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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 5, 2012

Simple, joyful faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In a world of hardened hearts and titillating distractions, Christians need to keep the Gospel message simple and live what they teach with love and joy, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The best place to start is with one's own family, he said, learning to spend time together, listening and un-

derstanding one another, and "being a sign for each other of God's merciful love."

During his weekly general audience Nov. 28, the pope spoke about the challenge of communicating the saving truth of Jesus to today's men and women whose hearts are "often closed" and whose minds are "sometimes dis-

tracted by the glitz and glam" of the material world.

In his catechesis, the pope said "it's necessary to recover simplicity, to return to the essentials."

The first condition to establish is that people can legitimately talk about God because God himself speaks to humanity, the pope said.

"The first condition for talking about God is, therefore, listening to what God himself has said to us," he said

"God is not a distant hypothesis about the origin of the world" and he isn't an abstract form of "mathematical intelligence," rather he is real and "is concerned about us and loves us," the pope said.

Year of Faith opportunities in the diocese

Two hallmarks of the diocesan celebration of the Year of Faith are the opportunities for making pilgrimages and for obtaining indulgences.

A two-page spread in this week's NCC illustrates complete information about these initiatives.

There are pilgrimage opportunities within the diocese and outside the diocese as well as virtual pilgrimages to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and the Holy Land.

A quick guide to the significance and availability of indulgences is also featured.

FULL STORY, PAGES 4-5

Year of Faith.... story of faith

Potsdam native follows her vocation as a very musical Benedictine

nun, now living in Missouri
FULL STORY, PAGE 15

PREPARING A 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS' TREE



Samantha Flynn, Michelena Price and Lizzie Peo of St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy in Ogdensburg present the Nativity tree skirt they made in Art Club under the supervision of Aimee Flynn, Art Club teacher. The skirt was placed under their "Happy Birthday, Jesus Tree" which was auctioned at Claxton-Hepburn Hospital Auxiliary's Festival of Trees Dec. 1.

SHARE IN THE CARE

Religious Retirement Appeal set

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION 2012
Share In The Care
December 8th and 9th



The annual Religious Retirement Collection will take place Dec. 8-9 in parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Bishop Terry R. LaValley asks Catholics to "contribute what you are able as a concrete expression of your gratitude for the selfless ministry of religious men and Women."

The bishop points out that "these women and men never stopped to count the cost as they educated our young, cared for our sick and worked for justice for the oppressed....most of our older religious worked for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Now a majority of the religious communities struggle to provide necessary medication, nursing care and basic services for their older members."

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 9-12

ANOTHER CATHOLIC VOICE: Why I love the Mass in the vernacular... p. 20

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sharing in the care in this Year of Faith

Once again, the pages of the *North Country Catholic* are filled with information that every Catholic in the diocese needs to know!

As we start our journey through the Year of Faith, it's important to understand all the special opportunities that are available to us.

Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, has prepared a two-page spread showing the details about Year of Faith pilgrimages

and indulgences.

This special year is a good time to remember the importance of "pilgrimage" in our faith life.

As Pope Benedict said, "to go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where He has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendor..."

Check out page 4 to figure out which God-encountering opportunities will work for you!

Our Year of Faith coverage

Mary Lou
Kilian

this week also features the fourth and final installment of Bishop LaValley's pastoral letter, details about indulgences and another Year of Faith Story of Faith.

As always, everything about the diocesan Year of Faith can be found by clicking on the now familiar red and white logo on the diocesan website (www.dioogdensburg.org)

And, if it's Advent in the North Country, you know it's time to Share in the Care!

For the past 25 years, Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg have contributed to the annual religious retirement

collection on the second Sunday of Advent.

A special section on pages 9-12 shows some of the work of our religious men and women during the past year and answers questions about the importance of the annual appeal.

Even after a quarter of a century, the need remains and so must our commitment to the men and women who gave their lives to serve us.

After all, it's hard to imagine that any one of us could share our own story of faith without giving a whole lot of credit to the religious sisters and brothers in our lives!

FATHER BILL SAYS...

Ecumenical experiences through the years

The Sunday before Thanksgiving I was asked to give the homily at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service here at the First Presbyterian Church in Saranac Lake. I remember it as a great service and a pleasant afternoon.

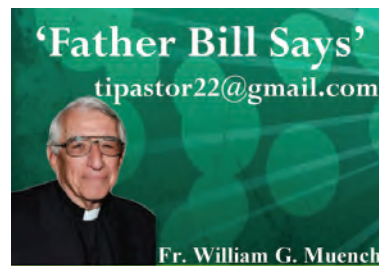
I decided to begin with some ideas about ecumenism. I have been spending much time with the Second Vatican Council lately so I was familiar with the Council's document on ecumenism and wanted to show that the Catholics have emphasized the importance of ecumenism, the readiness of the Catholic Church to work together and pray together with people of other Churches.

I admitted that the Catholic Church was not known for being very ecumenical, especially before the Council. I couldn't resist telling this group that as a teen ager – I was warned about dating a Protestant girl.

The Council surprised us all as it chose to make a strong and positive statement concerning ecumenism, encouraging Catholics to pray and work together and study together with those of other Churches.

I decided to add a few personal stories about my own experience with ecumenism.

As a teenager, I remember a



friendship with the Community Church pastor in our town. He liked to think that he had a hand in my deciding to become a priest – he certainly did influence my openness to things ecumenical.

I also told them of the time as a priest when I "did Presbyterian." This happened ages ago. I was somewhere with a group of people – I think that it was the Elks Club in that town and I met some folks from the local Presbyterian Parish. They told me that they were between pastors and were waiting for a new pastor to be chosen.

One of them told me that she was in charge of finding a preacher for each Sunday during this interim. I piped up that I could do Presbyterian. On the spot we looked over the schedule and she signed me up for a Sunday.

As I remember it now, it was

a good experience. I enjoyed the service and they were comfortable with me.

I also remember that they had great donuts that day!

Over the years, I have been involved in many ecumenical services, meetings and dinners. They have been great experiences and from them I have developed some excellent friendships.

On a lighter note, I did want to share one with those folks before Thanksgiving.

It was in my last parish. Early on the Methodist minister stopped to welcome me and tell me about the times we get together.

He mentioned that the Catholics always joined in the Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6 a.m. All I could think of was how busy Easter was. However, each year – even on the freezing cold Easters – the service turned out to be very inspiring, filled with lots of Spirit.

It was always an enjoyable gathering. It certainly had a great deal of Resurrection life.

Now, I don't want you to think I didn't mention Thanksgiving at this year's service. At Mass that Sunday, our Deacon Fred Oberst, had given the homily and he shared with us some things to thank God for.

They were very clever in that they were surprising ideas. For example, he suggested thanking God for pay roll taxes – it meant that you have a job.

Oh, yes, here is another one: thank God for noticing someone who is singing off key – it means you can hear.

The one I noticed and mentioned that day – thank you God for crying babies – the parish is growing!



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Witness of Hope

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Hope draws its strength from the certainty of God's desire for the salvation of all people (*1 Timothy 2:4*). Hope also draws strength from knowing of the constant Presence of Jesus. (*Matt. 28:20*)

Pastoral Letter for the Year of Faith (Part IV)

The Father desires that every person follow His Son and enter the Eternal Kingdom. He has promised that Jesus would be with us on our earthly journeys. Therein lies our hope. Christ is truly risen. In His glorified humanity, Jesus has opened up the prospect of eternal life for all those who accept the grace of conversion.

Hope lies in the fact that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true! It never ages. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (*13:18*).

Sometimes, through the generations, the Gospel might seem to have been forgotten or ignored. Sometimes the routine of seemingly worn-out formulas and languages of another time are uninspiring and dull. Creative energy seems in short supply and fatigue of faith seems contagious.

Yet, novelties come and go. Our ears are tickled and our pleasures seem satisfied, at least for the moment. But they pass on. Only Gospel truth endures.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness...it opens the hearts and minds of those who listen to respond to the Lord's invitation to adhere to His word and become His disciples." (*Porta fidei*, 7)

Our hearts are expanded in hope because we learn anew just how much our God loves us and invites us to respond to that love by following Him who never abandons us.

In his homily opening the Year of Faith, our Holy Father said that "living faith opens the heart to the grace of God, which frees us from pessimism...The journey is a metaphor for life, and

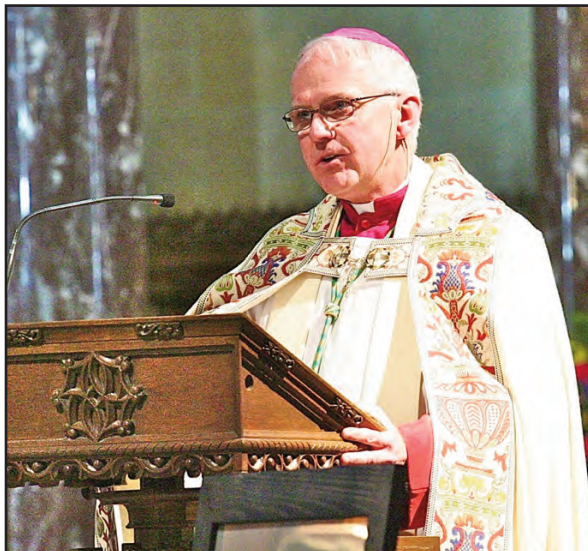


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop LaValley speaks at the Nov. 18 Witnesses of Hope celebration that opened the diocesan observance of the Year of Faith.

the wise wayfarer is one who has learned the art of living and can share it with others."

