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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MAY 16, 2012

## Prayerful support for pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI said knowing that Catholics around the world pray for him has given him strength and confidence since his election seven years ago.

"From the first moment of my election as the successor of Peter, I always have felt supported by your prayers, by the prayers of the church,

especially in the most difficult moments," he said May 9 at his weekly general audience.

Continuing a series of talks about examples of prayer in the Acts of the Apostles, the pope turned to the story of St. Peter's imprisonment in Jerusalem and his miraculous liberation.

The biblical account em-

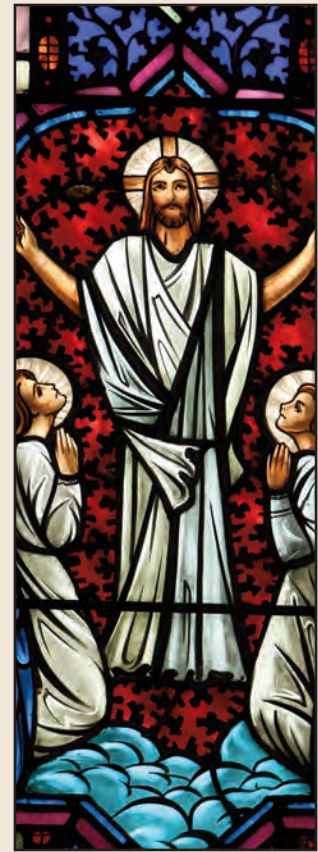
phasizes how the entire Christian community was gathered for fervent prayers for the apostle while Peter slept in the jail, the pope said.

The episode, he said, "demonstrates the power of prayer. With constant, trusting prayer," the pope said, the Lord frees people from their chains, accompanies

them through the dark night, and "he gives us the serenity of heart to face life's difficulties, including rejection, opposition, persecution. Constant, unanimous prayer is a precious instrument for overcoming the trials that arise in life," because it is a sign of being united with God and one another, he said.

## THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Celebrated on Thursday



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Christ's ascent to heaven is depicted in a stained-glass window at St. Clotilde Church in Chicago in 2008. The feast of the Ascension, observed May 17 this year, celebrates the completion of Christ's mission on earth and his entry into heaven.

## Caring for God's creation

Through their "Environmental Stewardship Committee," parishioners at St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh are re-connecting with the environment, working for environmental social justice, and hoping that their example will spur others to do the same.

The group was originally started five years ago when Father John Yonkovic was pastor at St. Peter's, under the auspices of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2009 Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## Champlain Knights

The Father Francis X. Cagnon Council of the Knights of Columbus in

Champlain celebrate 60 years

FULL STORY, PAGE 5

## A PLACE FOR PRAYER



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

A new prayer area on the grounds of the diocesan offices in Ogdensburg was dedicated May 11 with members of the Lucien and Mary Seymour family as special guests. The prayer area, featuring a statue of the risen Jesus with benches and landscaping, was created with contributions from the Seymour family. From left are Ellen Seymour Bova, William and Mary Ellen Seymour, Janet Seymour, Rose Seymour, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Anna Seymour DuPre, Marie Seymour Morley, Clara and Robert Seymour and William Morley, all parishioners of St. Mary's Cathedral.

**DAYS OF GRACE:** Looking back at an extraordinary weekend... p. 12

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## May days

I don't need a calendar to recognize the first week of May at my house. I just have to look out the front door.

This is the week that the buds of our two red maples – magically, it seems – turn into leaves.

Every year it happens at the same time.

Every year, it takes my breath away.

Six weeks after the official date, spring has finally arrived in my neighborhood and it's so worth the wait.

The new life outside our home is matched by new life we can witness in every parish in northern New York during this marvelous month.

May is when we celebrate children at their First Communion and the older kids as they are confirmed.

Hundreds of young people will be taking important steps in faith this month.

The joy on their faces (especially on those second graders) reflects the joy in all of our hearts as we watch

them walk to the altar.

Since my children are all grown up, I like to be reminded about these kinds of special days.

One of my cousins shared her experience on May 6: *Probably the most precious moment I have ever had with my son: he woke up extra early today, comes sprinting into my bedroom yelling "this is it Mom, today is the day I receive the body of Christ!" His First Communion is today!*

Wow.

