and healing powers of God.

Although my faith was shaken, it was my persistent plea and faith that saved me. This same faith is what has carried me through the chronic disease of my sister, the loss of a five-year old relative, and any other stressful situation I encounter.

So what does faith mean to me today as a 26 year old? I believe that we come to God through an act of faith and faith is the essence of our relationship with God. As our faith grows, matures and develops so does our intimacy with the Lord. Throughout our life, God uses practical teachings, providential relationships, personal pray and ministry as well as pivotal circumstances to grow our faith. It is our trust and confidence in Him which will allow our hearts to be molded in the ways of the Lord

Fr. Venette,

We are so very grateful for all that you do for our parish community. We are truly blessed to have you as our priest.

~Deacon Garry and Arletha Burnell



FACES OF FAITH



Members of the St. Patrick's Altar Rosary Society in Brasher Falls participated in a fellowship event in honor of October as the month of the Holy Rosary. Punch and cupcakes could be enjoyed by all after Mass. From left are Joanne Foisy, Betty Murtagh, Ann Norton, Elvia Cherniak, Sue Martin, Katy Brown, Cathy Hance and Rita Kilcoyne.



Brian Murray and Evan Bresette of Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh oversee the ballot box during the school's mock election in early November. Seton students also participated in a mock debate prior to the presidential election.

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# Local Fidelis Care staff work to provide health coverage to uninsured neighbors

By Michael P. Buccì  
Fidelis Care New York

OGDENSBURG — St. Lawrence County's 14,000 uninsured children and adults can now turn to some familiar faces for help.

Fidelis Care's Brittany Matice, Kimberly Free, and Kayla Scudera are working to ensure that their St. Lawrence County neighbors have access to quality, affordable health insurance coverage.

Fidelis Care is the New York State Catholic Health Plan, serving more than 811,000 children and adults of all ages with quality, affordable health insurance in 59 counties statewide.

Fidelis Care offers free or low-cost coverage through the State's Child Health Plus, Family Health Plus, and Medicaid Managed Care programs, as well as through a variety of Medicare and Dual Advantage plans.

Brittany Matice, a Fidelis Care marketing representative and facilitated enroller, grew up in Watertown and currently resides in Gouverneur. Having been uninsured herself, she understands the struggles many residents are facing in

these tough economic times.

"I was a stay-at-home mom before joining Fidelis Care," said Matice. "My children and I didn't have insurance. Like any parent, I prayed they didn't get sick because I didn't know how I would pay to see a doctor.

"Fortunately, I was able to enroll my children in Child Health Plus," she said. "Even if I didn't have insurance for myself, I didn't have to worry about my children getting sick. I joined Fidelis Care to help families in similar situations."

Prior to joining Fidelis Care as a marketing representative and facilitated enroller, Kimberly Free was the director of the Ogdensburg Neighborhood Center. Her work with local residents put a human face on the problems plaguing her community.

"Having lived in Ogdensburg my entire life, I am pretty well known by my neighbors and local community groups," said Free. "Fidelis Care's Mission and grassroots focus matches up well with the needs of local residents. The more people learn about Fidelis Care, the more they like it. They see us in the community, at the hospitals, food pantries, and

community centers.

We're neighbors helping neighbors, willing to make the extra effort to ensure that people have access to the care and services they need."

Kayla Scudera is the marketing supervisor who oversees Fidelis Care's enrollment efforts in St. Lawrence County. She grew up in Watertown, and spent her summers along the St. Lawrence River.

"What makes Fidelis Care unique is that it is a statewide company with a strong commitment to community," said Scudera. "When I speak with local residents, they tell me that being able to call someone who lives in the community, and who understands their struggles, makes a difference. Fidelis Care representatives know what services are available locally, and work to connect their neighbors with those resources."

Uninsured St. Lawrence County residents are encouraged to call 1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547) to arrange a personal consultation with a local Fidelis Care representative who can explain available health insurance options, and help with the enrollment process.

