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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 8, 2012

Finding true freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Only by fully following God's will can humanity find true freedom and the strength to bear the fear or suffering in one's life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Only by conforming one's own will to the divine does the human person reach his true greatness -- becomes divine," he said. Only by shed-

ding one's own interests and goals for God's does humanity obtain what everyone wants: "to be completely free,"

Speaking at his weekly general audience Feb. 1, Pope Benedict continued his catechesis on prayer by highlighting Jesus' intense prayer to his father in the garden of

Gethsemane. Jesus understood the hour of betrayal and death was near, and his prayer "reveals his human fear and anguish," the pope said.

Though he implored God to "take this cup away from me" and spare him, Jesus quickly showed his complete obedience to his father's will

when he added, "not what I want, but what you want."

It's not always easy to discern and comply with what God wants, he said. But it will help, he said, if people "learn to trust more in God's providence" and pray every day for the strength to step out of oneself and step up to God's plan.

Sportscamp: 18 years and counting

Father Chris Carrara, pastor in Lowville, who is the founder of Sportscamp, writes, "The summer of 2012 will mark the 18th anniversary for this unique diocesan camp dedicated to the service of the athletic minded youth of our diocese....camp was and is a great place for active kids to come together in a safe, wholesome and active environment that combines, faith, fellowship, and sports, sports!"

In 2012, both soccer camp and basketball camp will be offered during the same week - July 8-12

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

New Sister is welcomed

Sister Julitta Fernandez arrives from India to join the Sisters of the Cross

community in Watertown
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

ON THE MARCH FOR LIFE



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Bishop Terry LaValley and Father Timothy Canaan of Plattsburgh, diocesan director of campus ministry, are shown with a group of young adults who traveled from the diocese to Washington DC Jan. 23 for the 39th annual March for Life. Shown are Sarah and Conan Fitzgerald, Andrea Robin Petley, James F. Weber, Lizzie Rinaldi, Tammy Freeman, MaryCatherine Jadlos, Mary Skillan, Sasha Marceau, Jessica Trevail and Sam Racette. Three busloads of North Country high school students also took part in the national March. See pages 4 and 5 for story and more photos.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Annual event held this year in Massena



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Deacon Thomas E. Proulx of Sacred Heart Church in Massena processes into the church Jan. 15 for the annual Diocesan Ecumenical Service. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the service while Father James J. Kane, director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, served as homilist. Father Kane's homily and more photos are featured on page 7.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

YOUTH CONVENTION: Two area youth ministers attend nat'l gathering... p. 16

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Faith that is young, vibrant and true

It's a happy coincidence this week that so many of our stories draw attention to the vibrant faith of the youngest members of our diocesan family and those who serve them.

As promised, we're offering coverage of the local participation in the annual March for Life, held Jan. 23 in Washington, D.C.

Believe it or not, our diocesan representation included 146 high school students and chaperones who traveled on three Youth Buses for Life.

There was also a healthy contingent of young adults, led by Father Timothy Canaan, diocesan director of campus ministry.

One of the young marchers, Allison St. Louis, from St. Alexander's Parish in Morrisonville, described her reaction to an experience she won't soon forget. "Seeing such a huge crowd standing up for what's right is such a heart-warming feeling," she said. "It shows that you're not the only one fighting for the unborn."

This week, we're also catching up with two Jefferson Deanery youth ministers who traveled to Indianapolis in November for the National Catholic Youth Conference. Chris Woodley of Clayton/

LaFargeville and Sharon Turner of Cape Vincent/Rosiere wrote that, in addition to providing new ideas on how to bring the youth in their parishes closer to God, the conference was an experience that brought them closer to God as well.

And, if we've made it to February, it's definitely time to start thinking about summer camp!

This week, Father Chris Carrara provides a report about the changes at SportsCamp which will open for its 18th season in July. SportsCamp is perfect opportunity for kids

who love sports to learn a little more about loving God and loving other people.

This coming year both soccer camp and basket ball camp will be offered during the same week, July 8-12.

Father Carrara said. "This means that in all the activities off the court or field, campers from both sports will interact and enjoy one another's company. It also means that the non-sport specific workshops and faith experiences will be enhanced with larger crowds." Good plan!

There's nothing better than youth ministry news to help the rest of us feel at least a little bit youthful.



Mary Lou
Kilian

CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

A Community of Compassion 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time – Feb. 11-12

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSI
Director of Evangelization

"Unclean, unclean!"

In this Sunday's first reading (Leviticus 13:1-2, 45-46), we get a glimpse of the social structure of the Israelites who had the horrible disease of "leprosy" ("leprosy" also included different kinds of infectious skin diseases).

Whatever the actual nature of the disease may have been, a person afflicted with the disease was considered ritually unclean. It was the duty of the priests to diagnose the disease and if so confirmed, the leper had to be separated from the rest of the village or town.

Often there was no compassion shown to lepers. The leper's clothes were to be distinctive and he had to let his hair grow loose. When the leper saw any one approach him, he was obliged to cry out, "Unclean!"

How surprised the people must have been when they saw Jesus encounter the leper in today's Gospel reading (Mark 1:40-45). It was the desire of the leper to be healed and he looked to Jesus with his plea of prayer, "if you wish, you can make me clean" (Mark 1:40).

Can we also see our own face in the face of the leper?

Do we cry out to Jesus with the same plea, "I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble" (Ps. 32). Jesus in His compassion for the leper "stretched out His hand, touched Him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

Notice that Jesus used the opposite "clean."

Jesus dismissed him and sternly told him not to say anything. In keeping with the Law, the leper was to go to the priest to show him that he had been made clean.

However, the leper was not able to keep the "good news" to himself. He began to tell his story to everyone he met, an effective way of evangelizing to his own people. "To talk" or "to publicize" also means "to proclaim" and "the news" is ho logos, "the word."

Mark's readers would not have missed the Christian overtones. A Christian is one "cleansed" by Christ in Baptism. Baptism calls each of us to "go out to preach" and to "spread abroad the Good News."

The news spread very quickly. So much so, that Jesus was not able "to enter a town openly."

To be an imitator of Christ, we must do what He did— show compassion for all people. Jesus' desire to heal was not only to show His divine power but to show us the way of compassion—"the passion to be with" someone in need. Jesus did not reject anyone who came to Him.

Often it takes no miraculous power to heal someone; all it takes is the compassion and welcome of a community.

We may not be able to cure someone of their illness, but we can bring them Christ's healing power.

It is God's love that we share with them as a community of faith as they experience it through our Church.

As a family of faith, we are called to the same kind of compassion to those whom we think are unclean. Who are they? The mentally ill? The addicts? The prostitutes? The sex abusers?

How do you live out this way of healing in your parish community? Do you provide a welcome to those excluded elsewhere?

St. Paul reminds us that everything we do, we are to do for the glory of God. How do your actions show the glory of God?

How might you express the light and glory of Christ's presence in your personal lives and in our Church?

How does the Church exercise her mission as healing power for others?

Let your light shine forth as a beacon of hope as a community of faith and

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WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE



Above, Bishop Terry R. LaValley warmly welcomes Sister Julitta Fernandez, a Sister of the Cross from India who is now providing pastoral ministry at St. Patrick's in Watertown, on her visit to the Chancery in Ogdensburg Jan. 26. Pictured with them are Sisters Maria Angelica Rebello and Maria Flavia D'Costa, original members of the Sisters of the Cross foundation in Watertown which began Dec. 11, 2009. At left, Father Donald Robinson, pastor of St. Patrick's welcomes Sister Julitta to her new home on Ives Street in Watertown. Father Robinson met Sister Julitta at Hancock Airport in Syracuse Jan. 24 at the end of a 21 hour flight from Mumbai, India.