This year, May will close with even more sacramental joy as seminarian Scott Belina becomes Deacon Scott on May 26 and Deacon Tom Higman becomes Father Tom on the next day.

These are days that we can't take for granted.

May days must certainly become "pray days" as we thank God for the blessings of the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit, the priesthood.... and blossoming maple trees!

Mary Lou  
Kilian

## Welcome Spring

Enjoy the renewal of spring with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

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## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Consecrated to Truth  
7th Sunday of Easter - May 19-20

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Director of Evangelization

To be consecrated is to be "set apart". For Jesus, to ask His Father to consecrate His disciples in the truth was a "tall" order, when He knew what the disciples would have to face after His death and resurrection.

The truth is speaking God's truth, His word, that Jesus is the revelation of the unseen God. To be consecrated in the truth means to have a closer union with Jesus who is the Truth.

The disciples have accepted Jesus and kept His word; now they must bring Him and His word to others. Jesus sends them as He Himself was sent.

The mission of this community of the faith is to continue the mission of Jesus. By His death (His "consecration") Jesus has confirmed and consecrated His disciples. His death is a sacrifice of love, the culmination of His priestly act to the Father on behalf of His people.

Jesus knew that the disciples would experience persecution, rejection, misunderstanding, opposition as He had. In meeting such trials and sufferings, Jesus "stood the course" and did not waver in His promise and commitment to the Father's will. He modeled for the disciples the living out of the truth and so Jesus prayed that they would do the same.

By our Baptism, we are consecrated as a child of God, and therefore, consecrated to the truth. In today's American society where more and more of "the world's lures" have become secular and godless, the living out of the truth is becoming ever more difficult.

In living out the Gospel values that proclaim the truth of God's Word and actions, we are called upon to a greater commitment and dedication not to compromise or hesitate in proclaiming the truth loudly and clearly.

The road to heaven is narrow and living the truth may result in great suffering, unpleasantness, and even threats upon our lives. Living the faith takes courage. This is why Jesus asks the Father to protect all who would be consecrated to truth.

As a family of faith, we are to proclaim that truth to and for one another. As disciples of Jesus, as His evangelizers, we are committed to truth, consecrating one's whole life to proclaiming the reality and truth that God is love.

The heart of Jesus' command is, "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." Jesus is the model of this love. He remains in us and we in Him. Jesus prays that all may be one in Him, just as He is one with the Father. To remain in Jesus is to encounter Him. At our Baptism, Jesus entered into the very fabric of our being, and as His children, we enter into the fabric of His life.

It is in hearing His Word and acting on it and feeding on His Body and drinking His Blood in the Eucharist, we are strengthened to meet "the struggles of the times" to live the truth of the Gospel without compromise. How do you deal with rejection and misunderstanding, especially when the truth you speak is twisted into something foreign, strange, and inaccurate?

Let us continue to consecrate ourselves daily to truth and make Jesus' prayer a lived reality in our midst. In what specific ways in your life have you consecrated yourself to truth and to testify in truth?

How do you express your love for your family, parish community, and neighborhood? How can your parish experience God's love as a community, a family of faith? Is this a place where you and the people are fed, clothed, housed, made to feel welcome and important?

These actions are some of the most powerful witnessed to our God.

## A PLACE FOR PRAYER



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop LaValley blesses the prayer area that was created between the Bishop's Residence and the Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana Diocesan Pastoral Center in Ogdensburg. The area was dedicated "in loving memory of Lucien and Mary Seymour" whose children and grandchildren provided the financial support for the statue of Jesus, benches and landscaping. Father Jay Seymour, a grandson, is shown at the bishop's right.

## CHILDREN AT PRAYER



The First Communion class at St. James Church in Carthage is shown after the May 6 liturgy with Father George Maroun, pastor and Father John Cosmic.