## Bishop's Schedule

**Dec. 12** – 11:30 a.m., Luncheon with Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society at the Best Western in Canton; 7 p.m., Advent Penance Service at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 13** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 5 p.m., Diocesan Review Board meeting and dinner at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

**Dec. 14** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 4:30 p.m., Deanery Clergy Advent Penance Service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 15** – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 16** – 9:30 a.m., Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 17** – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 18** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 2:30 p.m., Episcopal Council meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

## Rest in Peace

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

**Dec. 12** – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843; Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999

**Dec. 15** – Rev. Leon Pierre Cochard, 1915; Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert II, 2010

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

**Dec. 17** – Rev. John Orrin Senecal, 1980

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

## Protecting God's Children

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

Upcoming programs:

**Dec. 12** – 5:30 p.m., Trinity Catholic School

**Jan. 24** – 7:30 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

## To Report Abuse

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

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NEW PASTOR IS INSTALLED

# SCENES FROM ST. ANDREW'S

Msgr. John R. Murphy is now pastor of St. Andrew Church in Norwood in addition to his responsibilities as pastor in Norfolk and Ryamondville



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK  
Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Mass at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood Nov. 17 and installed Msgr. John R. Murphy as pastor. From left are Msgr. Murphy, Courtney McDonald, Bishop LaValley and Deacon Lawrence A. Connelly.



Bishop LaValley offers his congratulations to Msgr. Murphy



Nancy and Jim Besaw welcome their new pastor.



Deacon Connelly read the Gospel at the special Mass.



Rochelle LaShomb served as lector.



Rodney and Brandon Vice visit with Msgr. Murphy

## Send Christmas Blessings to your Favorite Priests

- Rev. Philip T. Allen**  
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- Rev. Andrew J. Amyot**  
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# The pope's on Twitter!

*With @Pontifex, Pope Benedict reaches out to new kind of followers*

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- To celebrate the launch of his new Twitter account, Pope Benedict XVI will tweet the answers to a handful of questions from his followers.

**The messages will be 'pearls of wisdom coming from the heart of the pope's teaching and coming from his own mind and ideas'**

The pope's rare question-and-answer exchange on the social media site shows the church doesn't just want to teach the truth, but also to listen to others, said Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

The archbishop and other Vatican officials spoke at a news conference Dec. 3 to reveal the pope's new Twitter account @Pontifex.

Starting Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the pope will send messages in eight languages, including Arabic, from eight different Twitter accounts. @Pontifex is the English feed while the other language accounts use an extension of the main handle. For example, the Spanish feed is @Pontifex\_es.

The handle "Pontifex" was chosen because it means "pope and bridge builder," said Greg Burke, media adviser for the Vatican's Secretariat of State. The name suggests "reaching out" and bringing unity not just of Catholics "but all men and women of good will," he said.

Msgr. Paul Tighe, secretary of the communications council, said the pontifex name also "refers to the office more than the person," that is, it highlights the leader of the church and the Catholic faithful.

A more practical consideration was that numerous permutations of the name Pope Benedict XVI were already taken by other people not af-

filiated with the pope, whereas the handle "Pontifex" was available.

Using a handle that wasn't already taken meant the Vatican didn't have to "go around and get people to vacate the space," the monsignor said.

The pope's first tweets from the new accounts will be responses to four or five questions about the Catholic faith sent to the pope on Twitter via the hashtag #askpontifex, he said.

The very first question came in during the news conference announcing the initiative. It was in Spanish and asked: "What is the core of the message of the Gospel and how can we help to share it?" he said.

While it's expected people will send questions that are off-topic -- like one asking who will win an upcoming sports match -- only questions dealing with the Catholic faith will get serious consideration, said Burke.

The pope will personally send the inaugural tweets

around noon Dec. 12 at the end of his general audience.

The Q&A exchange will be offered just that one time, and the rest of the papal news feeds will be excerpts from his general audience talks, Angelus addresses or other important speeches, Burke said.

Each tweet will be crafted by a Vatican official and the pope will review and approve each one before it is sent from the Vatican Secretariat of State's offices, he said.

The papal tweets will be posted with some regularity but won't be too frequent given the time constraints of the pope and that each tweet needs his approval, Msgr. Tighe said.

Even though he won't be physically sending the tweets, the messages "are pearls of wisdom coming from the heart of the pope's teaching and coming from his own mind and ideas," he said.

When asked whether the tweets will carry the weight of papal infallibility, Archbishop Celli said the tweets "aren't positions taken on dogma," however, they will be excerpts from his teachings and are a part of the papal magisterium.

To avoid making people feel left out or underappreciated for not being followed by the pope, the pope's accounts won't follow anyone else on Twitter, except the other @Pontifex language accounts, Burke said.

The pope's presence isn't to amass a fan club, but to encourage all the other Catholics who are present and active online, Msgr. Tighe said. Even though the pope won't be using the site to retweet, follow others or comment, his presence is meant to "encourage them to engage in debate and discussion" with their fans and followers.