PARISH HONORS



At the end of the Christmas Eve Mass, Father Sony Pulickal presented Carol Rodgers with a plaque honoring her for her many years of committed ministry to St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant. Mrs. Rodgers, at 93 years young, has been a faithful member of the parish since 1939. In the early years, Mrs. Rodgers taught catechism classes to the young people of the parish and, along with her husband Leo Rogers, provided financial support to the church and to the establishment of the rectory in Lake Pleasant. For many years Mrs. Rodgers served as Trustee, member of the parish Financial Council and the Altar Society, and also worked as a parish representative for the Bishops' Fund Drive. During the years when additional priests were needed due to the great number of summer residents and visitors, Mrs. Rodgers was the sacristan and organizer for the weekend Masses in Piseco, NY. Mrs. Rodgers has continued as sacristan at St. James, assisting the many priests who have been assigned to the parish over several decades, and until recently, attending all weekend and daily Masses. Currently, Mrs. Rodgers assists Father Sony as sacristan, greeter at weekend Masses, and Eucharistic minister.

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Three busloads of high school students in the diocese traveled from different points in the North Country to take part in a three day pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., culminating with participation in the 39th annual

March for Life Jan. 23. Above, the young people are shown on the steps of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Hope. Pray. Love. Save.

By Colleen Miner
Staff Writer

Three Youth Buses for Life departed from three different locations Jan. 21, to represent the diocese at the 39th March for Life in Washington, DC.

Leaving from Watertown, Massena and Albany, the 146 teens and chaperones met in Washington and experienced the pilgrimage together.

During the first evening, 27-year-old Edel Carrick, a pro-life speaker from Arizona, shared an event which changed her life seven years ago. She was date raped (drug put in her drink) and became pregnant.

Experiencing a high risk

pregnancy due to her diabetes, she developed high blood pressure, toxemia and preeclampsia but chose life for her son.

"Rape is violent," she said, "but so is abortion...Every life is a gift."

Edel's son, Zachary was born six weeks premature but today is a healthy child, accompanying Edel to the presentation.

After listening to the program, Sam Mullin, a high school student from St. James in Gouverneur said "I learned that putting all your trust in God will give you great things. Taking a chance at something and just having total faith in God, your outcome can be really good thanks to Him."

On Sunday, the pilgrimage included three hours at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Students went to confession, explored the many mosaic side chapels and made purchases at the gift shop.

A former Youth Bus for Life traveler who is now a freshman at Catholic University of America, offered tours of the CUA campus.

As the group was boarding the buses, Bishop LaValley arrived with the Young Adult group. He went from Youth bus to Youth bus to meet the young people.

The afternoon was spent at the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum where students could watch an IMAX presentation on the Hubble Telescope missions, try a flight simulator, enjoy the Einstein Planetarium show or find their house on the Google Earth Station.

After a drive past several National Monuments: Martin Luther King Jr Monument, Lincoln Memorial, WWII Monument, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Pentagon and Air Force Monument, the crew headed to Woodbridge, Virginia to the

"Life is Very Good" Event sponsored by the Archdiocese of Arlington.

The evening included Mass celebrated by Archbishop George Lucas (Omaha, Nebraska).

Concelebrants included Eastern Youth Bus for Life chaplain Father Mark Reilly and Western Youth Bus for Life chaplain Father Bryan Stitt, assisted by Northern Youth Bus for Life spiritual leader, Deacon Brian Dwyer.

Catholic musician Matt Maher provided music for Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and entertained the 3,500 gathered during a concert which concluded the evening.

Bob Rice was the "between acts" entertainment.

On Monday - the day of the March for Life, the pilgrims gathered for Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church before heading into D.C.

Each received a blue scarf, made by chaperone Sara St. Louis, to help keep the group together as well as a "Lovin' All Life" pin donated by chaperone Dayna Leader.

There was a quick visit to the National Museum of Nat-

ural History before joining as estimated 400,000 for the Rally on the Mall.

For the first time in 16 years, the March for Life started on time which allowed some to listen to the Silent No More testimonies on the steps of the Supreme Court or tour the Library of Congress before heading to the buses.

Allison St. Louis, high school student from St. Alexander's Parish, Morrisonville said "Seeing such a huge crowd standing up for what's right is such a heart-warming feeling. It shows that you're not the only one fighting for the unborn."

Each year, the pilgrimage is possible through generous donations to the diocesan Respect Life Collection which helps defray the cost of the weekend.

Next year's March for Life will be held on Friday due to the Presidential Inauguration.

Youth Bus for Life sign-ups begin in October and are open to high school students and Virtus-trained chaperones.

Until then - Pray. Hope. Love. Save.



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NORTH COUNTRY IS REPRESENTED

ON A MARCH FOR LIFE

Hundreds of pro-lifers from the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined tens of thousands in Washington for 39th annual March for Life



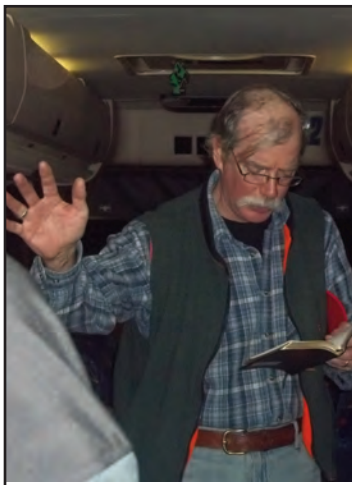
Bishop LaValley meets up with some of the college-age pro-lifers who traveled from the diocese.



Shown boarding the Watertown Youth Bus after the March are Father Bryan Stitt, chaplain of the bus, Tracy Leonard, bus captain; Zack Leader, chaperone.



Parishioners of St. Agnes Parish in Lake Placid are shown on the steps of the Museum of Natural History. From left, are Erin Skufca, Laura Stanton, Christina Stanton, Andrea Holzer, Jillian Goulette, Lorraine Draper, Greta Lautenschuetz and Briana Roy.



In addition to the buses of teens and young adults, a bus from Lewis County brought about 30 pro-lifers to the March. Here Deacon James W. Chaufty offers a blessing to the travelers before the group left Port Leyden.



Bishop LaValley took time to visit with young people on each of the youth buses including Mary Burns of Ogdensburg; Michael Jadlos, Potsdam; and Olivia Spellicy, Gouverneur.



Father Timothy Canaan, diocesan director of campus ministry, led a contingent of college students to the March for Life.



Staff and campers from soccer week of the 17th season of SportsCamp in 2011 are shown on the grounds of Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. Plans are now set for the sum-

mer of 2012 when both basketball and soccer will be offered during the same week, July 8-12.

It's time to think about SportsCamp!

By Father Chris Carrara
Founder, chaplain of SportsCamp

SportsCamp, 18 years and counting! The summer of 2012 will mark the 18th anniversary for this unique diocesan camp dedicated to the service of the athletic minded youth of our diocese.

At its beginning camp was a one week experience focusing on one sport, basketball. In time a second week was added with a second sport, soccer. No matter which sport was being offered, camp was and is a great place for active kids to come together in a safe, wholesome and active environment that combines, faith, fellowship, and sports, sports, sports!

Over the years camp has been served by a number of excellent coaches, camp counselors, chaplains and directors. Each chosen staff member is a person of faith, respected in their community who encourages campers to reach their potential on and off the court and field.

Most importantly, by rough estimate camp has offered

over 1000 young people a positive, fun filled experience of Church.

At its 18th year I am excited to see sportsCamp getting back to its roots. This coming year both soccer camp and basket ball camp will be offered during the same week, July 8-12. This means that in all the activities off the court or field, campers from both sports will interact and enjoy one another's company. It also means that the non-sport specific workshops and faith experiences will be enhanced with larger crowds. It also has the added benefit that friends from different sports can come to camp together and share a room.

In these days of financial challenges, it is good to know the Church is doing our part to keep camp expenses low which in turn means the camp fee remains accessible to average families. Not that those campers with financial hardships have ever been turned away!

God willing, SportsCamp will continue to serve the youth of our area for years to come! Let us pray that the summer of 2012 brings many blessings on both SportsCamp and camp Guggenheim.

Announcement

Father Bernard D. Menard, who has been on temporary leave of absence, has been appointed Interim Parochial Vicar of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. Appointment will be effective Feb. 22.

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 8 – Msgr. Patrick Bernard Riley, 1981

Feb. 9 – Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

Feb. 10 – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

Feb. 12 – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

Feb. 13 – Rev. Richard J. Maloney, O.M.I., 1893; Deacon Edward F. McAuliffe, 1986

Feb. 14 – Rev. John McDonald, 1879; Msgr. Gerald F. Kellogg, 1979; Rev. Charles Joseph Richard, 2007

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. 440.