## A DAY FOR PRAYER



The Sisters of Cross of Chavanod, natives of India who now minister in Watertown, led a day of prayer for diocesan staff members May 9 at Wadhams Hall. Above, from left, are Sister Mary Jacqueline Sellabban, Sister Julitta Fernandes and Sister Maria Flavia D'Costa. (Missing from the picture is Sister Maria Angelica Rebello, SCC.) Below, Sister Julitta places a red circle symbol on Julia Wilkinson's forehead which symbolizes the third eye of God which represents wisdom. This symbol comes from the Hindu tradition. The theme for the program was "Broken World."



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Group at St. Peter's in Plattsburgh works for 'environmental social justice'

# Caring for God's bountiful creation

By Shawn Ryan  
Staff writer

**PLATTSBURGH** - At St. Peter's Parish, Earth Day isn't something that comes along just once a year.

Through their "Environmental Stewardship Committee," parishioners at St. Peter's are re-connecting with the environment, working for environmental social justice, and hoping that their example will spur others to do the same.

The group was originally started five years ago when Father John Yonkovic was pastor at St. Peter's, under the auspices of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2009 Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

According to their 2009 introductory guidelines, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change aims to:

... submit a seven-year plan to expand the involvement of the Catholic community in the United States. Doing so will allow the U.S. Catholic church to:

- demonstrate greater re-



Members of the Environmental Stewardship committee of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh, are shown during a recent meeting. Front, from left are Diane Cudworth, Carol Holzer, Eunice Trombly, Marie Nacht, Alice Jones and Alice Scott; back, Jack Hills, Karen Farrell, Jon Votraw, Debbie Meier, Sheila Harrison, Jack Beaumont, Mary Centofanti, Alan Trombly and Paul Scott.

spect and reverence for the gift of God's bountiful creation

- accept personal and communal responsibility for caring for this gift
- ensure that the lives of those most impacted by our neglect - namely the poor and the vulnerable around

the globe - do not suffer any greater hardship either through climate change or efforts designed to address the problem.

After the initial seven week "Just Matters" campaign, it was decided that the group would continue as the Environmental Stewardship Committee.

The group is committed to exploring the Catholic, spiritual aspects of Environmentalism, as well as the Social Justice aspect of caring for our environment.

They are raising awareness of environmental issues, and trying to help people become more environmentally friendly by their examples.

"We're particularly blessed with the natural resources of

this area," committee member A. Paul Scott said. "Our commitment is to expand and address the conversation, [and] engage in as respectful and helpful a way as possible to move this matter forward."

The group has participated in a number of hands-on activities as a way to further their mission. The projects include distributing reusable shopping bags, tours of the local wind farm, visits to state parks to reconnect with the environment, working with both Habitat for Humanity and students from Plattsburgh State on environmental issues, and efforts aimed at recycling both typical items such as cans and bottles, but also non-typical items such as batteries.

"If we don't have a healthy, clean environment, how can we go on," said Alice Scott, another member of the Environmental Committee.

A primary goal of the committee is to educate people on the dangers facing the environment, and the social justice aspect of environmental stewardship.

As committee member Celine MacDougall points out, echoing the sentiment of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, it is the least wealthy who will be the first as well as the most impacted by global climate change.

"It's the little things that add up," she said. "It's a cumulative effect."

Members of the group are hoping that the idea will catch on throughout the Diocese, and that other churches might form Environmental Stewardship Committees as well. Some Dioceses, such as the Archdiocese of Montreal just to our north, have a Diocesan representative for environmental issues.

The idea of environmentalism is certainly no longer outside of the Catholic consciousness, with environmental issues being embraced by both the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as the Pope himself.

According to the Sheila Harrison, leader of the Environmental Committee, "There's not a Diocesan link just yet. We think that the time is right to advance the issue of social justice...It's consistent with our faith and part of living it."

I really enjoy the NCC in its electronic 'green' form. The pictures are much better, the articles easy to read (and enlarge for my older eyes) and the same familiar format is there. I love it!

This was a superb idea - thank you!