The Vatican isn't afraid of the likelihood of insults or criticism being aimed at the pope on Twitter, both Burke and Msgr. Tighe said.

"It's a free market of ideas and that's good," said Burke.

The monsignor added it would be worse to have kept the pope out of the Twitter-sphere out of fear of engagement and then to leave that space "vacant."

Claire Diaz-Ortiz, manager of social innovation for Twitter, told Catholic News Service that before the account was made public, @Pontifex had 11 followers.

Within an hour of its unveiling, it had more than 14,000 followers, she said, which was "a pretty great feat" considering the figure snowballed from the Tweets of the pontifical council, Vatican Radio and fewer than 100 reporters at the Vatican news conference.

Diaz-Ortiz said she works with "high profile" religious leaders and started helping the Vatican in the spring of 2012 expand its presence by opening a papal account.

"The thing we see with religion and what makes it so interesting," she said, "is that their engagement levels are really through the roof."

She said if you were to compare the number of followers an "average pastor" has to the number "an L.A. film star has, you see that engagement per number of followers is so much higher for a religious leader."

"What that tells us is that this is the kind of material that people on Twitter want to connect with and want to hear about more," she said.

She said Christian leaders have repeatedly pointed out "how many Bible verses are really less than 140 characters" to begin with, and the "positive messages of spirituality" in the Gospels already make a nice fit for the Twitter format

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Supreme Court to hear cases on same-sex marriage

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Supreme Court will take up in the spring two cases over the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. In orders issued Dec. 7, the court agreed to hear a case over California's Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage, and one out of New York over the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defines a marriage as being between one man and one woman. The cases likely will be on the court's calendar for argument in March, with a ruling before the end of the term in late June. After weeks of court-watching when the petitions for review of more than half a dozen cases over the same-sex marriage were on the justices' list for consideration, the orders Dec. 7 suggested the justices worked at covering multiple bases in what they granted, noted court-watchers at the Supreme Court blog, SCOTUSblog. The orders focused on two issues: how marriage is defined and whether same-sex couples who are legally married are entitled to the same kind of spousal benefits as heterosexual spouses. Saying he prayed that the court would uphold the traditional definition of marriage, which the Catholic Church supports, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the court's decision to take the cases is a "significant moment for our nation."

## Judge says New York Archdiocese's HHS lawsuit can move forward

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) -- A U.S. District Court judge has ruled that a lawsuit challenging the federal contraceptive mandate filed by the Archdiocese of New York and two other Catholic entities can move forward. The defendants -- the U.S. departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury -- filed a request that the case be dismissed, claiming the mandate is not causing "imminent injury" and that the government plans changes to accommodate religious groups that object to the requirement on moral grounds. The HHS mandate requires employers -- including most religious employers -- to provide free coverage of contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free in employee health insurance. A narrow exemption applies only to those religious institutions that seek to inculcate their religious values and primarily employ and serve people of their own faith. In his Dec. 5 decision, Judge Brian M. Cogan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern district of New York, rejected the defendants' claim, saying the mandate "has caused and will continue to cause plaintiffs harm so long as it remains in place. The departments' possible decision to amend their policies does not abrogate plaintiffs' right to seek relief for their injuries," he said. "The First Amendment does not require citizens to accept assurances from the government that, if the government later determines it has made a misstep, it will take ameliorative action," Cogan said. "There is no 'Trust us changes are coming' clause in the Constitution."

# Pope's letter gives bishops strong role in social action

VATICAN LETTER

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Since its release Dec. 1, Pope Benedict XVI's apostolic letter on the "service of charity" has provoked widespread speculation on how it might affect Catholic charitable agencies in their fundraising, hiring and selection of projects.

The letter directs bishops to strengthen agencies' religious identity and ensure that their activities conform to church teaching, in order to prevent a Catholic charity from becoming "just another form of social service."

According to the cardinal who leads the church's largest confederation of relief, development and social service agencies, the apostolic letter is also an important message to him and his brother bishops.

By legally requiring bishops to oversee charitable works in their dioceses, the document "implicates the role of the bishop in social action," said Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, president of Caritas Internationalis.

"Many, many times we have heard (bishops) saying, 'Oh, no, my task is evangelization,'" the cardinal said. "In some places they thought (charity) was only the work of laypeople."