It is the joy-filled witness of our lives that attracts others to join the journey. The Pope pictures the Year of Faith as "a pilgrimage in the deserts of today's world, taking with us only what is necessary: neither staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money, nor two tunics, but the Gospel and the faith of the Church." (*Benedict XVI, Origins, Vol.42, No.21, Oct 25, 2012*)

"Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1817*)

It is this hope in genuine happiness, happiness that will last forever, that opens our hearts, minds and ears to the voice of the Lord, a voice that often times gets lost amid the cacophony of noise that society screams. What the world has to offer us is, simply, not enough.

For the person of hope, the "rat race" in which we sometimes embark and seem to get nowhere, gives way to the pilgrimage of faith. Out of a sense of gratitude for the love that our God has shown us, (and each of us can number the blessings we have received), we accept His invitation and trust in His pledge.

As our Holy Father asks, let us give a con-

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

The tomb was empty. Yet along the way he was still to be found bringing new life into hearts that were breaking and lives that had become downtrodden. In fact, those still searching saw the Crucified and Risen One for no less than forty days after His resurrection. He was no ghost! He continued to break bread with them and care for them.

Again, if we have misplaced this hope, let us now "**taste again, for the first time!**" It's time!

Our Lady of Hope, Pray for us!

"I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (*Luke 1:37*) The humble young woman, chosen by God, said, "Yes."

That fiat, that faith-filled decision made Mary the way by which Jesus Christ came to us the first time. Then Elizabeth, upon the visit, declared, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (*Luke 1:45*).

The Blessed Virgin had faith in what she heard and followed her Son and Lord throughout her days. For all of us, she became the means and immaculate way to go to Jesus Christ. So it is fitting, that as each of us sets out to rediscover our faith and become credible witnesses to the risen Lord, we turn to Mary that through her powerful intercession our hearts may be filled with Holy Hope, so that as we continue our earthly journey we may come to know even more deeply her Blessed Son so that we might love Him more dearly.

Conclusion – "Follow Me"

Where I began this letter is where I conclude it—with two simple words, "**Follow Me!**" They sum up the journey of faith we have entered upon as a diocesan family and as a Church.

As I said on the day of my ordination as a Bishop, reflecting on the above two words, "The mission has been set: the joy of a journey, the struggle of a lifetime; and it's a family affair!" In our common journey to the Father, as a family of faith, let us be witnesses to the faith and hope found in Jesus Christ and in His Church.

May God's Name be praised, may it always be praised!



Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!

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



“TASTE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME”

Year of Faith

Diocese of Ogdensburg

PILGRIMAGE INITIATIVE

To go on Pilgrimage in the Year of Faith

Pilgrimage Initiative for the Diocese of Ogdensburg

We love to go on pilgrimage. Baseball fans go to Cooperstown. History fans go to Gettysburg. Elvis fans go to Graceland. We make visits to the places that we think are important to pay tribute to our heroes and to be inspired by them. This is true in the secular world, and it is also true in the religious world. Pilgrims of various faiths and religions travel to Jerusalem, Rome, Mecca, Lourdes, and countless other sacred sites—again to pay tribute to their heroes and to be inspired. But with religious pilgrimages there is something more.

Pope Benedict tells us what that “more” is: “To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where He has revealed Himself, where His grace has shone with particular splendor and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.”¹

We are made for more than this world can offer. St. Augustine spoke of the restlessness that each of us feels until we rest in the Lord.² The Book of Hebrews tells us that we are “strangers and exiles on the earth”...seeking a homeland.”³ These are truths that are written on each of our hearts—but that often leave us confused about how to act on them.

Through the ages, wise people have responded to this longing by taking pilgrimages. Often they did so in very challenging circumstances. They risked hunger, exhaustion, the elements, beasts and bandits to make it to their desired destinations. At times their motivations were penitential—making sacrifices for sins committed or offering up the struggles of their journey for a specific intention. But first and foremost, as our Holy Father tells us, pilgrims journeyed to encounter God.

During the Year of Faith (October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013) we in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are encouraged to retrieve a sense of the importance of pilgrimage in our faith life. We are encouraged to encounter God on the journey. To do so we have the opportunity to take part in a variety of pilgrimage experiences. Some are pilgrimages to holy sites here in the diocese or in the surrounding area, other destinations, such as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.. All the pilgrimages will remind us of the Christian’s primary journey—to the Holy Trinity. They will be offered both in physical and in virtual ways.⁴

Whatever pilgrimages in which you are able to take part, we hope that this Year of Faith will be a graced time, a time for you and your loved ones to encounter God, a time for you to taste again all the goodness of the faith as if for the first time.

1. Benedict XVI, Visit to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Saturday, November 6, 2010.

2. Cf. Augustine of Hippo, Confessions, I,1.

3. Hebrews, 11:13-14.

4. We plan to offer Virtual Pilgrimages to the Holy Land and Rome through the marvels of modern technology.

To reflect on the witnesses of the faces of faith that have surrounded us, the Diocese of Ogdensburg is announcing the following Pilgrimage sites and or opportunities during the Year of Faith:

Within the Diocese:

- St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg
- St. Mary’s Church with St. Isaac Jogues Shrine, Ticonderoga—land walked by St. Isaac Jogues.
- Immaculate Conception, Keeseville—visited by St. Brother André of Montreal
- Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Watertown
- Precious Blood Monastery, Watertown
- St. Augustine’s Shrine to St. Brother André, North Bangor
- St. John’s Church, Holy Family Adoration Chapel, Plattsburgh
- Mystery Play—go to www.ihcschools.org/webpages/mysteryplay or www.mysteryplay.org/groups/newyork/clayton for schedules
- The site of your own Baptism where you can renew the promises made at your Baptism

Outside the Diocese:

- St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal—Tomb of St. (Brother) André
- St. Anthony’s Convent, Syracuse—Tomb of St. Mother Marianne Cope
- St. Francis-Xavier Church, Kahnawake, QC—Tomb of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
- Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, NY—site of the Martyrdom of Sts. Isaac Jogues, René Goupil, and John Lalande
- National St. Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine, Fonda, NY—Birthplace of St. Kateri
- Our Lady of Victory Basilica, Lackawanna, NY—tomb of the Venerable Father Baker
- Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.
- 63 mile walking pilgrimage from Lake George, NY to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Martyrs, Auriesville, NY (18th annual pilgrimage to be held in late September 2013)

Virtual Pilgrimages:

- A St. Peter’s in Rome Pilgrimage-Tour with Fr. Bryan Stitt will be offered at 7:00pm on Thursday, Dec 6 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown and on Thursday, Feb 21 at St. Joseph’s in Malone.
- A Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr. Andrew Amyot at 7:00pm on Tuesday, Dec 11 at the Brzana Hall of St. Mary’s Cathedral, Ogdensburg and Thursday, Dec 13 at St. Peter’s in Plattsburgh.

PILGRIMAGE PASSPORTS

To encourage participation in at least 5 pilgrimage destinations/events, a pilgrimage passport is available on our website:

<http://dioogdensburg.org/yearoffaith/opportunities/passports>

When an individual pilgrim or a family makes 5 pilgrimages, they will receive a Year of Faith Pilgrim Certificate.

For more information contact:

P.O. Box 369

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

<http://dioogdensburg.org/yearoffaith/>

315-393-2920 Email: mdonders@dioogdensburg.org



“TASTE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME”

Year of Faith

Diocese of Ogdensburg

INDULGENCES - A QUICK GUIDE



An indulgence is a good thing; it is a reminder of God’s faithful love. Admittedly, over the history of the Church, there have been misunderstandings as well as abuses with regard to indulgences. Rightly understood, an indulgence respects God’s justice, relies on God’s mercy and acknowledges the mission of the Church as instrument of God’s mercy in the world.

What is an Indulgence?

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is properly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1471).

Why is this significant?

Every sin has consequences. It disrupts our communion with God and the Church, weakens our ability to resist temptation, and hurts others. The necessity of healing these consequences, once the sin itself has been forgiven, is called temporal punishment. While one can be purified from such effects in Purgatory, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other works of charity can take away entirely or diminish this temporal punishment while on earth. Because of the fullness of redemption obtained for us by Christ, the Church attaches to certain prayers and actions an indulgence or pardon, that is, the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due to sin. Christ, acting through the Church, brings about the healing of the consequences of sin when an individual uses such a prayer or engages in such an action (cf. U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, p.244).

Can indulgences only be applied to the person that is praying for them?

No. An indulgence may be applied either to oneself or to a loved one who has already passed away.

What does one have to do for an Indulgence?

The basic requirements for an indulgence are faithfully taking part in the Sacrament of Penance and receiving Holy Communion at Mass, praying for the intentions of the Holy Father, and taking part in a set practice (see next question).

Year of Faith Practices and Indulgences

From October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013 Pope Benedict has declared a Year of Faith. The following opportunities are ways for us to achieve indulgences in this year:

- Take part in 3 sermons of a parish mission or 3 lessons on the Second Vatican Council or the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Visit a Diocesan Pilgrimage Site (See previous page) Pilgrimage Initiatives at <http://dioogdensburg.org/yearoffaith/> and pray there concluding with an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Profession of Faith (Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed)
- Solemn Celebration of Eucharist in the Diocese for the Year of Faith will be the Corpus Christi Mass and Procession in Ogdensburg (June 2, 2013) and the Solemn Mass in Lake Placid (Sept 29, 2013)
- Make a visit to the place of your baptism and there renew your baptismal promises reciting the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, or the Promises taken from the Rite of Baptism

Can those who are homebound receive indulgences?