~Bill Kellerhals

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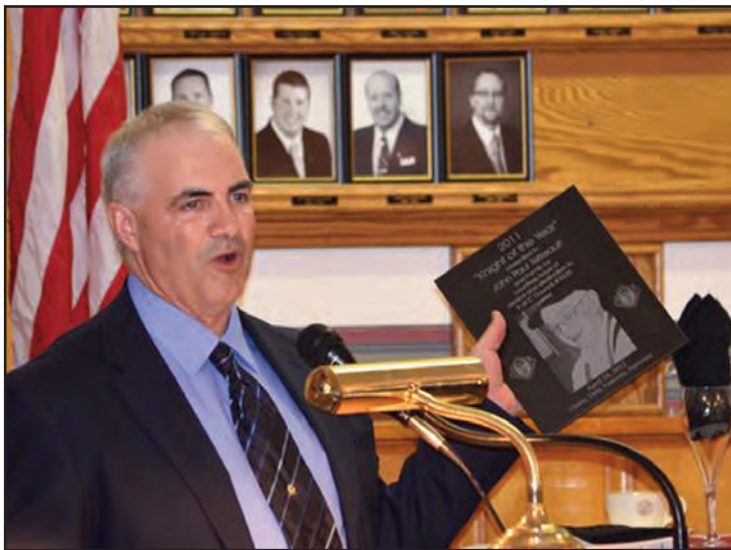
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Events Coordinator Debbie Bosley prepares desserts in the new kitchen during the early hours prior to the 60th anniversary event.

Danny Tetreault, eldest son of John Paul Tetreault, accepts the "Knight of the Year Award" given to his father for years of devoted service and dedication to Knights of Columbus Council # 3525 in Champlain. John Paul Tetreault died Feb. 26. Danny Tetreault accepted the award on behalf of the Tetreault family and encouraged others to follow in his father's ideals of charity and dedication through hard work and determination. The elder Mr. Tetreault Was also honored during the 60th anniversary celebration of the council as the new kitchen in the council home Was dedicated in his name. The memorial dedication, Shown above, Was Crafted by #3525 member and Past Grand Knight James LaFontaine and features a marble plaque crafted by member Martin Bechard and is flanked by the large knives that Mr. Tetreault used for over 25 years.

# Champlain Knights celebrate 60 years

By Chris Trombley

Grand Knight, Father Francis X. Chagnon Council # 3525, Champlain

**CHAMPLAIN**- The Father Francis X. Chagnon Council #3525 recently celebrated its 60th anniversary With over 170 members and their families attending the event.

Several awards were given including a presentation to one new honorary life member, Mr. Ralph Boire.

Over \$500 was raised for charity during the event.

The highlight of the evening was the dedication of the new kitchen to past Brother John Paul Tetreault by Father James Delbel, pastor of St. Mary's in Champlain; Father Ray Moreau, pastor of Sacred Heart in Chazy, and Father Brian J. Cummings, spiritual director of St. Anne's Shrine in Isle laMotte, Vt.

Mr. Tetreault, who died Feb. 26, was also honored as Knight of the Year.

He was a Third Degree Knight and 50-plus year member of the Champlain council, serving as Grand Knight for two years.

He dedicated countless hours to serving this organization as a cook and volun-

teer of many committees. Several members of the Tetreault family were present including his wife, Gloria who helped unveil the dedication memorial.

The night ended with the "Officer of the Year" award presented to Francis Mercaldi who spent several hours preparing and presenting a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the over 700 hours of labor that was spent on the new kitchen.

### History of the council

In September of 1952, a group of Knights of Columbus made up of Claude Lavoie, Paul Chamberlin, Lester Coopy, John Zurlo, Leopold Remillard, Armand Favreau, Alexis Chagnon, Charles Chevalier met with Father Desrosiers, pastor of St. Mary's Church to obtain his approval to form a Knights of Columbus Council in Champlain.

Father Desrosiers was very pleased with the idea and gave his blessing and approval as he and the committee felt that by having a Knight of Columbus in Champlain, the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism would be better exemplified in our commu-

nity. It was decided to name the council after Father Francis X. Chagnon who took over the parish in 1887 and ultimately cleared the debt and started the Catholic school of eighty students and placed the parish on solid financial ground.

On April 15th, 1952, Claude Lavoie received the council's charter from the Supreme Council which was post-dated April 23rd, 1952.

Also on April 23rd, 1952 the first officers were elected.