In truth, the cardinal said, such service is incumbent on "every single baptized person. No one is permitted to delegate to others what is

a duty of faith. And the duty of faith is to put your faith in practice through charity."

**Bishops are directed to strengthen charitable agencies' religious identity and ensure that their activities conform to church teaching**

"Evangelization is incomplete without human promotion," the cardinal said, citing Pope Paul VI's 1975 apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Nuntiandi." And he noted that the October 2012 Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization affirmed that the "diakonia (service) of faith passes through the diakonia of charity."

The obligation to perform works of charity cuts across class divides, Cardinal Rodriguez Maradiaga said, reciting the adage that "nobody is so poor that he has nothing to share, and nobody is so rich that he had nothing to receive."

Caritas Internationalis, an umbrella group of 164 agencies, including Catholic Relief Services in the U.S., observes this principle in its own fundraising, the cardinal said, noting that affiliates in poor countries are contributors as well as beneficiaries. Following the Haitian earthquake of 2011, he said, some of the nearly \$500 million raised for relief and rebuilding there came from the cardinal's own country of Honduras.

Caritas and other Catholic agencies rely above all on

the donations of "simple people," he said, and take relatively little from governments or other large institutions. For instance, he said, although Catholic charities care for 27 percent of patients with AIDS or HIV around the world, they have received only 2 percent of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The cardinal said this financing model will facilitate compliance with one oft-noted rule in the new apostolic letter, which forbids Catholic charities to "receive financial support from groups or institutions that pursue ends contrary to the church's teaching," or to "accept contributions for initiatives whose ends, or the means used to pursue them, are not in conformity with the church's teaching."

Such measures to preserve the distinctive religious identity of Catholic agencies are essential to their integrity and vitality, he said.

"We are not acting as another NGO," he said. "We are motivated by faith. We are doing what we do because we are believers."

Yet the cardinal stressed that the main purpose of the apostolic letter, as of papal documents in general, is not remedial but inspirational.

"Of course when there are mistakes it is necessary to correct them, but the first approach is always to encourage and support the good that is being done," he said.



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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Gaudete Sunday: we have cause to rejoice!

Today is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word, "re-joyce".

For those of you with Advent wreaths, be sure to light the rose-colored candle as a sign of the today's joyful spirit.

Even the celebrant today may use rose-colored vestments at Mass.

It well may take us an effort to feel very joyful today. A na-



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

tional cartoon depicted terrorists shooting guns at the Angel of Peace far up in the sky!

And yet, the Child of peace again gently intrudes His promise of hope into our violent world. What persuasive reasons does He bring this Advent? Let's look at the readings.

The prophet Zephaniah proclaims, "Shout for joy, O

daughter Zion...the Lord is in your midst...be not discouraged!"

Even though his prophet had been very critical of the sins of the people and had foretold a harsh judgment, he now speaks of God's divine mercy.

As for Israel long ago, so too for us, God refuses to give up on our sinfulness. He even begs us to pull ourselves out of gloom and despair.

In the second reading, St. Paul urges the Philippians—and us—"Rejoice in the Lord

DEC. 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

always. I shall say it again: rejoice!...The Lord is near---by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God".

In this Year of Faith, we must double our efforts to pray, to beg God for forgiveness and mercy, and to act

with love and service toward all. We listen to what John the Baptist tells the crowds in today's Gospel. He has advice for each group, from the soldiers to the rich, to the religious leaders, to the ordinary people.

Our joy is based on God's mercy and the fire of the Holy Spirit we have received in Baptism.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. What He has done in the past, He will do again. o we have cause to rejoice!

## [MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

## Considering body art: taboos and tattoos

On TV these days, we're seeing more and more programs about "body art" and tattoo design.

Despite the apparent widespread acceptance of the practice, there are several problems with tattooing that go beyond the sanitary issues, disease transmission and unclean inking needles that can be found in second-rate tattoo parlors.

Tattoos, as some who have gotten them have recognized, have negative associations.

An article in the Dallas Morning News a few years ago chronicled the story of a young man named Jesus Mendoza, who was "going to great lengths to remove the six tattoos that hint at his erstwhile gang involvement.... He feels branded. 'It's the stereotyping,' he

said. 'The question is: What do you think when you see a young Hispanic male with tattoos? You're going to think gangs. And I think that, too, now.'"

Similar branding concerns were raised in a recent column by David Whitley about San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, whose arms and back are full of tattoos. "NFL quarterback is the ultimate position of influence and responsibility," he wrote. "He is the CEO of a high-profile organization, and you don't want your CEO to look like he just got paroled."