Absolutely. They are encouraged to do so by reciting an Our Father, a Profession of Faith, other prayers for the Year of Faith, and offering up the suffering and discomfort of their lives. They are especially encouraged to do so when the words of Pope Benedict or Bishop LaValley are transmitted by television, radio, or internet—showing that they are united with the Universal Church.

At the Canonization

500 Mohawks from St. Regis in Rome to celebrate 'our sister' Kateri who is now a saint

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. "SAINT Ga-da-li!"

When Alma Ransom speaks the name in her native Mohawk, it falls on the ear like a song—or a prayer. Little wonder: the former multi-term St. Regis Mohawk chief has prayed to Kateri Tekakwitha since childhood, has worked tirelessly to spread her message and support her cause for sainthood, and joined eight other Mohawk women to sing two songs in their native language at Kateri's canonization in Rome on October 21.

Indeed, for Alma and her sister-in-law Sheila Ransom (whose handmade basket was chosen as a gift to Pope Benedict XVI), as for thousands of Mohawks, Saint Ga-da-li is like a member of the family whom they have known all their lives.

Kateri may be a new saint, but the images of her in Alma Ransom's home have clearly been there for many years—a constant reminder of this holy fellow-Mohawk.

Kateri 'in our lives all our lives'

"Kateri has been in our lives all our lives," Mrs. Ransom explains. "All of our lives we have trusted in Kateri, in her example and intercession. We speak the language she spoke, we pray the prayers she prayed, we live the traditions she lived.

"Like us, Kateri has a sort of dual citizenship as a Mohawk and a Catholic," she said. "She was not either-or, but both. This is so clear in her life, especially when she decided to go and live among Christian Indians in Canada at Kahnawake.

"As an adult Mohawk woman, the stars and the moon were known to her for navigation, as were the fruits, berries, and nuts that



Former St. Regis Mohawk chief Alma Ransom (in her Mohawk Choir regalia) is pictured with Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus Carl Anderson and his wife, Dorian. The photo was taken at the Canadian Embassy in Rome at a special reception for dignitaries in Rome for the Oct. 21 canonization of seven new saints including St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the "Lily of the Mohawks."

provided food along the way," Mrs. Ransom said. "She traveled with some cousins and arrived safely, despite the expert scouts who had been sent by her Chief-uncle to bring her back.

"And when Kateri arrived at Kahnawake, she noticed a big wampum belt with purple and white beads hanging on the altar," she said. "Purple and white are our (Mohawk) colors on the Hiawatha peace wampum—and when Kateri saw the colors of our people at that altar, she recognized this as the place she was looking for: a place where she could live her traditions and her faith."

Spreading the word

Decades ago, to ensure that more Mohawks would learn about Kateri, tribal elders encouraged Alma Ransom to become involved with the Kateri Tekakwitha Conference.

For the past 32 years, she has attended the annual conferences and worked for Ka-

teri's cause.

"It was an opportunity to spread the word to other Indians," she recalls, "but until 1980 the conference was only for clergy. Once they included the rest of us, I went every year and dragged my husband, children, and later, grandchildren.

"Our people need to understand that Kateri was a good Mohawk to start with, devoted to the Creator, who knew and appreciated her culture and loved her neighbor," she said.

At the canonization

In 1980 Mrs. Ransom, along with many other Mohawks, attended Kateri Tekakwitha's beatification.

"Those were the people who worked so hard to make it all happen, but about one-half of that group is now dead," she said. "I was very aware of this at the canonization and kept asking myself, 'How did I get chosen to be here to witness this amazing moment for our people?' I

was utterly amazed that I had lived to see this moment, to hear our own Kateri declared a saint! I was filled with gratitude."

That gratitude found unique expression at the canonization ceremony when the Mohawk Choir, of which she is a part, sang two hymns in their native language which were written especially for Kateri.

"Under the direction of Bernice Lazore, we [Carol Ross, Sally Ann Adams, Michelle Adams Laughing, Laura Morris, Rosemarie White, Rosemary Bonaparte, Susan Jacobs, and I] practiced for eight weeks straight!"

The choir wore robes specially designed for the occasion, featuring the tribal purple and a lily design [for Kateri, "Lily of the Mohawks"] in a central position, as well as a smaller flag of the Five Nations.

Mrs. Ransom notes that the words to one of the songs moved her deeply: "Kateri Tekakwitha who was once our sister is now a saint. She is calling us, and also calling the rest of the world."

Others participating in the canonization Mass were Louise Cook, a former Mohawk language teacher who read one of the intercessions in Mohawk, and Hogansburg native Sister Kateri Mitchell, Director of the Kateri Tekakwitha Conference, who was in the offertory procession.

Sharing gifts, talents

Following the canonization, the Mohawk Choir continues to sing: at the recently merged and newly named St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish in Rochester Nov. 11-12; and at the Witnesses of Faith event at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg Nov. 18.

The 500 Mohawks from Akwesasne who traveled to Rome are back home now—but they left a part of themselves with the Holy Father: a

traditional black ash basket made by Mohawk basket maker Sheila Ransom, and a bouquet of splint flowers - lilies, for Kateri - made by Abe Greg and arranged by Irene Cook.

The artistry they represent is part of the living tradition of the Mohawk people: such baskets were made in Kateri's time, and are still made today.

Sheila Ransom follows "the same process as my grandmother and many others before her." That process involves obtaining black ash splints from the Algonquin Reserve in Quebec, since the needed trees no longer grow locally.

"The wood must be very thin," she explains, "so I use gauges and pull the strips through for a uniform cut and then dye them for color. I also need sweet grass to start, because it is woven into the base of the basket."

Although she has made many baskets, Sheila acknowledges that this one is special: it is her own intricately exquisite design, and the first one she made was immediately purchased by the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine.

After the original was sold, she made another for her own private collection. But after being selected from a field of contenders last April by the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, Archbishop Lopez Quintano, that basket was presented to Pope Benedict XVI in honor of Kateri's canonization.

For Sheila Ransom, though, it is all about the new saint whose canonization she attended.

"Kateri was a name we have known and loved since we were very young," she said. "We have been waiting for this moment for so long, and now it has arrived. It is so moving to be a part of that history."

Several groups from the North Country make trip to Rome for the canonization

'A real experience of the universal Church'

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

The Old Testament (Wisdom 7, 27) lauds the spirit of wisdom that "passes into holy souls in every age, and makes them friends of God." The Church likewise recognizes these holy ones, proclaiming them as saints.

On October 21 seven new saints were named as models and intercessors to the Christian faithful, and several groups from the Diocese of Ogdensburg were present at the canonization in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Father Joseph Giroux, pastor of Malone Catholic Parishes, studied in Rome and has attended several canonizations.

Nevertheless, he explains, "It is always special—and particularly meaningful when there are 'hometown' connections. If other saints have come from here, there's hope for me yet!

"With seven saints from all over the world being canonized at once, it was a real experience of the universal Church," Father Giroux said. "And it was energizing. You can't help but be hopeful when tens of thousands of Catholics get together purely because they want to!

"Also, being on pilgrimage with some members of the Mohawk nation was a great privilege," he said. "These are Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's own people, and to share in their joy and in their pride was a great blessing for me."

This sentiment is shared in a particular way by St. Joseph Sister Mary Christine Taylor of Massena who, at the request of the late Bishop Brzana, represented the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the Beatification of Blessed Kateri in 1980.

Though she has worked among the Mohawks for more than four decades, Sister Mary Christine had not planned to make another trip to Rome. That changed,

though, when the coordinator of the pilgrimage asked her and pastor Father Jerome Pastores to accompany the hundreds of parishioners from St. Regis Church who were going to Rome.

As I had prayed for over 40 years with our St. Regis parishioners for the canonization of Blessed Kateri, I was thrilled to hear our Holy Father proclaim to the whole world that this Native American woman is truly a SAINT!

Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSI

"That was the Mohawks' gift to us," Sister Mary Christine said. "As I had prayed for over 40 years with our St. Regis parishioners for the canonization of Blessed Kateri, I was thrilled to hear our Holy Father proclaim to the whole world that this Native American woman is truly a SAINT!

"With the Mohawk nation who have prayed to her as a saint since her death in 1680, I am so grateful that she is now recognized by the Universal Church," she said. "Over the years as all of us at St. Regis hoped for the required miracle for the canonization, I felt it was miracle enough that our Native Peoples had persisted in faith and in the imitation of Kateri's love for Jesus."

Sister Mary Christine notes that the canonization Mass at St. Peter's was the highlight of the trip, despite overcrowding and some attendant chaos.

However, "The Vigil Service on Saturday evening and the Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Kateri on Monday, both at St. John Lateran Basilica, were especially inspirational for all of our Mohawks attending," she said.

Judge Robert Main of Mal-



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Among the representatives from the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the canonization were, from left, Father Joseph Giroux of Malone, Father Shane Lynch, Old Forge; Father Francis Flynn, Elizabethtown; Msgr. Dennis Duprey, Plattsburgh; Barbara and Daniel Benware, North Bangor; and Judge Robert Main, Malone.

one also considers the Mass of Thanksgiving a highlight of the trip.