Upcoming programs:

Feb. 6 - 5 p.m., St. Marys School, Canton

March 5 - 4 p.m., St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

March 6 - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

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: aycsnn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401.

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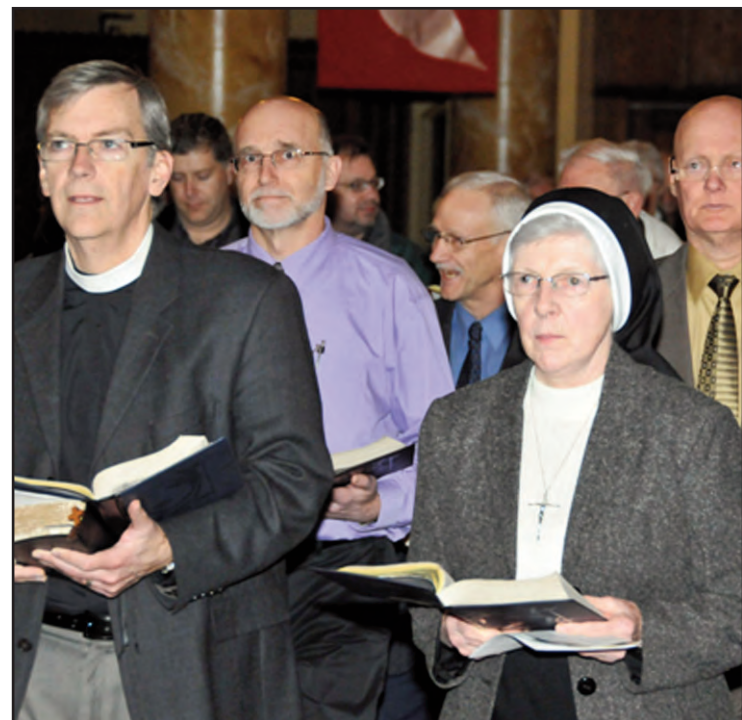


PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

Father James J. Kane, director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, was the homilist for the annual diocesan Ecumenical Service held Jan. 15 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena.



Father Daniel Chapin, pastor in Croghan, chairs the ecumenical commission of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.



Area religious leaders process into Sacred Heart Church.

Message from the annual diocesan Ecumenical Service

Working together to build up God's Kingdom

The annual diocesan Ecumenical Service was held Jan. 15 at Sacred Heart Church in Massena. Bishop LaValley presided at the service while Father James J. Kane, director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. His homily follows:

I am most grateful for Bishop Terry LaValley's kind assent to the invitation to be

your preacher, extended by my Diocese of Ogdensburg counterpart, Father Dan Chapin, and for the gracious hospitality of host pastor, Father Don Manfred.

Parish resident, Father Joe Elliott, is a classmate (and I'm honored by his presence on his birthday!)

Msgr. CJ McAvoy, present with us, was my pastor in Saranac Lake.

The stole I am wearing was

a gift of a parishioner of Sacred Heart when I finished my term as Diocesan Liturgy Director in 1976. Liturgy Commission Member, Margaret Woods, knitted this for me as a farewell gift. The various hues remind me of our various denominations—yet one vestment.

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany includes the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, and so I asked Bishop

William Love to share a greeting for this service:

"May God's love and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you as you come together for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg's Church Unity Octave in Massena. On behalf of myself and all the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, especially in the North Country and Saint Lawrence Region, we give thanks to God for you and the mighty work he is accomplishing in and through you in Christ's name. We look forward to working more closely with you for the building up of God's Kingdom in whatever ways the Holy Spirit might lead."

Welcome to all the Protestant Clergy and Congregants joining us.

Blessed Pope John XXIII brought the Roman Catholic Church into the modern Ecumenical movement that began a century ago among Protestants. There was much hope for reunion and even a giddy optimism back in the '60's.

But, centuries of division do not resolve themselves in mere decades. Perhaps

Prophet Habbakkuk's mood is ours: "Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines...though the flock is cut off from the fold...yet I will rejoice in the Lord", for the progress that has been made.

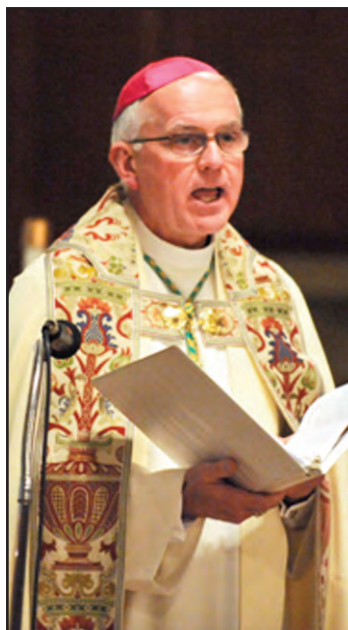
As Father Jim Loughran, Director of Graymoor's Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, where the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began in 1908: "Christian Unity is already a reality in so many ways: In our common proclamation of scriptures, in our united belief in the trinity, in our binding Dogma of Christ as Savior & God Incarnate...In the Sacrament of Baptism, and yes, in our belief that the world will be transformed by the 2nd coming."

As prophet Habbakkuk proclaims: "God, the Lord, is my strength; He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights" of the ecumenical movement that together will lead us to full communion with each other at the table of the Lord – Eucharistic Hospitality. Faith in God keeps ecumenical hope alive.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The program included music offered by the bell choir at Sacred Heart Church.



Bishop LaValley presided at the service.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC



IS GOING GREEN



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SCHOOL FUNDRAISING FUN



Pizza delivery time meant that helpers were needed to unload and deliver. The fifth grade class at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga stepped up to fill the need by unloading the pizza delivery truck on Jan. 31 at the school.

Ecumenical

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The theme for the 2012 week of prayer for Christian unity, chosen by the Christian Churches and communities of Poland, "We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ," is taken from the 1st letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We will need as individual Christians and Denominations to die to certain customs, traditions to rise to full unity.

The present moment in the church is not all there is nor should be. "Where is your victory, O Death," of disunity? "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Dr. & St. Teresa of Avila puts it perfectly: We pray (like this afternoon) as if everything depended upon God; we work (like in the coming days & weeks) as if everything depended upon us. It is like the agreement between the W.L.F. & the R.C.C. on justification, the dividing issue for Martin Luther: it is faith manifested through works, not either faith or works.

As we pray and work to-

gether on the path to full unity, again we look to that Ecumenical pioneer, BL. John XXIII, quoting St. Augustine: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, diversity; in all things, charity."

In the Gospel proclaimed in today's service, we heard Jesus tell us that "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the Earth and dies, it remains just a single grain" – one congregation/ one denomination – "But if it dies," to sin, selfishness, self-righteousness, self-sufficiency, Satan – "it bears much fruit" as the one, united Church of our Lord Jesus Christ! "Those who love their life" in their narrow circle of church – "Lose it" but "whoever serves Me," Christ, "Must follow Me", the church's one foundation, Jesus Christ, our way, our truth and our life to the one church He wills.

Allow me to end by again quoting EP. BP. William Love: "I pray that our Lord will pour out His Holy Spirit, guiding, empowering and blessing each of us as we go forth in His name sharing the love and good news of Jesus Christ."

Amen

VATICAN LETTER

Creating cardinals

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Something old, something new, something borrowed and something red will be part of the mix Feb. 18 when Pope Benedict XVI creates new cardinals.

Ceremony features something old, new, borrowed, red

The general format of the consistory has been maintained, but the ceremony has been modified and will include the use of prayers borrowed from ancient Roman liturgies. Cardinal-designate Timothy M. Dolan will even address the College of Cardinals on the subject of new evangelization.

And, of course, red will be the color of the day as the new cardinals are reminded that they are called to give their lives to God and the church, even to the point of shedding their blood.

Tradition and innovation, solemnity and festivity, high honor and a call to sacrifice are key parts of the creation of new cardinals.