That branding communicates a message that can make life more difficult for those who have tattoos. It should come as no surprise that employers often associate tattooed workers with

"reduced productivity" and may show a preference for untattooed employees in hiring or promotions.

Even for the vast majority of tattoo recipients who have no connection with gangs or an indolent lifestyle, a psychological issue is raised by the way they seem to serve as marks of vanity.

Placing tattoos in positions where they can hardly be missed — on the neck, the forearms, or even the face — can play into a disordered desire to be flamboyant, disruptive and self-seeking with our bodily image.

One young woman, tattooed with the image of a fairy having "stylized butter-

fly wings, in a spray of pussy willow" expressed her sentiments this way: "I am a shameless exhibitionist and truly love having unique marks on my body."

These questions about vanity lead to similar concerns about modesty.

Modesty in its essential meaning involves the decision

to not draw undue attention to ourselves. Tattoos and body piercings most definitely draw attention, and often may be desired for precisely these immodest reasons. We ought to dress modestly, in part, to prevent others from being attracted to us out of a mere "focus on body parts."

One aspect of dressing modestly is to make sure everything needing to be covered is, in fact, adequately covered. Placing tattoos in unusual positions on the body may tempt us to dress immodestly so as to assure that the tattoo is visible and exposed for general viewing, in the same way that elective breast augmentation may tempt some

women to lower their necklines.

Tattoos, chosen as a permanent change to one's own body, may also suggest issues with psychological self-acceptance.

One young woman wanting to get a tattoo expressed her desire to look "edgier," after concluding that she was just too "squeaky-clean" looking.

The simple beauty of the human body constitutes a real good and that basic goodness ought to be reasonably safeguarded.

Permanent, radical changes to the human body can indeed signal an unwillingness to accept its fundamental goodness, and in certain cases of very radical tattooing and body piercing, one can even discern a subtle form of self-rejection and self-mutilation.

There is a spiritual dimension involved as well. Russell Grigaitis, who now regrets getting several tattoos in his 20's, argues in a National Catholic Register interview, "God created the body. A tattoo is like putting graffiti on a work of art." He compares it with trying to improve a painting by Michelangelo.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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## TV REVIEW

# 'FIRST FREEDOM: THE FIGHT FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY'

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

As numerous church leaders have warned in recent years, the rights of believers are increasingly under threat -- not only around the world but within the United States as well.

So the documentary "First Freedom: The Fight for Religious Liberty" -- a look at the origins of the religious guarantees enshrined in the First Amendment -- makes for timely as well as educational television.

Filmmaker Lee Groberg's documentary -- produced in association with PBS affiliate WETA in Washington -- premieres on PBS stations Tuesday, Dec. 18, 8-9:30 p.m. EST (check local listings).

Narrated by Brian Stokes Mitchell, Groberg's film uses interviews with scholars, archival images and re-enactments to chart the shifting fortunes of religious liberty in the New World from the 1630 founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the death of James Madison in 1836. It also explores the varied views of the divine held by such seminal figures as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry and



CNS PHOTO/PBS

This is a scene from the PBS documentary "First Freedom: The Fight for Religious Liberty." The documentary, which premieres on PBS stations Tuesday, Dec. 18, 8-9:30 p.m. EST, looks at the origins of the religious guarantees enshrined in the First Amendment.

second cousins Samuel and John Adams.

Most of these founders seem to have been believers of one stripe or another. John Adams, we learn, never missed Sunday service unless he was ill. But their outlook on faith was affected both by Enlightenment-era suspicions of the supernatural and by emerging challenges to the doctrine of the Trinity.

As the program makes clear, anti-Catholicism, a near-universal prejudice among their English for-

bears, was hardly unknown among the founders themselves. Thus, the Quebec Act of 1774, in which the British Parliament guaranteed recently conquered French Canadians the free exercise of their religion, drew fulminating oratory from Sam Adams and a caricature of Catholic bishops from engraver Paul Revere.

Washington, by contrast, seems to have been proof against such sentiments. As one dramatization shows, when he sent troops to invade Canada during the

Revolution, Washington ordered their commander to respect both the property of

the Catholic Church there and the sensibilities of its members. His equally laudable freedom from anti-Semitism is the subject of another re-enactment.