"After each canonization there are Masses of Thanksgiving which attract those devoted to the particular saint being honored," he said. "St. Kateri had two!

"The 'Canadian' celebration, which we attended, was at the papal basilica of St. John Lateran," Judge Main said. "It is a beautiful church and was the seat of the papacy for centuries. The Mass of Thanksgiving was a magnificent liturgy, presided over by the Bishop of Longueuil, Quebec, in whose diocese the Canadian Kateri shrine is located.

"The priests with us celebrated the Mass; Father Joe (Giroux) and Father Vinny (Flynn) assisted with the distribution of Holy Communion," he said. "The music was extraordinary, and the basilica was packed with Mohawks in fine regalia, as well as many other worshippers.

"Sensitive to all present, the Mass reflected the lan-

guages of the congregation—French, English, and of course, Mohawk, with a little Latin as well," Judge Main said.

"Being in Rome is always an adventure," he said. "Being in St. Peter's Square for the canonization Mass was very moving; it was an event that deepens faith and makes you proud to be a Catholic. The presence of people from all over the world, the multiplicity of languages, and the various nationalities of the canonized make the universality of the Church tangible."

Father Francis Flynn, pastor in Elizabethtown and Westport, concurs. "One was entirely caught up in the universality of the Church, and of holiness," he said. "I had been to canonizations before when I was a student in Rome, but there was something uniquely wonderful about this one.

"With new saints from all parts of the world, there was an impressive mix of countries, cultures, and age

groups in attendance," Father Flynn said. "On November 1, having just come from the canonization, this All Saints' Day had more meaning than any other in my 43 years as a priest."

"It was amazing, of course, and a true privilege," is the way Father Shane Lynch describes the canonization.

For the priest, pastor in Old Forge and Inlet, "there is no other place to be—and in many respects, no way to describe the feeling of being present with tens of thousands of people who share the same faith, and who have come together in common adoration of God and in thanksgiving for the witness and sacrifice of the saints.

"The local connection, two years ago for St. Andre Besette and now for Sts. Kateri and Marianne Cope, makes it all the more special—perhaps I could even say, all the more real," Father Lynch said. "What a privilege to be present for the declaration of new saints! It is a memory I will always carry with me."

OUR READERS WRITE

The Miracle Bathroom

By Janet Zando,
Trustee, St. Rita of Cascia Church, Deferiet

DEFERIET - Miracle as defined by Webster's dictionary is an extraordinary event manifesting a super-natural event of God. A miracle was performed at St. Rita of Cascia Catholic Church.

In May, our bathroom, which we thought was hooked up to the village sewer system, was leaking from a septic tank into the Black River. Actually, we found out a lateral line had been placed by the village and for some unknown reason the church was never hooked into the line.

Father Garvin Demarais, pastor of St. Paul's in Black River and St. Rita's in De-

feriet, approached me, a church trustee, for advice on a solution. It would be costly to build a new bathroom and he asked if I knew 20 people who could donate \$1000. After laughing, I asked him for some time to pray on the matter. That lasted 15 minutes. I suggested it would be easier to ask many people for smaller amounts and if we truly believed, it was obtainable.

You see St. Rita of Cascia is the Patron Saint of the Impossible.

On June 24th, Father explained the situation to the parishioners; a capital repair fund was organized with teams to approach each family for donations. It was our conviction we could reach our goal of

\$20,000. After all, St. Rita was working with us.

Every week, the parishioners were given an update with money come from sources that we often couldn't explain. We had accomplished our goal by Labor Day weekend!

During the construction, many miracles occurred. The first contractor didn't work out and by a miracle, Scott Kempney, the nephew of Sr. Mary Rita SSJ, came forward to build the bathroom. The mirror placed in the bathroom came from the estate of the parishioner at whose funeral the original problem started. After Mr. Kempney finished the last of the construction, he picked up the debris and vacuumed the room completely.

A "penny from heaven" was found and not one of the four people standing there could explain it.

Wasn't this miracle just a testament of faith? Faith working together to accomplish the construction of something so simple as a bathroom.

In 2013, the parishioners of St. Rita of Cascia will celebrate 100 years in Deferiet.

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. 12 - 4:30 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 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

Bishop's Schedule

Dec. 5 - 10 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Dec. 6 - 10 a.m., Mass and visit at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga

Dec. 7 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Dec. 8 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Dec. 9 - 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 2 p.m., Bless Veteran's Monument in Ogdensburg.

Dec. 10 - 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Finance Committee meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Dec. 11 - 12 p.m., Clinton Deanery meeting with Priests at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

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. 5 - Rev. Michael Hallahan, 1891; Most Rev. Edgar P. Wadhams, D.D., 1891

Dec. 6 - Rev. Edward O'Brien, 1936
Dec. 8 - Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961

Dec. 9 - Rev. Edwin McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956

Dec. 10 - Rev. James Hogan, 1882

Dec. 11 - George Montreuil, 1914; Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr. George Henry Brisson, P.A., 1969



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

Enter for your chance to win a 2013 Toyota Corolla or \$12,000 CASH!!!

(Winner pays NYS sales tax) Drawing will be held March 31, 2013.

All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Church in Canton and its ministries.

Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

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Canton, NY 13617

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ADDRESS _____

Telephone _____

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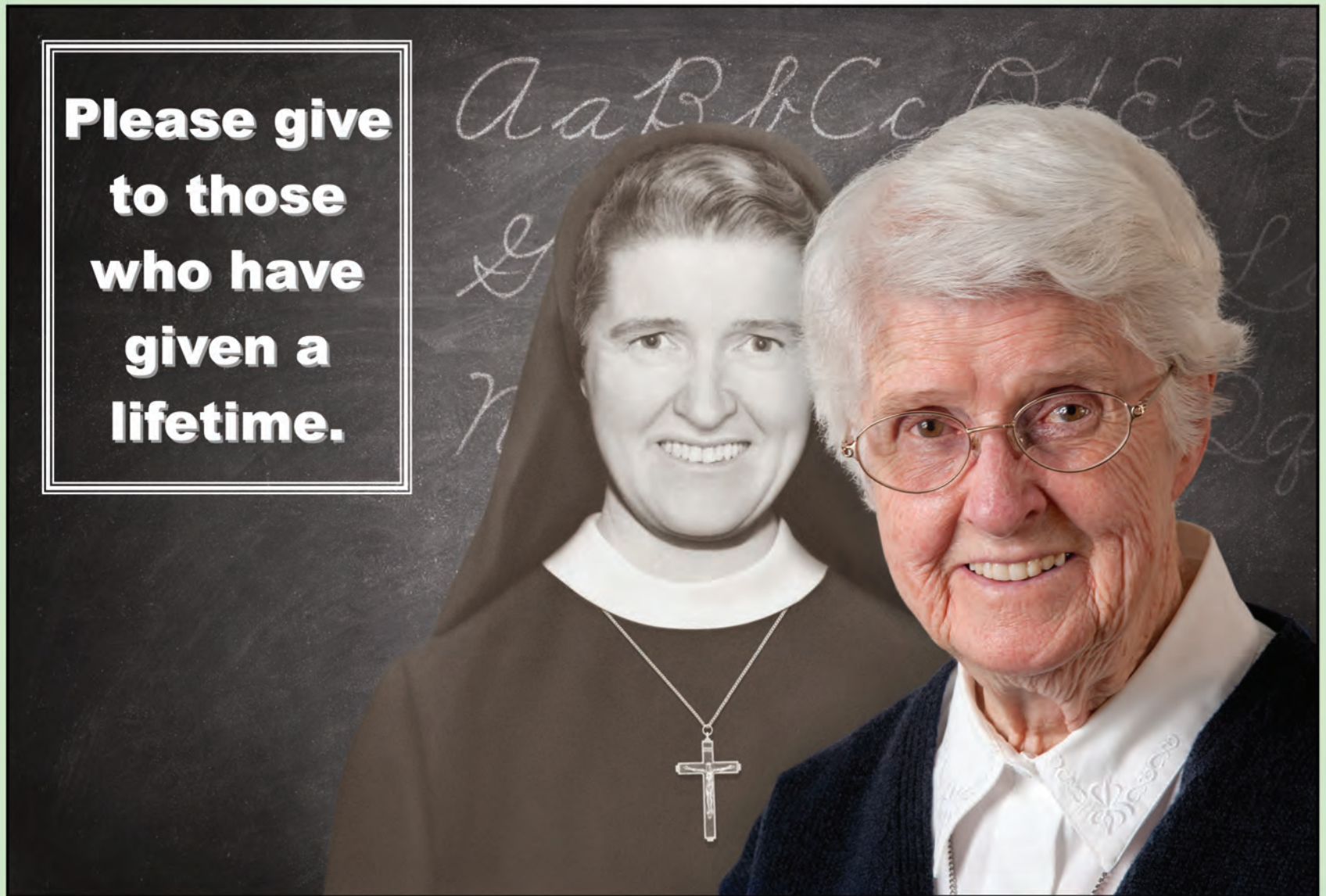
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RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION 2012

Share In The Care

December 8th and 9th

**Please give
to those
who have
given a
lifetime.**



We are all called to holiness (Vatican 11 Constitution on the Church), and this year we witnessed seven lives held up for us to follow.



December 4, 2012



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In his *Prayer for Generosity*, St. Ignatius of Loyola asks for guidance in living selflessly. "Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost ... to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will."