The hushed moment when a churchman kneels before the pope and receives his red hat as a cardinal contrasts sharply with the mood in the Apostolic Palace that same evening when the public -- literally anyone who wants to come -- is invited in to congratulate the new cardinals.

Pope Benedict will create 21 new cardinals in the morning during an "ordinary public consistory" in St. Peter's Basilica. For reasons of health, the 22nd car-

dinal-designate, German Jesuit Father Karl Josef Becker, 83, will not attend the ceremony and will be made a cardinal "privately at some other time," said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman.

The evening of the consistory, the Bronze Doors will open and the public will be allowed to swarm up the Scala Regia - the royal stairway - and into the Apostolic Palace to meet and greet the new cardinals.

A consistory is a gathering of cardinals with the pope. According to canon law, an ordinary consistory is called for consultation or for the celebration "of especially solemn acts," such as the creation of new cardinals or a vote approving the canonization of candidates for sainthood.

And, in fact, the consistory Feb. 18 will include both. Immediately after the new cardinals are created, all the "princes of the church" are scheduled to vote on several new saints - including Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha --Msgr. Guido Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, told Catholic News Service Feb. 1.

Normally, the public consistory for new saints is attended by cardinals living in Rome, but the creation of new cardinals is an opportunity for all of them to exercise their role as advisers to the pope.

This will be the fourth time Pope Benedict has created new cardinals and will bring his total to 84 cardinals, of whom 79 are still alive; 63 of his appointees in the College of Cardinals will be under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a con-

clave to elect a new pope.

Like the consistories he held in 2007 and in 2010, the February ceremony will be preceded by a daylong meeting of the pope with the College of Cardinals and the cardinals-designate. The Vatican said the theme will be "Proclaiming the Gospel today, between 'missio ad gentes' and new evangelization" with Cardinal-designate Dolan of New York opening the meeting.

The three-cornered, red biretta the pope will place on the new cardinals' heads is traditional, but the ceremony for the 2012 consistory has been changed.

In early January, the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, reported, "The rite used up to now has been revised and simplified with the approval of the Holy Father," in part to avoid any impression that becoming a cardinal is a sacrament like ordination.

But two ordinations will precede the consistory. Three of the new cardinals named by Pope Benedict are priests, not bishops.

Church law says new cardinals must have been ordained at least to the priesthood and should be ordained bishops before entering the College of Cardinals. However, in recent decades, many of the elderly priests named to the college as a sign of esteem and gratitude for their service to the church have requested, and received, an exemption from episcopal ordination.

Maltese Augustinian Father Prosper Grech, an 86-year-old biblical theologian and one of the co-founders of Rome's Augustinian Patristical Institute, was scheduled to be ordained a

bishop Feb. 8 in Malta. Belgian Father Julien Ries, 91, an expert on the history of religions, told CNS he would be ordained a bishop Feb. 11 in Belgium. On the other hand, in keeping with the Jesuit promise not to strive for any dignity in the church, Father Becker, a retired professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, said he would become a cardinal without becoming a bishop.

Another small change made to the consistory this year involves timing. The prelates will receive their cardinals' rings from Pope Benedict during the consistory, rather than at the Mass they will concelebrate with

the pope Feb. 19. And, as customary, during the consistory they also will receive their assignments of a "titular church" in Rome, making them formally members of the Rome diocesan clergy, which is what the church's first cardinals were.

Once the new cardinals are created, the College of Cardinals will have a record-high number of members. The total number of princes of the church will reach 213, surpassing the total of 203 reached with the consistory in 2010. As recently as 2001, the total number of cardinals dipped to 139 just before Pope John Paul II named a record 44 cardinals at once.

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The Diocese of Ogdensburg
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CATHOLIC



What we're hearing about the newly designed www.northcountrycatholic.org:

"Excellent job on the new website. It's clean and easy to navigate. And, you now have the capability to provide news daily and hourly. Good work!"

Church representatives to ask forgiveness for protecting abusers

By Carol Glatz and Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) - A Vatican cardinal will lead a penitential vigil to show contrition for the sexual abuse of children by priests and for the actions of Catholic officials who shielded the perpetrators from justice.

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops, will preside over the vigil Feb. 7, during a weeklong symposium attended by representatives of 110 bishops' conferences and 30 religious orders.

The conference, "Toward Healing and Renewal," will launch a global initiative aimed at improving efforts to stop clerical sexual abuse and better protect children and vulnerable adults.

The Feb. 6-9 symposium will be held at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University and is supported by the Vatican Secretariat of State and several other Vatican offices.

During the penitential vigil, to be held in Rome's St. Ignatius Church, a text will be read that is "very profound, clear and explicit," said Jesuit Father Hans Zollner, a licensed psychologist and psychotherapist and one of the symposium organizers.

Seven individuals from the church who represent groups who have been "guilty or negligent will ask for forgiveness" both from God and victims, while an abuse victim "will be next to Jesus' cross and will ask for the strength to pardon" the perpetrators who were protected and leaders who were negligent in acting on reports of abuse, Father Zollner said during a Feb. 3 news conference.

Which groups were to be

chosen to represent "guilty or negligent" parties were not yet known, Father Zollner said, as organizers were in the process of asking representatives to volunteer.

Marie Collins, an Irish survivor of clerical sex abuse, said one of the reasons that abuse victims are still so hurt and angered is that, "despite apologies for the actions of the abusers, there have been few apologies for the protection given them by their superiors."

"There seems to be a lack of penalty for any of these men in leadership who deliberately or negligently covered up for abusers, allowing them to continue to abuse unhindered," she said.

She said, "We have an example of this in Ireland with our own cardinal primate," Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, who was scheduled to attend the Rome symposium.

She said "the most healing thing that could possibly happen" to her and many survivors is to hear church leaders ask forgiveness for the protection of abusers.

"We have had apologies, but forgiveness is a part of Christianity, a part of the Catholic Church" that is so important, she said.

Father Zollner said there are conflicting attitudes in the church about the abuse crisis.

"There are forces who resist, and there are people who work together for the better, and this is our goal here: that we unite the forces who want to work for betterment," for the prevention of abuse and protection of the vulnerable, he said.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which deals with priests accused of abuse, will give the symposium's open-

ing address, and Pope Benedict XVI will deliver a message to be read to symposium participants.

Other speakers include a victim of abuse; mental health professionals who have worked in the areas of prevention and treatment; and bishops from different parts of the world, who will talk about responses to the abuse crisis in their countries.

The conference is designed in part to help bishops' conferences and superiors of religious orders respond to a 2011 circular letter from the doctrinal congregation requiring all dioceses in the world to develop guidelines on handling allegations of abuse.

After the conference, the Gregorian University and other institutions will launch an e-learning center -- the Center for the Protection of Children -- which will offer online resources in five languages.

The center will be based in Munich and is designed to help church leaders respond pastorally to the issue of sexual abuse in the church and society as a whole.

According to the conference program, participants will have an opportunity to attend workshops in their own languages, including one designed for those who are not bishops or priests, "to reflect upon and bring forward perspectives that can often be missed by ordained leaders due to their particular role within the church."