Catholic viewers might wish that the contribution of their ancestors in the faith who made Maryland a pioneer of religious toleration among the colonies had been highlighted. Still, given his limited 90-minute time frame, Groberg manages to craft a valuable overview of complex developments that viewers of all faiths will likely appreciate.

While the subject matter of "First Freedom" is unlikely to appeal to very young family members, the program is free of any genuinely objectionable material. It's rated TV-PG -- parental guidance suggested.



## 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.

## Tattoos

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Some argue that there can be good spiritual reasons for getting tattoos.

For example, people have gotten Crosses or an image of Jesus tattooed as a sign of permanent commitment to Christ, or a ring or a spouse's name tattooed as a sign of their marital commitment.

Yet isn't a personal commitment to Christ or to one's spouse more effectively manifested through the realities of inner virtue and a life of outward gen-

erosity than by a tattoo?

It's unsurprising that many who got tattoos in their younger days have grown to regret it later.

Pop musician Robbie Williams remarked: "I wish it was like an Etch-a-Sketch where I can wipe them all out: it would be nice to have a pure, clean body again."

The American Academy of Dermatology reported in 2007 that "tattoo regret" is now quite common in the United States.

Tattoo removal is a costly and difficult procedure, and

can leave translucent areas on the skin that never go away.

The most effective remedy, of course, is to not seek tattoos in the first place.

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*Father 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](http://www.ncb-center.org)*

## ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE



Early Bird drawing for \$500 on Feb. 14th

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Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20 EACH or 6 for \$100**

**NCC**

## CLINTON

## VIRTUAL HOLY LAND TOUR

**Plattsburgh** – A Virtual Holy Land Tour to be held as part of the Year of Faith

**Date:** Dec. 13

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church, Emmaus Room

**Features:** Father Andrew Amyot will present pictures and stories from Nazareth, Bethlehem, and throughout the Holy Land to help us appreciate the Mystery of Christmas.  
Contact: Fr. Bryan Stitt at 518-593-6044 for more information.

## 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

**Theme:** "He became so small, He became a human being like us, to make it possible for us to believe. To increase our Faith He made himself the Bread of Life." (Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta) O Come let us Adore Him—A Birthday gift for Jesus!

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

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

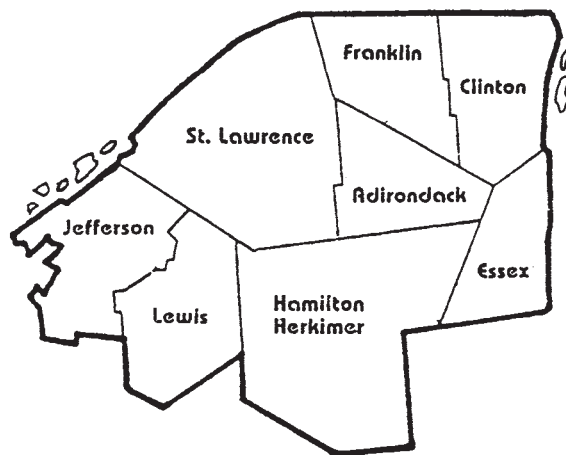
## PRAYER MEETING

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

**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



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.

## 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:** Participants are immersed in prayer with individual prayer time

## 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

## EUCHARISTIC 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

## 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.

## JEFFERSON

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** – An ecumenical bereavement meeting Will be held

**Date:** Dec. 17

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Mother-house, Hearthside Hospitality Center,  
**Speaker:** Rev. Douglas Ort. Rev. Ort is a former Chaplain for Hospice of Jefferson Co., and a big supporter of this Bereavement Group. His topic will be "Handling Sadness through the Holidays".

## YEAR OF FAITH EVENTS

**Black River and Deferiet** – Special "Year of Faith" events have been planned at St. Paul's in Black River and St. Rita's in Deferiet.

**Schedule:** Dec. 13 – 6 p.m. to 8, Healing Mass at St. Rita's; Dec. 16 – 1 p.m. to 3, Holy Hours at St. Rita's with reflection on Vatican II.

## 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

## CHRISTMAS BANQUET

**Lowville** – St. Peter's Rosary Altar Society will hold their Christmas Banquet.

**Date:** Dec. 12

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** The Church Hall

**Cost:** \$17

**Features:** A Roast Pork Dinner will be served by Mary Fran Waligory.

**Contact:** Jackie Kaban at 376-3201 for Reservations.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## VIRTUAL HOLY LAND TOUR

**Ogdensburg** – Virtual Holy Land Tour to be held as part of the Year of Faith

**Date:** Dec. 11

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Cathedral, Brzana Hall  
**Features:** Father Andrew Amyot will present pictures and stories from Nazareth, Bethlehem, and throughout the Holy Land to help us appreciate the Mystery of Christmas!