These are fitting words as we reflect on the faithful service of our retired religious. These women and men never stopped to count the cost as they educated our young, cared for our sick, and worked for justice for the oppressed. In so doing, they made an inestimable contribution to our Church and nation, establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and social service agencies.

Today many senior religious continue to manifest God's love and generosity by serving in a wide range of volunteer activities. Others, though frail and infirm, remain dedicated to a ministry of prayer. As I visit the convents and motherhouses of our religious, I continue to be deeply inspired by their faithfulness. Most of our older religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Now a majority of the religious communities struggle to provide necessary medications, nursing care and basic services for their older members.

On the weekend of December 8-9, parishes throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will be conducting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Please contribute what you are able as a concrete expression of your gratitude for the selfless ministry of these religious men and women. God bless you for your generosity.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Orders Serving in the Diocese

- Brothers of Christian Instruction
- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
- Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
- Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
- Mid-Atlantic Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Servants of Mary
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
- Sisters of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of St. Joseph
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
- Ursuline Sisters of the Eastern Province



Attending the New York State Conference of Bishops and Major Superiors and pictured with Bishop LaValley are six leaders of congregations serving in our Diocese. Left to right are Sisters Jane Finnerty, OSU; Bernadette Collins, SSJ; Nancy Conboy, SA; Julia Lanigan, GNSH; Mary Ann Rogers, CSJ; and Patricia Vetrano, RSM.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL SIXTEEN RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS PRESENTLY SERVING IN OUR DIOCESE, AND THEY ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY YOU TO HELP SUPPORT THEIR AGING RELIGIOUS.



are (l-r) Sister Ellen Donahue, SA, Vicar for Religious, Ogdensburg; Sister Mary Christine Taylor, SSJ, Pastoral Minister, St. Regis Mission; and Alma Ransom, Mohawk member, Kateri Circle and National Conference.

A reward of a lifetime of prayer and waiting culminated in joy as the moments counted down to beginning the journey overseas to celebrate the raising to holiness of two of our New York State saints. Holding the banner before boarding the bus to the Montreal Airport



JUBILEE 2012: (l-r) Sister Joan McElwain, GNSH, Sister Kateri Rose, SSJ, and Brother Charles Thomas, FIC represent eleven religious who celebrated Jubilee this year. They reflect many years of consecrated life and varied ministries in our diocese.

OVER TIME WE ALL SHARE IN THE FRUITS OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NRRO.

Bold Followers Joyful Witnesses

This year we celebrated the joy of the canonization of two New York State women who were raised to Sainthood. They reflect the words of the Second Vatican Council that all of the faithful of Christ whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.

REFLECTED IN THEIR HISTORIES ARE PERSONS LIKE YOU WHO HELPED THEM IN THEIR MINISTRIES AND ASSISTED THEM THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES BY THEIR SUPPORT. THROUGH THESE CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS, YOU HAVE A SHARE IN CHRIST'S MINISTRY.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha

a follower of Jesus

a catechist

who spread

His Word and Love

in her daily life.

October 21, 2012



Awaiting in joy and anticipation of the canonization in St. Peter's Square are (l-r): Sister Ellen Donahue, SA, Vicar for Religious, Ogdensburg; Genevieve Peters, St. Regis mission Parish Council; and two pilgrims, Simone Arquette Buneo of Akwesasne and Patricia Lantry of Syracuse.

St. Marianne Cope

a consecrated religious

co-worker with

St. Damien

bringing Christ's

love and compassion

to Molokai.

October 21, 2012

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why We Ask You to Help ...

Skyrocketing Costs

- There are more than 34,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2011, the average annual cost for their care was over \$37,000 per person.
- In 2011 alone, the total cost to support senior women and men religious exceeded \$1.1 billion.

Insufficient Income

- By 2022, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earning religious by nearly four to one.
- For most of their lives, elder religious worked for small stipends. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.
- Religious communities are financially autonomous and solely responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church
- The average annual Social Security benefit for a religious is approximately \$4,800 - roughly one-third the amount received by the average beneficiary in the United States.

If I contribute, do I share in the fruits of the ministry?

Religious always view donors as partners in ministry and remember them daily in prayer. Religious who can no longer serve in ministry devote their time to the ministry of prayer.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish.

- Write *Retirement Fund for Religious* on the memo line and give it to your parish collection

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parish's annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

- OR -

send your donation directly to:

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
P.O. Box 369
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

100 Years of Service in Our Diocese



Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined the Sisters of St. Louis to celebrate their 100 years in Plattsburgh. In front are Sisters Louella Pelletier and Bernadette Ducharme; back row (l-r) are Sisters Joan Marie Lashway and Claire Michel Fortier, Bishop LaValley, and Sister Agnes Racette (formerly Sister Ursula).

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WASHINGTON LETTER

A goat for Christmas?

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Should the Christmas shopping crowds, costs and commercialism be at odds with how one is trying to observe Advent and the celebration of the birth of Christ, there's a burgeoning world of alternative ways of gift-giving that are vying for attention.

- Angel trees or giving trees set up in churches, schools or even restaurants and other commercial businesses around the country are an increasingly popular way to direct resources to needy individuals, usually children, in the local community.

- About 500 Catholic organizations host sales of handicrafts from around the world through Catholic Relief Services and its partner, SERRV, a nonprofit fair trade and development organization, benefiting both the hosting church and impoverished craftspeople around the world.

- Then there are alternative gift programs, in which one buys a gift that benefits someone in greater need, whether in a far-off land or at the social service program across town. In return, the buyer receives just a card about the donation to pass along to someone on their gift list.

- If those options don't seem quite right, a movement started in the 1960s by Canadian Mennonites promotes the idea of a "Buy Nothing Christmas," encouraging simple handmade gifts, an "abundance swap" where gift-able items are traded, and ready-to-print coupons for baby-sitting, back massages or desserts. Its materials may be found at www.buynothingchristmas.org.

In Los Angeles, members of St. Paul the Apostle Parish have for more than a decade been able to write checks after Mass on the first Sun-

day of Advent to an assortment of local and national service organizations.

Thriving alternatives for less commercial gifts

Recipient organizations this year include Meals on Wheels, a tutoring program for homeless children and Homeboy Industries, which gives youths an alternative to gang involvement.

Claire Henning, pastoral associate at St. Paul, said parishioners who participate in what they call Inspired Alternative Christmas Gifts write checks directly to the organizations, so she couldn't report what the level of donations works out to be for the recipient charities.

She personally donates money to Homeboy Industries, she told Catholic News Service, and sends gift cards noting the donation in their name to several people.

"People feel very positively about it," she said. "It's a great way to transition from giving gifts to nieces and nephews who are now grown up," Henning said. "That generation is very appreciative of that kind of outreach."

Such programs have caught on all around the country, with each parish creating its own options for gift-giving. But international organizations also offer an easy way to do it, through their websites.

How about donating money in the name of the brother-who-has-everything to ensure a program for children with Down syndrome in Cuba can keep operating? Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, offers that as one of the alternative gifts one can support with a few clicks on its site, www.crs.org.

Or maybe this is the year to buy -- in the name of that college-age niece who does-

n't need clothes but wants to save the world -- a goat or a sheep for a struggling family in a developing country.

Save the Children, www.savethechildren.org, and Heifer International, www.heifer.org, are a few of the charities that would be happy to match your money with a family in need of a farm animal, knitting supplies or a clean cooking stove.

Save the Children and CRS also both offer sales of handicrafts made by the beneficiaries of their programs.

Courtney Lare, economic justice program officer at CRS, oversees CRS online direct sales and its Work of Human Hands consignment sales. She said about 500 parishes and other organizations hold such sales once a year or more.

Fair trade coffee and chocolate are the biggest sellers, she said. "And Haitian wall art, especially since the earthquake, is very popular, as are Christian goods like olive-wood ornaments and Nativities." Handicrafts are provided through SERRV and include everything from inexpensive jewelry and Christmas ornaments to hand-knotted Tibetan rugs and other home decor.

Although the weak economy has meant the number



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ
Paper ornaments hang from a Giving Tree at Sts. Philip & James Church in St. James, N.Y., Nov. 28. If the Christmas shopping crowds, costs and commercialism are at odds with how one is trying to observe Advent and the celebration of the birth of Christ, there's a burgeoning world of alternative ways of gift-giving.

of participating groups hasn't grown the past few years, Lare said sales are up. Sales range from about \$600 for a first-time effort to the more than \$40,000 a year that a parish in Ohio sells over a year, Lare said.

For charitable gifts that stay close to home, the angel tree or giving tree model is popular. For these, names of needy people and suggestions for gifts they could use are handed out in late November or early December, with the information often written on angel-shaped ornaments. The gifts are returned to the church or a service agency, where volunteers distribute them to the recipients.

The angel trees benefiting a program run by Catholic Social Services of Baldwin County, Ala., are all over the county, said Colleen McNorton, Catholic Social Services director.

A local online newspaper, the Mullet Wrapper, advertised angel trees being hosted by restaurants in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, for example.

"Usually they're in churches, sometimes in schools," McNorton said. "Oh, and the Grand Hotel in Point Clear."

The range of locations will help the program give gifts to 5,200 Baldwin County children this year, she said. The population of Baldwin County, which is in the Mobile Archdiocese, is about 186,000.

Families in need of help getting gifts for children register with Catholic Social Services, which screens for financial need, she said.