Other workshops will focus on "the Internet and pornography," protecting vulnerable adults, best regional practices and the financial cost of the abuse crisis, which the program says already has reached "more than \$2 billion in legal expenses."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Komen reverses decision, reinstates grants to Planned Parenthood

DALLAS (CNS) -- The Feb. 3 decision by Susan G. Komen for the Cure to reinstate grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates for breast cancer screenings was the result of a "vicious attack" on the organization, said a pro-life leader. Pro-life leaders hailed Komen's announcement Jan. 31 that it would no longer give grants to Planned Parenthood, but it sparked a maelstrom of negative reaction and an online petition asking the group to reverse its decision. "I am troubled that the Komen foundation has come under such heavy fire for their recent decision to tighten and focus their funding guidelines," said Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life. "This week we have all been witness to highly partisan attacks from pro-abortion advocates and an ugly and disgraceful shakedown that highlights Planned Parenthood's willingness to pursue a scorched-earth strategy to force compliance with their pro-abortion agenda," she said in a statement. Yoest also noted that Komen donors are "now confused about their association with the nation's largest abortion provider." A statement from Komen's founder and CEO Nancy Brinker posted on the Dallas-based organization's website Feb. 3 apologized to the American public "for recent decisions that cast doubt upon our commitment to our mission of saving women's lives." Brinker said the reaction to the decision to discontinue the funding was "deeply unsettling for our supporters, partners and friends and all of us at Susan G. Komen. We have been distressed at the presumption that the changes made to our funding criteria were done for political reasons or to specifically penalize Planned Parenthood. They were not." She also noted that Komen had planned to stop funding grant applications made by organizations under investigation but that it will "amend the criteria to make clear that disqualifying investigations must be criminal and conclusive in nature and not political." Planned Parenthood is currently the focus of an investigation by U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns, R-Fla., to see whether the organization used federal funds to pay for abortions, which would be illegal. Stearns is chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Cardinal Bevilacqua, retired Philadelphia archbishop, dies at age 88

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua, retired archbishop of Philadelphia, died Jan. 31 at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, where he resided. According to the Philadelphia Archdiocese, he died in his sleep at 9:15 p.m. He was 88. The archdiocese said he had been battling dementia and an undisclosed form of cancer. Cardinal Bevilacqua headed the archdiocese from February 1988 to October 2003. "I was greatly saddened to learn of the death of my predecessor Cardinal Bevilacqua," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia. "I encourage all Catholics in the archdiocese to join me in praying for the repose of his soul and that God will comfort his family as they mourn his loss. Cardinal Bevilacqua has been called home by God; a servant of the Lord who loved Jesus Christ and his people. Cardinal Bevilacqua's death comes at a time when the archdiocese is facing extraordinary challenges," he said. "During this difficult period, I invite all of our people to come together in prayer for a renewal of our church and her mission." Following a private viewing at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Archbishop Chaput will receive the cardinal's body at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia in the early evening Feb. 6, with a public viewing to follow. A public viewing will precede the funeral Mass Feb. 7.

WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL

Parish partnership and parish nurse ministry

By Sr. Mary Lou Stubbs, DC

Parish Partnership Coordinator: Catholic Charities

"He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons..."
(Gospel of Mark, Chapter 1)

Mark's gospel speaks clearly and plainly of the day to day ministries of Jesus. As He preached the good news, Jesus frequently stopped to help those in physical and emotional distress.

His ministry of providing for improved health for those who turned to Him is the foundation of parish-based health ministries, including a movement called Parish Nursing.

In past centuries, churches often provided hospitality to the sick and were the first phase of modern hospitals. In our time, hospitality has given way to a hospital-based system which cares for the acutely or seriously ill, but does not reach into our local communities to monitor and support health related issues. As Church, we have the opportunity to re-establish an active

link between people and wellness in our parishes through church-based health ministries.

Studies have shown that about 70% of our well-being is secondary to lifestyle and community conditions. As we strive to live the Gospel in all aspects of our lives, particularly as detailed in Matthew 25:40, concern for the wellbeing of our neighbor is an important aspect of that Gospel-based life. A parish nurse program can assist with that mandate as they inform, advocate, organize, and encourage health related activities for the parish and as they refer or facilitate access to medical and other community resources.

Several pastors throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg have approached Catholic Charities and requested assistance with developing such health ministries within their parishes.

They've seen the needs of individuals with chronic diseases, have listened to the concerns of those who don't know where to turn for advice about their health, have witnessed life-styles harmful to health, and have sought a way to respond.

At Catholic Charities, We have contacted a resource for parishes interested in exploring or developing parish health ministries: Mercy Care of the Adirondacks.

The result is a collaboration that is making a professionally taught course for Parish Nursing accessible to parishes across the diocese.

Although every parish has unique aspects to the ministries it develops, this course will provide basic preparation for health and wellness activities. Catholic Charities is pleased that its Parish Partnership Program is able to assist parishes access this first step toward parish-based health ministries.

If your parish has or is planning a health ministry With parishioners interested in attending the Parish Nurse course which begins in March, contact Sister Catherine Cummings at ccummings@adkmercy.org.

If your parish would like to learn more about how parish-based health ministries can be an effective part of your parish menu of ministries, contact Sr. Mary Lou at ccstubbs@wadhams.edu.

OUR READERS WRITE

On Becoming Human

The completion of the Human Genome Project enable us to have access to the information that defines our genetic makeup. The question that embryo or fetus becomes human and attain legal status as a person only after birth should be re-examined.

The logic of Genomics which states that a species identity is defined by its Genes follows the concept that an embryo with a dog genome, is a dog. The same logic applies that an embryo with a human genome is human. That embryo is human from the day of conception.

All the genetic information needed for the development of an embryo is contained in the DNA of a single fertilized egg. The DNA is what genes are made of. The Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in America was issued 39 years ago BEFORE the HUMAN GENOME was completed in 2005 or so.

The Catholic Church and citizens who value human life have a strong logic to reverse legalized abortion and block the pending Reproductive Health Act in NY. It is time to give the embryo or fetus legal status as it deserves.

EULOGIO H. RECTRA JR., MD
EMERITUS, LCGH
LOWVILLE

40 Days for Life

Did you know that abortions are performed right here at Planned Parenthood in Plattsburgh? Many people are not aware that this is taking place, thinking abortion is something that happens someplace else. But it's happening here.

From February 22 – April 1, local Christians will take part in 40 Days for Life – an innovative pro-life project that consists of prayer and fasting, constant vigil and community outreach. At its center, 40 Days for Life asks all people of good will to pray and fast for an end to abortion.

The Plattsburgh office is one of hun-

dreds of Planned Parenthood facilities across the United States. Nationally – according to its own annual report – Planned Parenthood performed 332,278 abortions in its most recent fiscal year. This organization claims to help women – and prevent abortions. This is clearly not the case.

40 Days for Life's presence outside Planned Parenthood is a prayer vigil. We see abortion as a spiritual challenge, not a political one. It may be portrayed as a protest or a demonstration, but that is not the case. 40 Days for Life is a peaceful, prayerful outreach.

In other communities, 40 Days for Life campaigns have increased awareness and led to a significant decline in the number of abortions at Planned Parenthood. The prayerful presence has also helped a number of Planned Parenthood employees leave the abortion industry.

We pray that will be the case here in Plattsburgh as well.

Learn how to get involved by visiting www.40daysforlife.com/plattsburgh

NANCY BELZILE
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR, 40 DAYS FOR
LIFE, PLATTSBURGH

Another anniversary

January 22, 2012 marked another anniversary (39th Roe v. Wade), another

million dead babies, and another financial success for Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Information just released tracks salary statistics of the top executives at the largest baby killing organization in the country, Planned Parenthood. This so-called "non-profit" organization pays a total of \$12.8 million to its CEO's in its 81 identified affiliates.

The average salary of a CEO at a PP facility exceeds \$158,000, ranking them in the top six percent of all household incomes in the U.S. Twenty-two percent of PP's top executives make salaries exceeding \$200,000, positioning themselves in the top 2.6 percent of household incomes.

In addition to its existing affiliates around the country, Planned Parenthood also has a national headquarters in New York City which in 2010 paid salaries exceeding \$2 million to its top 8 officials. PPFAs president's (Cecile Richards) salary tops out in excess of \$353,000 each year.

With almost 54-million abortions to their shame since Roe v. Wade, Planned Parenthood continues to paint themselves as champions of the poor, while top executives pad their wallets with obscene amounts of our tax-payer dollars annually.

With a so-called economic and financial crisis presently facing our nation, surely there are better places to squander tax-payer dollars than to subsidize Planned Parenthood's abortion mills.

If we can't recognize abortion for the horror that it is, perhaps we can at least identify Planned Parenthood as the health care provider it isn't.

Abortion is economic suicide in any country.

But, don't take my word for it. Learn more about the nation's largest abortion provider.

Read: STOPP International 2011 Report on Planned Parenthood Chief Executive Officers, published 01/03/2012. Or go to: www.stopp.org.

DONNA MAREK RDH, RET.
OGDENSBURG

Letters to the Editor

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

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

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

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

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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Guidelines for how to live lives of mercy

Today's readings provide guidelines for the way we should exercise mercy in our lives. The Scriptures begin with a passage from the Book of Leviticus.