**Contact:** Fr. Bryan Stitt at 518-593-6044 for more information.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Ogdensburg** – The Knights of Columbus Council 258 will be holding their annual Children's Christmas Party.

**Date:** Dec. 22

**Time:** Noon to 2 p.m.

**Place:** K of C Hall

**Features:** There will be soup, hot dogs, hot chocolate, chips, candy, games and fun. Santa is expected to visit around 1 p.m. Please call the clubrooms with ages and number of children at 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

## FISH FRIES POSTPONED

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

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble will give three performances of a Festival of Lessons and Carols:

**Schedule:**

- Dec. 21 at 7:30 pm at Notre Dame Church in Malone

- Dec. 22 at 7:30 pm at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

- Dec. 23 at 3:00 pm at St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid

**Features:** The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble (NAVE), conducted by Andrew Benware, is a mixed chamber choir of professional and amateur singers: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. NAVE's Festival of Lessons and Carols follows the traditional model of those performed annually on Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. The customary format is built around nine short Bible readings from that trace the story of the fall of humanity and the promise of a Messiah to the birth of Jesus. Anthems, carols, and hymns are interspersed throughout

**Cost:** Suggested donation of \$10.

**Contact:** 518-293-7613 or send a message by e-mail to hillholl@hughes.net

## DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE

**Carthage** – The annual diocesan Ecumenical Service has been planned.

**Date:** Jan. 13

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

**Place:** St. James Church

**Features:** "What does God require of us"? Ecumenism – from ancient Greek OIKOUMENIKOS: "the people of the whole earth who live in a common house"

## Religious Gifts For All Occasions

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## 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

# Appeal for Advent-Christmas

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

As Catholics, you and I have been given an extraordinary gift by God, the gift of our faith. At no time is this gift more precious or more uplifting than in these days leading to Christmas.

Thanks to our Catholic faith, we are able to appreciate how Advent prepares us for Christmas. We look forward to spending time with family and friends.

We celebrate once again the "comfort and joy" that the newborn Savior brings to the world. We also understand how Advent calls us to reach out to those who are hurting the "least among us" who yearn for God's loving presence made real by our love and kindness.

The Annual Christmas Appeal is here. I am praying you will take this opportunity to share your gifts and help bring the Light of Christ to the poorest of the poor who are crying out for your help, and who are desperate for your kindness.

Whether it is a child in Africa orphaned by AIDS, or feeling abandoned and alone, or a family on a tea estate in Bangladesh, finding each day a struggle, our brothers and sisters around the world need the healing touch of your outstretched hands today.

As you know, we are responsible not only for remembering them in our prayers, but also through our generosity. The priests, religious and lay catechists who help our mission family need both spiritual and financial support.

*"Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us turn our gaze now anew to the grotto of Bethlehem. The Child whom we contemplate is our salvation!" ...Pope Benedict XVI*

Please, won't you help suffering people all over the world experience the love of the Infant of Bethlehem this Christmas?

Our missionaries play a critical, life-saving role in the lives of countless families around the world, but they cannot do it alone. They urgently need your prayers, and your help. You mean that much to our missionaries and the poor. You mean everything. Please be as generous as you can.

Thank you for reaching out, with loving hands, to make a difference in the lives of men, women and children – God's people in need – this Christmas. I am forever grateful for your generous, missionary heart! May you and those you love enjoy a blessed Christmas!

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

## OBITUARIES

**Alexandra Bay** – Florence R. (Fitzsimmons) Running, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2012 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Redwood.

**Bloomington** – William "Billy" O'Neil, 52; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2012 at St. Paul's Church.

**Brasher Falls** – Gloria (Goodreau) Stevens, 71; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Canton.

**Canton** – Kenneth J. LaRue, 80; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Chazy** – Andree L. (Birtz) LaPorte, 70; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Colton** – Harley F. Merithew, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Union Cemetery, DeKalb Junction.

**Colton** – Walter J. Norman, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2012 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Constable** – Lawrence C. Rousell Sr., 88; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2012 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Marie (Drollette) Lashway, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Daniel P. Blaise, 60; Funeral

Services Dec. 5, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lyons Falls** – Eileen L. Cataldo, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Port Leyden.