A squadron of more than 150 volunteers, along with the agency's staff of 12, does the sorting and matching donations with requests, McNorton told CNS.

"It's a well-oiled machine," she said of the operation based in a house-sized "Christmas building." "It reminds me of a Santa's workshop from a Christmas movie. The only thing missing is Santa's workbench."



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Celebrating church's universality, pope creates new cardinals

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Recalling that Christ's mission transcends "all ethnic, national and religious particularities," Pope Benedict XVI created six new cardinals from four different continents, representing the Latin rite of the Catholic Church as well as two Eastern Catholic Churches.

The churchmen who joined the College of Cardinals Nov. 24 were U.S. Archbishop James M. Harvey, 63, former prefect of the papal household; Lebanon's Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai, 72; Indian Archbishop Basilio Cleemis Thottunkal, 53, head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church; Nigerian Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan, 68, of Abuja; Colombian Archbishop Ruben Salazar Gomez, 70, of Bogota; and Philippine Archbishop Luis Tagle, 55, of Manila.

"I want to highlight in particular the fact that the church is the church of all peoples, so she speaks in the various cultures of the different continents," the pope said during the hour-long service in St. Peter's Basilica. "Amid the polyphony of the various voices, she raises a single harmonious song to the living God."

The six new cardinals later stepped up to the pope, who was seated before the basilica's main altar, to receive symbols of their office: a ring, the "zucchetto" skull cap and the three-cornered hat called a biretta. The headwear was colored scarlet, like the cardinals' robes, to symbolize the blood they risk shedding in service to the church.

The new Eastern Catholic cardinals received modified versions of the biretta, con-



CNS PHOTO/PA UL HARING

New U.S. Cardinal James M. Harvey, former prefect of the papal household, blesses a guest before Pope Benedict XVI's audience at the Vatican Nov. 26. The pope created six new cardinals from four different continents at a Nov. 24 consistory.

sistent with the distinctive clerical garb of their churches. Cardinal Rai received the turban-like Maronite tabieh, and Cardinal Cleemis a head covering in a shape reminiscent of an onion dome.

Pope Benedict also assigned each of the new cardinals a "titular church" in Rome, making them full members of the Rome clergy and closer collaborators of the pope in governing the universal church.

Cardinal Harvey's titular church is the Church of Saint Pius V a Villa Carpegna, a post-war church about a mile southwest of Vatican City. The pope has also named Cardinal Harvey to serve as archpriest of the Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, one of Rome's four major papal basilicas.

The Nov. 24 ceremony was a much quieter affair than the last consistory in February, when Pope Benedict created 22 cardinals, including three from the United States and Canada. This time, there was no overflow crowd in St.

Peter's Square, and only 99 of the 211 members of the College of Cardinals were in attendance.

Yet the congregation was spirited, with pilgrims applauding enthusiastically as the new cardinals' names were called. Cardinal Tagle seemed especially moved as he knelt before the pope, and afterwards was seen wiping a tear from his eye.

At the end of the ceremony, the College of Cardinals had 211 members, 120 of whom were under the age of 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. The new consistory raises the percentage of Asian electors from 7 percent to 9 percent. Catholics in Asia account for just over 10 percent of the worldwide Catholic population.

At the same time, the percentage of European electors dropped slightly, to just over 51 percent. But the continent remains statistically overrepresented, since the Vatican reports that fewer than 24 percent of the world's Catholics live in Europe

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Vatican praises new UN status for Palestine, urges full sovereignty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican praised a United Nations vote making Palestine a non-member observer state but called for full recognition of Palestinian sovereignty as necessary for peace in the region. One hundred thirty-eight member states voted Nov. 29 to boost Palestine's status from "entity" to "non-member state" -- the same status held by the Holy See -- in an implicit recognition of Palestinian sovereignty. Israel, the United States and Canada were among the nine states that voted against the motion. Forty-one countries abstained. The vote reflects the "sentiment of the majority of the international community" in favor of a "more significant presence to Palestinians within the United Nations," the Vatican said in a written statement Nov. 29. But Palestine's enhanced status at the U.N. "does not constitute, per se, a sufficient solution to the existing problems in the region," the Vatican said. Such a solution would require "effective commitment to building peace and stability, in justice and in the respect for legitimate aspirations, both of the Israelis and of the Palestinians," it said. Israeli and Palestinian leaders need to restart peace "negotiations in good faith and to avoid actions, or the placing of conditions, which would contradict the declarations of good will and the sincere search for solutions which could become secure foundations for a lasting peace," it said. In the West Bank, church bells rang out as the announcement of the U.N. decision was made. In its statement, the Vatican noted its 2000 agreement with the Palestinian Authority supporting "the recognition of an internationally guaranteed special statute for the city of Jerusalem."

Lawsuits' dismissal called disappointing but won't end challenge

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- After judges in two separate rulings Nov. 27 dismissed lawsuits filed by Catholic organizations and dioceses in Pennsylvania and Tennessee challenging the federal contraceptive mandate, Catholic leaders in both states expressed disappointment but also some hope the rulings left the door open to refiling their claims. Two days later, a federal appeals court in St. Louis granted a temporary injunction against enforcement of the mandate while a Catholic business owner prepares an appeal of a lower court ruling that rejected his claim the federal requirement is a burden on his religious rights because he is morally opposed to providing contraceptive coverage. In Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik said Nov. 28 that he was disappointed in the U.S. District Court ruling but "very encouraged that it was 'dismissed without prejudice.' That means that we have every right to file again in the future." The Diocese of Pittsburgh, along with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh Inc., and the Catholic Cemeteries Association of Pittsburgh, filed suit in May against a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate that requires employers to include coverage for contraceptives, sterilization and some abortion-inducing drugs free of charge, even if the employer is morally opposed to such services. In Tennessee, the Nashville Diocese in a statement said the order of dismissal by the U.S. District Court there "does not foreclose the bringing of similar claims once the alleged administrative change to the mandate takes place." The Diocese of Nashville, joined by Catholic Charities of Tennessee, Father Ryan High School, Pope John Paul II High School, Mary Queen of Angels assisted living facility, Villa Maria Manor and St. Mary Villa Child Development Center and Aquinas College, which is owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation filed suit in federal court in mid-September against the HHS contraception mandate.

YEAR OF FAITH..STORY OF FAITH

Sharing music... and faith... with the world

By Maeana Cragg
Parishioner, St. Mary's, Potsdam

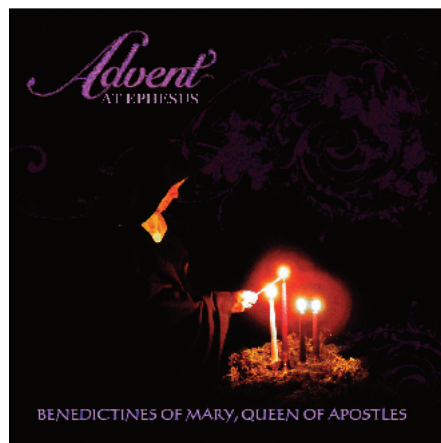
My sister, Martina Snell, grew up with me in Potsdam. She was baptized at St. Mary's and confirmed at the Newman Center. A gifted musician, she sang and played French horn at an All-State level through high school. Although she graduated valedictorian from high school, she knew that music was her true calling.

Martina followed that call to the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, TX where she majored in Orchestral Studies. From there, she almost immediately got a job with the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Ohio.

She was just 22, and her life was incredible. She had a job most musicians only dream of. She had her own house by a pretty little park with a sweet white dog and a little gray bunny.

There, she made many friends, from the musicians she worked with, to the neighbors down the street, to the wonderful people she met at Holy Family, the church she attended in Columbus. Though she had been to Latin Masses before, it was there that she truly fell in love with the Extraordinary Form.

Through all of this, there was a gentle tugging, a nudging, a knowing that this was not exactly the life that God wanted for her. She knew, without a doubt, that music would always be part of it, but her true vo-



Mother Cecilia Snell, Potsdam native and Benedictine nun, is pictured on the front of a new CD "Advent at Ephesus."

cation was to something different. What seemed sudden to the rest of the world had been on her heart for a long time. When she shared that she was entering a little contemplative traditional Benedictine convent in the tiny town of Starucca, PA, most people were shocked.

How could someone so gifted toss it all away to become a nun?

If they had seen the joy on her face as she entered, the contentment I saw when I visited her, there wouldn't have been a question. Of course, there were struggles, but struggling within the vocation God had called her to was different than the discontent she had felt in her previous life.

She had not left her music behind, either. With the Benedictines, she sang at least eight times a day,



every day. She was also writing arrangements and original pieces for the sisters to sing.

Within a few years, the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles were invited by Bishop Finn to go to Kansas City, MO. Suddenly, my sister (now Sister Cecilia) would be going from an easy half-day drive away to traveling half-way across the country. If this was where God wanted her to be, it would work out just the way it should and so it has.

In the six years the Benedictines have been in Missouri, they moved from a temporary convent in the middle of Kansas City, to the beginnings of a monastery in the beautiful farmland of Gower, just north of the city. Things have also changed quite a bit for my sister. She is now Mother Cecilia, the prioress of the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles.

Mother Cecilia is still very much a practicing musician. If anything,

her music, done now completely for the glory of God, is more widespread than when she was a professional orchestral musician.

A very talented friend had helped them to record a few CDs through the years. All were lovely, but the audience was limited to those the sisters were able to reach through family, friends, and a few mailings.