Here we find a collection of ritual and sacrificial laws for the Jewish priests.

Why was cleanliness so important for them? They believed that external cleanliness was a sign of being close to God. Even our own society has a saying, "cleanliness is next to godliness".

They were even more afraid of the contagion connected with skin deformities, especially leprosy.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

The Mosaic law called for the exclusion of lepers from normal society. They were to shout out, "Unclean, unclean" when someone approached them.

Their humiliation and loneliness of life must have been just as painful as their deformed bodies.

In today's Gospel, the people who were listening to Jesus' teaching must have been indignant at the leper who dared come physically close to Jesus, and beg Him for a cure.

They must have been horrified that Jesus actually reached out and touched this outcast. That made

Jesus Himself legally unclean. What a powerful lesson Jesus' action taught that day! He was obviously compassionate, generously sacrificing his own social status by healing the man.

Jesus must have sensed the great longing in that outcast to be again accepted not only by society, but also to be again a friend of God's.

And what a price Jesus paid for His mercy!

Because the newly-cured leper, ignoring Jesus' advice, spread the word of the healing throughout the region, it became impossible for Jesus to be seen in any public place without being mobbed by those seeking a similar cure.

While the leper returns to society, Jesus is forced out. The messiah is now the one

Feb. 12

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

who must seek out desert places!

After this incident, Jesus' listeners knew they should never fear to approach the Master because of their past sins or social standing. He would understand and show compassion.

To the "dark side" in each of us, Jesus brings light and healing, if only we can trust in his love.

What is holding me back today from approaching

Jesus for healing or just for His friendship?

There's no such thing as an "outsider" in Jesus' book. All are welcome who seek His loving touch.

Another question: who are the lepers in my life? Do I avoid those who are repulsive to me? Do I shun those with whom I disagree, or those I just don't like? We can all learn from one another. Remember Jesus' words, "I will reject no one who comes to me".

We can at least follow the advice of today's second reading and "avoid giving offense". A smile, a welcoming word, patiently listening and then giving a loving response is not going to kill us! By doing so, we will receive much more than we give.

PURSUING JUSTICE

NYS State Catholics support: respect for life

Third in a series

The bishops of the eight dioceses of New York have released the New York State Catholic Conference 2012 Legislative Agenda. Among the legislative priorities is to "Oppose Efforts to Further Expand Access to Abortion"

Summary

In April 2007, former Governor Eliot Spitzer submitted a Program Bill entitled the "Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act." This bill would establish a "fundamental right to privacy" in New York statute to guarantee that abortion is protected and available. In the words of the former Governor, the bill would "ensure that New York's women have the same or stronger reproductive rights as those currently afforded under Roe (v Wade)." Essentially the same bill was reintroduced in the 2011-2012 Legislative Session as the "Reproductive Health Act," and is supported by Governor Andrew Cuomo

Conference Position

Because of the Catholic Church's fundamental teaching that human life is sacred from the first moment of creation, the Conference strongly opposes this legislation. The Conference believes that every human life must be respected in law, including the woman facing an unplanned pregnancy and the innocent unborn child she carries in her womb.

Rationale

- This bill seeks to ensure that abortions are legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy if they are deemed necessary to protect the life or "health" of the mother. Courts have interpreted the term "health" so broadly as to include social, economic and emotional distress factors, rendering the term meaningless.

Current state law says abortions are legal in New York through 24 weeks of pregnancy (Article 125 Penal

Law), but outlawed after that unless they are necessary to save a woman's life. Because of flawed court decisions like Roe v. Wade, this law cannot be enforced, so abortion is already legal in New York through the third trimester of pregnancy for reasons of life or "health."

- This bill would allow post-viability abortions to be performed on an out-patient basis in clinics that go virtually unregulated by public health authorities, endangering both women and unborn children. Moreover, the bill would not allow for the type of support facilities necessary to assist a baby who might be born alive in the course of an abortion.

- While the bill provides very limited conscience protection for individual providers, it could require every institution licensed or funded by the state – including religious hospitals, agencies and schools – to support abortion, provide

coverage for abortion, or allow abortions to be performed. The bill declares that "the state shall not discriminate" against the exercise of the fundamental right to abortion in the "provision of benefits, facilities, services or information."

- The bill could undermine successful programs such as the Maternity & Early Childhood Foundation. Because they "favor childbirth over abortion," such programs could be ruled "discriminatory" against the fundamental right to abortion established by this bill.

- The bill seeks to make abortion virtually immune from any state regulation or restriction. Reasonable regulations such as parental notification for abortions performed on minor children, informed consent for pregnant women regarding the risks and alternatives to the procedure, and restrictions on taxpayer funding would not be permissible under the bill.

Yet all such regulations are completely permissible under Roe v Wade and subsequent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and a majority of states have enacted them. Thirty-five states require parental involvement in a child's abortion decision, 32 states require counseling before an abortion is performed, and 32 states restrict Medicaid funding of abortion. The bill would completely shut down the legislative process with regard to the issue of abortion.

- The bill would repeal the requirement in current law that says only doctors can perform abortions. The bill would allow any health care practitioner to perform the procedure. This dangerous and extreme change clearly puts women's health at risk, and mirrors a national abortion strategy to expand the scope of practice for various health care practitioners to specifically include abortion.

AT THE MOVIES

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

Reputed to be one of the most frightening ghost stories ever written, Susan Hill's 1983 novel "The Woman in Black" must certainly count as one of the sturdiest: It has been adapted both for British radio and U.K. television, while the 22-year-long -- and still ongoing -- run of its London stage version makes that property one of the longest-lived nonmusicals in West End history.

As penned for the big screen by Jane Goldman, directed by James Watkins -- and with Daniel Radcliffe headlining as barrister Arthur Kipps -- the latest iteration of "The Woman in Black" (CBS) aims for a classic horror feel.

And well it might. Hill's premise, after all, offers us a remote mansion haunted by a malevolent, avenging specter.

While we're second to none in our appreciation of Gothic chillfests in which spooky creatures pop into the frame, peer out of windows or -- better still -- are seen in shadowy form down a hallway, this entry has a queasy and troubling feature that renders it unsettling in all the wrong ways. Not only do the proceedings include a high body count, the casualties in question are children lured to suicide by the ghost of the title.

Film being such a literal medium, one image of this kind would be problematic enough. Here they go on multiplying right up to the end.

Jennet (Liz White), the ghost of the title, doesn't kill anyone directly -- she entrances them to their deaths. Her motive? Deemed mentally ill in life, Jennet had her son taken away from her to be raised by another couple. He later drowned in the body of

water from which our eerie manse, Eel Marsh House, takes its uninviting name.

Ramping up the pathos, Kipps is shown to be a grieving widower with a 4-year-old son (Misha Handley). And he's in trouble: Successfully settling the affairs of Eel Marsh House represents Kipps' one chance to hang onto his job.

But with her rage reaching out from beyond the grave, Jennet, it seems, will keep on killing the children of the nearby Yorkshire village unless someone finds a way to appease her.



CNS PHOTO/CBS FILMS
Daniel Radcliffe stars in a scene from the movie "The Woman in Black."



The fearless Kipps -- one does think of Harry Potter here -- finds help from Daily (Ciaran Hinds), a villager who is himself in mourning. Daily possesses religious faith of a sort, telling Kipps, "When we die, we go up there. We don't stay down here."

In that connection, some

Catholic imagery -- such as Daily blessing himself and the use of a rosary -- has been tossed in. But not, it would appear, for any deeper purpose than added visual effect.

The film contains numerous scenes of suicide by children and occasional gore. The Catholic News

Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

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

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NYS Catholic Conference
465 State Street
Albany, NY 12203

(518) 434-6195
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The New York State Catholic Conference is the official voice of the Catholic Church in the Empire State.