**Massena** – Joseph E. Brady, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Louisville.

**Massena** – Mary Lou Metruck, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Mooers** – Beverly J. (Martin) Sorrell, 56; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Holy Angels Cemetery, Altona.

**Ogdensburg** – Brenda Hyde, 58; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Carol A. (West) Ladouceur, 68; Memorial Services Dec. 1, 2012 at Notre Dame Church.

**Ogdensburg** – James W. Moore, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2012 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Harold A. Rayburn Sr., 81; Funeral Services Dec. 7, 2012 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

**Plattsburgh** – Eugene A. Beebie, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Kevin Kampschor, 56; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium.

**Plattsburgh** – Lewis W. Owens, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Arthur H. Reeves, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2012 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Helen M. (O'Brien) Gaines, 106; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Raymondville** – Teresa J. "Terri" (Belgarde) MacIntire, 44; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2012 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Raymondville Cemetery.

**Redford** – Ann Cecelia (Lawton) Liberty, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Joyce W. (Woodruff) Morency, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery, St. Armand.

**Tupper Lake** – Alice Eleanor Simons Reandeau, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 6, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church.

**Watertown** – Samuel Cavallario, 92; Funeral Services Dec. 5, 2012 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**St. Jude Novena**  
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified throughout the whole world, forever and ever, Amen. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude helper of the homeless, pray for us. Say prayer 9 times a day for 9 days.  
KM

*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

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# Parish nurses commissioned



PHOTOS BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Eighteen newly commissioned parish nurses are shown following the Nov. 3 ceremony at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse with Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings, who presented the parish nurse course, and pastors. In front, from left, are Sonya Holloway, Beverly Shepard, Sister Catherine Cummings, Bishop LaValley, Doris Brown, Linda Hurley and Robin McAleese; back, the Rev. Paul Luisi, Father Patrick Ratigan, Rosemary LaLone-Kirsch, Rita Brancheau, Penny Clark, Patricia Simpson, Father Donald Robinson, Patricia Greco, Fran Lynch, Maureen O'Donnell, Sherrie Estal, Nancy McBride, Jill Soule, Barbara O'Brien, Jean Heady, Niki Henry and Father Steven Murray.

## Ministry combines nursing knowledge, spiritual care

**WATERTOWN** - Bishop Terry R. LaValley commissioned 18 registered nurses from Jefferson County as parish nurses in a ceremony held Nov. 3 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

This specialty practice, part of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center, is recognized by the

American Nursing Association and combines nursing knowledge with spiritual care.

The course was sponsored by Catholic Charities and presented by Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings, Ed.D., R.N. of Mercy Care of the Adirondacks.

This ministry has a mission to encourage a holistic approach to the health of body, mind and spirit. The goal of the parish nurse is to educate, advocate for the clients served and refer them to the appropriate sources based on their individual needs.

The churches involved are Holy Family Church, St. Anthony's Church, St. Patrick's Church and Concordia Lutheran Church in Watertown; St. Cecilia's Church in Adams, St. Mary's Church in Clayton and St. James Church in Carthage.

Pastors participated in the commissioning as they presented the new parish health ministers with the pins and certificates which recognize

them as National League of Nursing "Faith Community Nurses."

Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Lou Stubbs of Catholic Charities Parish Partnership Program, said, "Parish health ministry is a resurgence of embodying the healing ministry of Jesus in the local Church.

"Health of body, mind, and spirit in a community of loving concern and effective care has always been integral to living the Gospel," she said. "The emphasis on medical and hospital care eclipsed the importance of this wholistic role of the Church, but in recent times it has re-emerged as a valuable and broad-based ministry.

"Parish health ministry teams usually have people with a variety of talents, but they are frequently coordinated by registered nurses with specialized education and certification from the National League of Nursing as 'Faith Community Nurses,' or parish nurses," Sister Mary Lou said.



Barbara O'Brien of St. Patrick's Church, Watertown, receives a pin from Father Donald Robinson and a certificate for parish nursing ministry from Bishop LaValley. Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings of the Mercy Care for the Adirondacks who presented the course looks on.



Father Steven Murray, pastor of Holy Family Church in Watertown, presents a pin to Rita Brancheau.



Fran Lynch of St. Mary's Church, Clayton, accepts her certificate for parish nursing ministry and pin from Bishop LaValley.



Bishop LaValley presents a certificate for parish nursing ministry to Linda Hurley of St. Cecilia's, Adams.