Then, just a few months ago, my sister shared very exciting news with me. The Benedictines of Mary had been approached by DeMontfort Music. These producers wanted to encourage more truly Catholic music, and brought the sisters' music to a few major production companies. Within a month, the Benedictines of Mary had been signed by Decca. They could share their music with the world. Even better, they could remain contemplative and focus on prayer while the production company took care of marketing and sales.

The result of this partnership is "Advent at Ephesus," available at Amazon.com and Ignatius Press, among others. However, if you want more of your money to go directly to the sisters, you can order it on their website, benedictinesofmary.org. This website is also a good place to go if you want to find out more about the Benedictines of Mary, a young and rapidly growing order.

My sister made the best decision of her life in choosing to follow her vocation. I only hope that her story might encourage others to do the same.

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Making personal preparations for Jesus

As we began Advent last Sunday, the readings focused on the vision of the final days of the world.

With Hurricane Sandy still fresh in our memories, it was easy to connect violence in nature as a sign of earth's final destruction.

As we begin the second week of preparation for Christmas, our readings are more concerned with personal preparation here and now.

The prophet Baruch was Jeremiah's secretary. Both lived with the Jews in exile,

far from Jerusalem.

Today's message in the first reading is a joyful one: "Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights--look to the east and see your children gathered from the East and from the West at the word of the Holy One..."

As those in exile prepare to return to Jerusalem, Baruch urges them to (figuratively) level the desert road for a speedy journey.

"For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the aged depths and gorges be

filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God".

The theme is repeated in John the Baptist's preaching of the need for repentance.

He uses the words of Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths,. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low".

How can we apply this ancient message to our lives?

We have our work cut out for us - we need to reflect on every obstacle there is in our lives that would prevent us from growing daily in Jesus' saving grace.

The grace we await on Christmas is very much bound up with the saving

DEC. 9

Second Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

work of the Cross and the Resurrection.

Jesus was born into a life of sacrifice and suffering for sin.

In order that His life not be in vain, we must respond in loving gratitude by cleansing our souls through fasting, almsgiving, and the sacrament of Reconciliation. Look to your parish bulletin and the *North Country*

Catholic for special opportunities.

Pay special attention to the words of St. Paul in his advice to the Philippians: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."

He also prays that their love will increase "ever more and more in knowledge...to discern what is of value".

A good source for us is a systematic reading of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Some parishes offer study programs.

Advent is so short—let's not allow the time to pass us by.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

COMING OF AGE

Teens making a difference after disaster strikes

By Erick Rommel
Catholic News Service

When disaster strikes there's an immediate outpouring of compassion. What can be done? Can I make a difference? Everyone comes together, regardless of other disagreements, to help those in need.

For most, life returns to normal within a few days or weeks, but for those closest to destruction, the return to normal is months or years away. Those affected by Hurricane Katrina understand that all too well.

Now, those affected by Hurricane Sandy are learning the same lesson. It does-

n't matter if they need assistance or are providing it; Sandy is a storm that will never be forgotten.

Just ask 17-year-old Joseph Harasym, who was alone in his family's Staten Island home when his neighborhood began experiencing Sandy's worst.

His mother, Elizabeth, and older brother, Gregory, had left him there as they drove the family's two cars out of flood range.

When they returned, they saw water pouring down their street.

Gregory tried to walk through the water to get to Joseph, but the current was too strong and fallen electrical wires created sparks that

made continuing efforts unsafe.

Sandy is a storm that won't be forgotten ... neither will the efforts of those who are helping the victims

At the same time, Elizabeth tried repeatedly to call 911 for a rescue crew. It was too dangerous for them to make an attempt. Throughout the night, the family spoke on the phone. Joseph told his mother he was scared as water began flooding the first floor of their home. When morning came, no rescue was in sight. Joseph swam a block to a friend's house, stopping along the way because cold water made it hard for him to breathe. When he got there, Joseph discovered his friend and two other teens.

They also were stranded, but they weren't alone. Later that morning, an adult in a rowboat got them back to safe and solid ground.

When Katelyn Darrow-Eystad saw the damage

caused by Sandy, she wanted to help.

Fortunately, the 16-year-old from Pitman, New Jersey, not far from the worst devastation, knew what to do. Three years ago, Katelyn started the Angels of God Clothing Closet after a fire severely damaged her home. Since then, the closet has assisted families, providing them with clothing and toiletries at no cost.

In the days following Sandy, Katelyn and her sisters spoke with many whose homes were destroyed in the storm. The girls listened to victims and assured each person they'd receive help.

The girls increased efforts to collect food, supplies and toys. They then took shipments to affected areas, making sure items went to those who needed them most.

Far from where Sandy hit hardest, Sam Pritt also played a vital role in recovery efforts. The 17-year-old from Frederick County, Md., is the creator of a computer algorithm that analyzes the horizon in a photo and de-

termines where the picture was taken. He's been working on it for a year and a half; the algorithm currently identifies locations within 1,000 feet with 83 percent accuracy.

Soon after the extent of Sandy's damage was known, an engineer who works with the Federal Emergency Management Agency contacted Sam, asking to use his algorithm to map areas that experienced storm damage.

Sam and Katelyn aren't helping those affected by Sandy because it was a big storm. They're doing it because they want to make a difference. People like that always find a way.

Their efforts and others just like theirs are noticed and won't be forgotten. People like Joseph will remember. He and his family no longer have a home, but thanks to people like Sam and Katelyn, they know they're not alone.

It's a lesson we often forget when life returns to normal. Maybe this time we should make an effort to remember.

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AT THE MOVIES

THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 2

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Those tears glistening in the eyes of teenyboppers everywhere are a sure sign that a franchise beloved by their demographic is coming to an end.

Yes, folks "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn -- Part 2" (Summit), the fifth installment of the blockbuster series, is also its finale.

The wrap-up finds our domesticated vampire hero Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) and his once-mortal, but now undead bride Bella, nee Swan (Kristen Stewart), enjoying both married life and newfound parenthood. But domestic bliss does not a drama make, so the opening scenes are likely to prove dull for all but the most diehard adherents of Team Edward.

They also introduce the first of two elements that

might give the parents of the targeted generation pause. Together with Bella's transformation, marriage has removed the part-moral, part-metaphysical barrier that kept the plot's central courtship chaste. So the bliss aforementioned in celebrated in scenes of intimacy as well as in dialogue concerning vein-drainers superhuman stamina for the same.

But there's trouble brewing, so we don't tarry too long in the bedroom.

In a case of mythic mistaken identity, fellow plasma-fancier Irina (Maggie Grace) spies Edward and Bella's half-human, half-bloodsucker daughter, Renesmee (Mackenzie Foy), from a distance and takes her for a so-called "immortal child." As some clunky exposition informs us, these pesky beings caused all sorts of trouble in the distant past, and they have accordingly been banned by the Volturi, the ruling

clique of the vampire world.

As the Volturi, with their scheming leader Aro (Michael Sheen) at their head, rouse themselves to wreak vengeance on Edward, Bella and Renesmee, the happy trio's allies gear up to defend them. Foremost among the latter are Bella's disappointed beau Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner), whose ability to turn himself into a werewolf will now come in handy, and the parental figures who preside over Edward and Bella's coven of vampires, Dr. Carlisle Cullen (Peter Facinelli) and his wife Esme (Elizabeth Reaser).

Themes of family loyalty, tolerance for others and the corrupting effects of power underlie the easy-to-laugh-at but undeniably entertaining proceedings that follow. And director Bill Condon's gothic romance -- adapted, like its immediate predecessor,



CNS PHOTO/SUMMIT

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart star in a scene from the movie "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2."

from novelist Stephenie Meyer's bestseller "Breaking Dawn" -- boasts both a high-energy climactic battle and a twist ending.

But the unsettling means by which the undead dispose of each other during this conflict -- essentially gore-free decapitation, followed by burning -- may also raise a red flag with some oldsters. They will have to assess how well mature adolescents may

cope with such sights.

The film contains some harsh but bloodless violence, fleeting gore, semi-graphic marital lovemaking with partial nudity and a couple of crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Suraj Sharma and a fierce Bengal tiger named Richard Parker are seen in the movie "Life of Pi." The film is an exotic 3-D fable in which an Indian teen (Sharma) whose family is emigrating to Canada, and transporting some of the animals from the zoo they owned in their home country, becomes the lone human survivor when the freighter on which they and their menagerie are traveling sinks. But his endurance is put to a further test when he finds himself forced to share a small lifeboat with a Bengal tiger. Religious themes are central to director Ang Lee's screen version of Yann Martel's best-selling novel. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



CNS/DREAMWORKS ANIMATION

North (Alec Baldwin) welcomes Jack Frost (Chris Pine) in this scene from the animated movie "Rise of the Guardians." The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

CLINTON

CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville - RCC St Alexander & St Joseph will be having their 1st Craft Show.

Date: Dec. 8

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

Place: 1 Church St., Morrisonville

Features: Bakery & Candy Shop, jewelry, quilts homemade holiday crafts, candles & much more. Lunch available at Padre's Cafe 11 a.m. thru 2 p.m. Soup, bread & special pumpkin dessert with coffee, tea or glass of water \$6.