CLINTON

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – RCC St. Alexander & St. Joseph's will hold a Pancake Breakfast
Date: Feb. 12
Time: 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph's Church Hall
Cost: \$6; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host a spaghetti dinner.
Date: Feb. 18
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30
Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center
Prices: \$7.50 per person, \$3.50 for children 6 to 12, free for children 5 and under. Take-outs are available

SOAKING PRAYER

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks will be having a Soaking Prayer.
Date: Feb. 20
Time: 10 a.m. to 11
Features: This is the hour to come and be immersed in individual prayer time for your specific needs,
RSVP: olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY

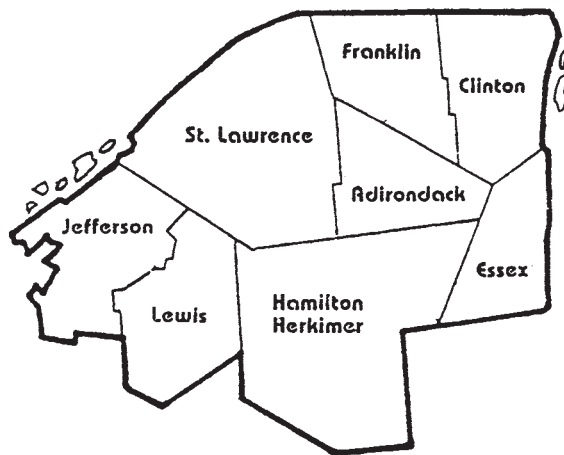
Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish will hold the Little Rock Scripture Study this Lent with the "Letter to the Hebrews".
Date: Tuesdays Feb. 20 – April 3
Time: Group one at 10 a.m. in the Emmaus Room and Group 2 at 7:05 p.m. in the chapel
Cost: \$15
Contact: Parish Office at 563-1692 before Feb. 12

LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES

Ellenburg – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of prayer will have Lenten Reflection Series the Fridays of Lent.
Date: Feb. 24-March 30
Time: 1 p.m. to 3
Features: Meditating on the Sunday Bible readings and closing with Adoration and the Rosary.
RSVP: By Feb. 21 to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

CORNEBEEF AND CABBAGE

Peru – CDA Court St. Monica will hold a Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.
Date: March 10
Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30
Place: St. Augustine's Parish
Cost: \$8; Children ages 12 and under, \$4
Contact: Helen Bisallion at 643-2638 or Christa Reyell at 566-6404



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, 866-314-7296
 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the **NCC** office by the Thursday before publication.

LIVING WATERS HEALING MINISTRY

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).
Time: 7 p.m. to 8
Place: St. Peter's Church

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Soaking Prayer is offered every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month under the direction of the Living Water's Healing Ministry.
Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30
Place: Upper room at St. Peters

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Place: St. John's Adoration Chapel,
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

ESSEX

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's Church, will hold a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.
Date: March 11
Time: 2 p.m. to 6
Place: parish hall
Menu: dinner of Corned Beef or Ham, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, homemade bread, milk, coffee or tea and gingerbread with topping will be served.
Cost: Adults: \$9. Children under 12: \$5. Take-outs will be available after 1:30 p.m. Tickets for a cash raffle and other items will be available.

ADULT FAITH SHARING GROUP

Port Henry – The Adult Faith Sharing Group will be viewing Fr. Robert Barron's video series "Conversation".
Dates: Feb. 23; March 8 & 22
Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

FRANKLIN

MYSTERY/DINNER THEATER

Brushton – St. Mary's Church is to present "The Hilarious Hillbilly Massacre", an interactive murder mystery/dinner theater performed by The North Franklin Theater Group.
Date: March 3 and March 24
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center
Cost: \$25 per person
Contact: Eileen Miller at 518-529-7713 (leave message) to make reservations by Feb. 22 (for March 3 show) and March 14 (March 24 show).

JEFFERSON

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.
Date: Feb. 23
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7; Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m.
Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75; Please bring your own containers

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Evans Mills – St. Mary's Parish will be having a Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Indian River Council K of C.

Date: Feb. 11

Time: 4 p.m.

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

GET OUT OF DEBT

Clayton – A 13 week program will be held to help you get out of debt.

Date: beginning Feb. 29

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: \$99.50

Features: Through this program you will learn how to clear up your debt, pay off your mortgage and get debt free and plan for the future. Classes run for 13 weeks and those enrolled will learn the secrets to living debt free. Classes taught by Dave Ramsey.

Contact: Bruce and Liz Daugherty at 315-686-4884 or e-mail norwichrugby-mom@gmail.com. Enrollment must be made by Feb. 15.

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown, a pro-life educational organization will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

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

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Harrisville – The St. Francis Solanus Guild will be sponsoring a spaghetti dinner.
Date: Feb. 15
Time: Take-outs start at 4 p.m. Dinner 4:30 p.m. to 6
Place: Solanus Hall
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

MARDI GRAS DINNER

Port Leyden – St. Martin's Parish will hold a Mardi Gras dinner.

Date: Feb. 17

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Martin's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4

Features: Take-outs will be available by calling 348-6738 or 377-3111.

MARDI GRAS

Constableville – The 7th Annual Spaghetti Dinner (Mardi Gras) to be held sponsored by St. Mary's Parish Council.

Date: Feb. 19

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-8, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$8

ST. LAWRENCE

SUNDAY BRUNCH

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

Date: Feb. 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center; Take-outs available

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$16

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's has Adoration every Friday.

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

Place: St. Mary's Church.

Features: First Friday of each month is preceded by Benediction.

DIOCESAN EVENTS

YOUNG ADULT ONLINE RETREAT

Diocese Young Adult Ministry will be sponsoring an "ONLINE" Lenten prayer group Sunday nights at 9PM each week during Lent. Busy schedule? Children? Life holding you back from adding prayer during Lent? Jump on line Sunday nights and join others as we pray our way to the Cross. Easy to join.

Contact: If interested please call or Email Lorraine Turgeon 315-323-4989 lturgeon@dioogdensburg.org for more information.

METANOIA RETREAT

Ogdensburg – The second Young Adult Metanoia Retreat will be held.

Date: Feb. 10-11

Place: Wadhams Hall

Features: Are you needing to take some time away from your busy schedule? Are you needing to hear what God is saying to you?

Contact: Lorraine at 315-323-4989 lturgeon@dioogdensburg.org

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

Syracuse – The Diocese of Syracuse will be sponsoring Ignite 2012, Catholic Men's Conference.

Date: March 31

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: SRC Arena on the campus of Onondaga Community College

Speakers: Mass at 9am with Bishop Cunningham; Mike Piazza, major league catcher; Sean O'Hara, a successful entrepreneur; and Fr. Thomas Williams, LC, a professor at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical Athenaeum in Rome.

Cost: \$45 before March 5 and \$55 after.

Contact: www.ignitecatholicmen.org



**The Society For
The Propagation Of The Faith**

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax (315) 394-7401
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

Looking to Lent to be missionaries

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

As the 2012 Season of Lent is quickly approaches, we seek ways to draw closer to Jesus.

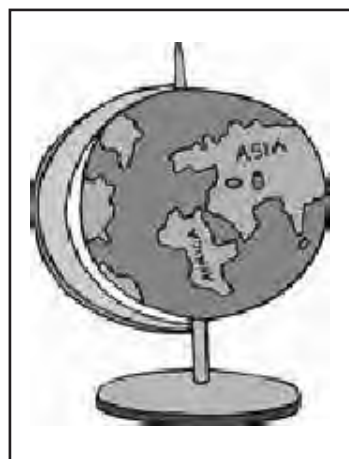
It is the opportune time to share our faith stories with other parishioners in parish small faith sharing groups. Each group will listen to the word of God, learn about the Scriptures and apply the Scriptures to daily life.

Faith sharing groups provide parishioners with excellent opportunities to grow in holiness, to become more welcoming and to witness to Christ more consciously in the family, the neighborhood and the workplace.

Be a Lenten Missionary in sharing your faith stories so that other people may be encouraged to find God in their daily lives' experiences.

You may wish to be a Lenten Missionary in a special way in your home.

Perhaps schedule family activities to promote Lent. One family suggestion is have your family gets a map



or globe of the world and place it in the room where the family eats together.

Find the following countries where starvation and hunger are major problems: Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Laos, India, Pakistan, Bosnia, Peru, Nigeria, and Dominican Republic.

When you gather for a meal and after you have thanked God for your food, look at your map or globe and pray for the poor and hungry people of a city in one of the countries; today, let us pray for the poor and hungry people in Somalia.

What country will you pray for during Lent that the love of missionaries will enable the love of Christ to be shown in the missions?

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

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OBITUARIES

Burke – Leroy L. Smith, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012 at St. George's Church; burial in St. George's Cemetery.

Cadyville – Elsie T. (Lamica) Jock, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Adelard R. Bedard, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Champlain – Robert A. Genereux, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Coopersville.

Colton – Joseph H. Brockway, 85; Memorial Services at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery, Tupper Lake.

Croghan – Walter J. Houppert, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Keeseville – Teresa L. Fleury, 49; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Keeseville – Anthony W. "Tony" Kusalonis, 54; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Anna (Bingel) Pageau, 97; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2012 at St.

Bernard's Church.

Massena – Steven W. Clary, 49; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville – Francis T. Corbo, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 27, 2012 at Church of the All Saints.

Ogdensburg – Marjorie Jane (Needle) Hewitt, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Joseph A. Baker, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – John Raymond Downs, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Lyon Mountain.

Plattsburgh – Yvonne K. (Light) Herkalo, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Audrey T. (Thurber) LaPlante, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2012

at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

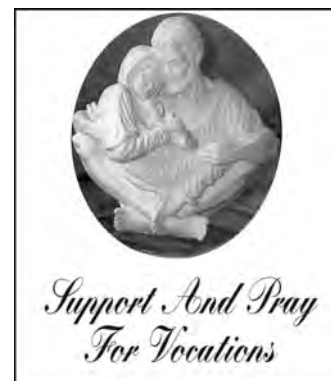
Plattsburgh – Christina A. "Chris" (LaBounty) Monty, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2012 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

Plattsburgh – Mary Lynne Frances Thornton, 66; Memorial Services Feb. 6, 2012 at St. Peter's Church.

Potsdam – Mary Francis (Trimboli) Vernatter, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Andrew J. "Andy" Boula, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2012 at Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

Watertown – Sally D. (DeCastro) Becker, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



Order your 2012 Diocesan Directory!



The Official 2012 Directory of the Diocese of Ogdensburg includes detailed information about parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

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THE YOUNG CATHOLIC CHURCH

On a journey of faith for youth

Christine Woodley, youth minister from St. Mary's, Clayton and St. John's, LaFargeville; along with Sharon Turner from St. Vincent of Paul, Cape Vincent, St. Vincent De Paul, Rosiere attended the National Catholic Youth Convention (NCYC) in Indianapolis, Indiana Nov. 16-19.

They write about their experiences here:

Our faith journey began Nov. 16 as we attended Mass with the Albany region at the Indianapolis Conference Center (ICC), since we were the only two attending from region 2 Ogdensburg.

Two parish youth ministers attend the National Catholic Youth Convention

This gave us an opportunity to meet some people to connect with throughout the weekend.

Following Mass, we attended the opening session at the Lucas Oil Stadium (LOS). The emcee was Vallimar Jansen who is blessed with an extraordinary voice making her a highly regarded singer, cantor, and recording artist.

She was joined by Robert McCarty, executive director of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, who has been in professional youth ministry since 1973.

The two spoke on the theme "Call to Glory" which, they said, is like being a disciple of God. The program included dance and song production demonstrating various ways of praising and worshipping God.

On the second day, we returned to LOS for the morning general session with key note speaker Mark Hart, who serves full-time as executive vice president of Life Teen, a Catholic youth ministry movement currently being implemented in 1,600 parishes in 26 countries worldwide.

Mark spoke on the theme

"draw near to God and God will draw near to you," offering several ideas on how to help the young people learn that an open heart is all you need to invite God in.

The quote for the day was "Be nice" to all the people in our hotels, and all the volunteers at the event.

The theme of the day's session was that, in your life as a teenager, God is first, family is second and you yourself are third.

This session included youth from the various ministries who told their stories and how God has affected their lives and also how he is a part of their everyday lives.

At the ICC youth and adults were offered a number of classes, activities, music etc. to attend throughout the day.

Our first session was Round A with Doug Tooke "Living Faith in a Small Town." Small town vs. Big town everyone has the some power if you are willing to invite it in.

Also Carrie Ford played music and sang for the group, which was a special treat because we had previously met her in Massena for a diocesan Youth Rally.

Round B was with Justine Fatica whose ministry was titled "Hard as Nails" and is a four year program (hanm.org).

He demonstrated that "What we do as Youth Ministers matters! Challenges from kids are all the same, no matter where you live or who you are.

Round C was with Rob Wahl "Catechetical Improv" in which he demonstrated exercises, games and performances for Youth Ministers to present them all or in part to the teens of our parish.

We attended "Victory (Thematic) Park" this is an interactive venue that includes exhibits by colleges, religious orders, ministry organizations, performers, and other vendors as well as opportunities to play games, be of service to others, or listen

to some great musical performances. This was truly a great experience to interact with others and to gather information to bring back to our parishes.

Words cannot express what it is like to attend a Mass with 20,000 teenagers, 3,000 adults, 250 priests, 175 seminarians, 30 deacons and nine bishops!

The evening session was presented by Bishop Luis Zarama who was born and raised in Pasto, Columbia where he also attended seminary and received his degree in philosophy and theology.

The next day's general session featured Michael Patin speaking to young people and adults on issues of Catholic faith, positive attitude, using your gifts, and living life fully. His quote was "Prayer is our relationship with God".

We later attended Round D presented by Father Steve Ryan "Prepared to Prepare the Young for Prayer" who discussed the Oratory Criteria and broke it down into four parts: "The welcome Home" "A School that prepares for life" "A Playground where friends come to meet" and "A Parish that evangelizes.

He stressed that everyone needs a life with prayer, in order to pray with the young. Life is busy and he gave suggestions on how to achieve this such as morning prayer and evening prayer, daily Eucharist, pray the rosary, journaling to Jesus, spiritual direction and support system. Also some key points were 1) keep it real 2) enthusiasm 3) environment and 4) take risks.

Next our Discernment Session was with Kevin Feyen "Next Step After NCYC." Kevin gave us an opportunity to have open discussion with other Youth Ministers and we found this extremely helpful.



Chris Woodley, youth minister from Clayton and LaFargeville; and Sharon Turner from Cape Vincent and Rosiere attended the National Catholic Youth Convention in Indianapolis in November.

He also gave us guidelines to follow and explains each of the following: 1) We aim for mediocrity. 2) Who is our target audience? 3) Teens know squat! 4) The needs of many!

We visited Victory Park again to obtain more material and to sign up for programs and websites to bring home with us, to guide us for the upcoming year and the years to come.

We attended Parish and Worship live concerts (more like a rock concert), comedy acts, dancers and many more shows were offered throughout the weekend.

The closing session was at the LOS with Evening Mass. Words cannot express what it is like to attend a Mass with 20,000 teenagers, 3,000 adults, 250 priests, 175 seminarians, 30 deacons, nine bishops.

We also had 23,355 virtual visitors from 92 countries including China. NCYC is considering changing from National to International!

In summary this was an opportunity of a lifetime to network with people running youth groups and learn about the many resources out there to share. We both personally experienced a re-

newal in our faith.

We could not have attended such an amazing event without the help of our parishes. Our parishes sponsored us to go and we are greatly thankful to everyone who made this trip possible.

Also, the diocesan Youth Ministry office was wonderful and very efficient on filling out the many forms and completing all the paperwork, for this we are grateful. This is not an easy task by any means.

In short there are many people to thank for making this experience all come together, but most important is the Lord must have had a hand in this, we are blessed to of had the opportunity to witness such an event. Thank you Lord.

Thank you Father LaBaff and Father Aubin. Thank you to the entire Youth Ministry Office of Ogdensburg.

In 2012 the NCYC will be adults only held in Orlando, FL. In 2013 the NCYC will be held back for adult and youth at Indianapolis, IN. We are planning now to return in 2013 with as many youth as we can so they will have an opportunity to experience what we have.