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

Theme: "In the womb of His Mother His rest was secret, unfelt, unseen, making all who would live in Him into Himself ... He is as silent, as secret and hidden, in the Host as He was in Advent ... He trusts himself to His creatures in the Host as He trusted himself to Our Lady." (Caryll Houselander) 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

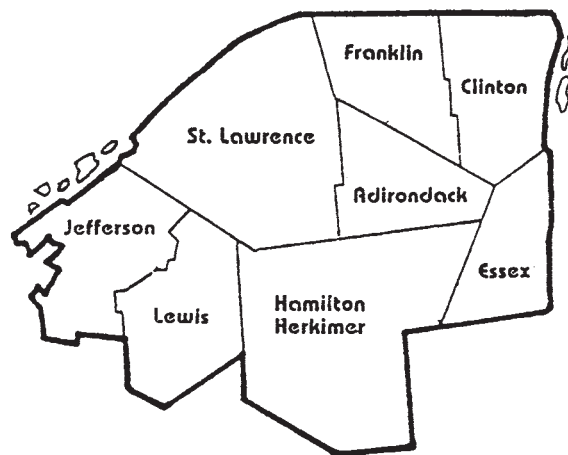
PRAYER MEETING

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,



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.

devotional prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet/Novena

SOAKING PRAYER

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

Date: Every 3rd Monday.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11

Features: Participants are immersed in prayer with individual prayer time for specific needs

SOAKING PRAYER

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

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Upper room at St. Peter's

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

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.

FRANKLIN

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Chateaugay - Spaghetti Dinner to be held by K of C Council #469.

Date: Dec. 4

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors and Children under 12, \$6; under 5, Free

JEFFERSON

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown - An ecumenical bereavement meeting Will be held

Date: Dec. 17

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 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. 9 - 1 p.m. to 3, Holy Hours at St. Paul's with reflection on Vatican II; Dec. 11 - 6 p.m. to 8, Healing Mass at St. Paul's; 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.

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

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 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, 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 sale

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.

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Dec. 9

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

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

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

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

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 8 p.m. to 9

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

Features: Nocturnal Adoration continues through the night

DIOCESAN EVENTS

THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

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 (since 1928) at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. The customary format is built around nine short Bible readings from the Old and New Testaments 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 to illuminate the narrative musically.

Cost: Suggested donation of \$10.

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



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

Anticipate the mission and let it find you...

By Molly M. Ryan
Diocesan Mission Office

This time of year brings a spirit in the air that is unlike any other time of year. It's quite different from the Spring when the tulips are poking through. It is a great departure from the fleeting days of Summer when our children return to school. No, this is the Season of giving and Christmas. A time of year when many of us have one thing on our mind: anticipation. Children are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Santa, mothers cannot wait for their college kids to come home for winter break and Catholics everywhere are awaiting our most blessed event, the Celebration of our Savior's birth.

Each year from Thanksgiving to Christmas, our lives become filled with lists of things to complete. The never-ending list of things often includes shopping, baking, gift giving, holiday parties and concerts at school. It can include remembering to buy a small gift or token for your child's teacher or your mail carrier. It most likely has an item to remind you to send out your Christmas cards.

However, does your list remind you of the reason for the season or why the anticipation is there in the first place?

Our busy lives and hectic schedules sometimes can drown out why Christmas is celebrated in the first place. With only three weeks to go now until we as Catholics celebrate the birth of Christ, take a moment to slow down, breathe and remember the reason. Can we all still remember the reason?

Here in the Mission office, this is what we do all year. No, it's not always Christmas season or Advent, in the Mission office, but all year long we plan and anticipate ways to make the lives of those living in the developing lands better. When we stop to remember what is important in life, the Mission finds you. Hopefully the Mission can find you in your thoughts and words, in your prayers and deeds, or in your ability to give and make a difference.

As we roll out our last appeal of the calendar year, the Advent Appeal, please take a moment from your busy day to think of those in the Missions. Their "to-do list" does not include parties, shopping and gifts but probably how to survive, feed their children, and find shelter. They anticipate the coming of the birth of Christ too.

Our common spirit of joy for this time of year and anticipation for the blessed event is the same no matter where you are. God Bless!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

OBITUARIES

Altona — Eric Monty, 45; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2012 at Holy Angels Church.

Canton — David O'Brien Martin, 68; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Canton — Mary "Eleanor" (Hand) Rowell, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Henry's Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Laverne E. Trombley, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Chazy — Samuel W. Rice III, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 27, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Churubusco — Ida Mae (Cook) Lafave, 83; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2012 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Oratory; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg Dept.



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Dexter — James L. Fitzsimmons, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2012 at Johnson Funeral Home; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Marlene H. (Jacobs) Arquette, 78; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2012 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Lowville — Natale S. Spano, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Massena — Mary Jane (Oakes) White, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2012 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Mooers — Leonard V. Rascoe, 92; Funeral Services Dec. 3, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

Morrisonville — Virgie E. Trombley, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2012 at St. Alexan-

der's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk — Charles G. Papp, 78; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2012 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Church of the Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood — Verna I. (Guyette) Hall, 83; Funeral Services Dec. 1, 2012 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Port Henry — William "Bill" Arthur Conway, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 27, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Ticonderoga — John "Jack" K. Carney, 93; Memorial Services Nov. 24, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

Watertown — William E. Keegan, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery, Watertown

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ANOTHER CATHOLIC VOICE

Why I love Mass in the vernacular

By Charles J. Robinson, D.Sc., P.E.
Parishioner, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk
Commissioned lay minister

I am part of the older generation whose formative years were shaped by the traditional Latin Mass, officially now known as Mass in the Extraordinary Form or unofficially as the Tridentine Mass.

The priest faced away from us, and spoke a strange language unintelligible to most.

I had just graduated from high school when Masses were switched from Latin to English.

The Traditional Latin Mass still holds great sway for some who belong to the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church who believe that the vernacular liturgy has failed to capture the beauty of the traditional Latin liturgy.

I want to argue the converse point — that Mass in the vernacular has a special beauty all of its own and IS a better example of the Mass as it was intended to be from the very first beginnings of the Eucharistic celebration.

I just cannot see the Apostle Peter or any of the early presbyters holding a Eucharistic celebration with his back to the assembled congregation. It was a meal to be shared!

He had to communicate the Word of God as proclaimed by His Son Jesus to those of many lands.

At Pentecost, all were amazed when the head the



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Father John Yonkovic, pastor in Lake Placid, celebrates the Eucharist, facing the people. Charles Robinson, author of this reflection, writes that one of his greatest joys at Mass is seeing "the joy and reverence on the priest's face or his demeanor as he lifts the chalice or the host, or as he recites the words of the Mass."

Apostles speaking in the own tongues. Are not all of these men from Galilee?

But after four centuries or so, Latin DID become the vernacular, and St. Jerome the Great and others translated the Sacred Scriptures into the Latin used by the people, so that the common people could understand what was being preached.

As such, the Mass began to be said in Latin in the Roman part of the world. Is this not what Vatican II did? That is, it put the Mass into the vernacular so that the

assembly could better understand it, and be an active participant in the Eucharistic feast?

The Nicene Creed describes the core beliefs of our Catholic faith. When we recite the Creed at Mass, it is a fundamental re-affirmation of our faith and of our Baptism.

Can one really reaffirm one's faith in Latin, while not having an understanding of what we are saying? It is very concrete and personal for me when I reaffirm in English that I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith.

Over the last 25 years, I have been exceedingly fortunate to have attended Mass in many countries of the world, with the Mass said in the local language, be it Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Hawaiian, French Catalan, Greek, Slovak or others. And even Mass in St. Peter's in Rome in Latin.

Because I knew the Mass

parts in MY vernacular, it was quite easy to follow along with these Masses.

People worldwide are involved in the Mass — they do not leave Mass participation solely to the priest celebrant. And I certainly am more moved by the sharing of the Eucharistic meal as it is celebrated when the Mass is said in my native tongue.

Shortly after Vatican II, the Mass Propers were translated into English by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), and we began to hear Mass said in English.

The English version developed was a good translation of the Latin Mass, with some deviations due to the rapid introduction of the vernacular.

The recent revisions to the Mass attempted to tweak our English Mass text, so that there would be a universality to the Propers of the Mass.

The wordsmithing has forced me to reflect on ex-

actly what each part of the Mass was trying to do. I never had those insights from the Latin Mass, because I could never understand the nuances of that language.

Perhaps my greatest joy participating in Mass in English, is to occasionally see a priest say a Mass who really LIVES it! Wow!

The spirituality of those priests rains down on all of us fortunate to be in the congregation. I have never ever had that experience during a Latin Mass, because I could not see the joy and reverence on the priest's face or his demeanor as he lifts the chalice or the host, or as he recites the words of the Mass.

I close with a recent experience that I had at a daily Mass said in English at a parish in New Orleans. Yes, the Mass was said in English. But the entire Mass was said up on the High altar in front of the tabernacle with the celebrant's back to the congregation. That was jarring to my soul. It was so cold, not from the New Orleans temperature, but from the spiritual frost.

That is when I realized what a great gift that I was given by Vatican II, by having the Mass celebrated as a welcoming meal for me, and in a language that I could understand. They recent changes in the Mass text have helped me even more.

Nothing that I have written here should be taken as being against the Mass being said in Latin. What I do want to say is that the Mass is far richer for me, and I suspect for most of us, when it is said in English, a language that is alive and in use in our daily lives.

At Mass, dismissal we are often charged to Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. We need to do that announcing in English and in our daily lives, because none would understand it if we used Latin!

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