On July 2nd, 1952 the officers executed a lease with Mrs. William Kennedy to rent the former Lyceum Theater and eventually made the structure on 3 Oak Street a permanent home.

On June 29th, 1952, 109 Catholic gentlemen gathered to complete their degrees under the guidance and proud Pastor, Rev. Arthur Desrosiers.

On August 20th, 1952 the first monthly supper was held, a strong tradition that continues today. For over 50 years the Father Francis X. Chagnon Council has exemplified the true meaning of the Knights of Columbus and the spirit of Father Chagnon in the charitable works,

countless donations to the church, school, and community. In continuing the legacy of Father Francis Chagnon, Council # 3525 continues to

be the "strong right arm" of the church and community in the same determination and fortitude of our namesake.

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Drawing date: Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm on the grounds of St. Mary's Academy in Champlain. Winner need not be present to win.

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# Funeral held for Carmelite Sr. Therese Mary Murray, 80

BEACON, NY—A Mass of Christian Burial for Carmelite Sister Therese Mary Murray, 80, of the Carmelite Monastery in Beacon, was held May 2 at the Carmelite Monastery.

She died April 25 at Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Burial followed in St. Joachim Cemetery.

Sister Therese Mary's courageous journey with Alzheimer's ended the morning after her 80th birthday. She had been living at Cabrini since September of 2009 where she was a peaceful and much loved resident.

Eileen Mary Murray (Sister Therese Mary) was born on April 24, 1932 in Brooklyn, the fourth of five children.



Sr. Therese M. Murray, OCD

Her parents, Patrick and Helen (Gallagher) Murray, who had come to the US from Ireland predeceased Sister as did her brother, James Murray and her sister, Mary Murray. Eileen was 16 when her mother died.

Eileen attended Bishop McDonnell High School in Brooklyn. In November 1951 she entered the Carmelite Monastery on University Ave. in the Bronx where she received the name Sister Therese Mary of Jesus Crucified.

One year later in November 1952, with five other sisters, Sister Therese founded the Monastery in Saranac Lake, where she pronounced her vows on June 15, 1953.

Contributing in many ways

to the vitality of the Saranac Lake Carmel, Sister Therese served as novice mistress, prioress, secretary and treasurer of the community. She was a gifted singer and writer, an excellent seamstress, designing and sewing vestments for priests as well as baptismal gowns for infants.

In 2000 when the three Carmels of Barre, VT, Saranac Lake, NY and Beacon, NY united to form a new community, the Carmel of the Incarnation in Beacon, Sister Therese was among the founding sisters.

She is survived by her brother Rev. John P. Murray of the Rockville Centre Diocese, her sister, Agnes Annunziata of Deland, Florida, her sister-in-law, Patricia Murray of Debary, Florida and nieces and nephews.

## Bishop LaValley' Schedule

**May 17** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**May 18** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**May 19** – 4:30 p.m., Confirmation at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh.

**May 20** – 11 a.m., Confirmation for St. Mary's, Brushton and St. Augustine's, North Bangor at St. Mary's Church; 4 p.m., Confirmation for St. Agnes, Lake Placid, St. Brendan's, Keene, St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake, St. John in the Wilderness, Lake Clear, St. Paul's, Bloomingdale, and Holy Name & St. Alphonsus, Tupper Lake at St. Agnes Church.

**May 21-24** – Presbyteral Assembly at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandria Bay.

## To Report Abuse

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

## Rest in Peace

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

- May 16** – Rev. Moses Legault, 1908; Rev. John M. McIntyre, 1944
- May 18** – Rev. John B. A. Legrand, 1891; Rev. Richard J. Cotter, 1928, Rev. Augustus J. Dumont, 1949
- May 19** – Msgr. Arthur M. Leary, 1968; Deacon Vincent J. Frattali, 2003
- May 20** – Rev. Robert Booth, 1939; Rev. Eugene Noury, O.M.I., 1961; Rev. P. Andrew L'Esperance, M.S.C., 1962
- May 21** – Msgr. John Pendergast, 1998
- May 22** – Msgr. Claudius Gobet, 1961

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 440. Upcoming programs:

**May 23** - 6 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

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What we're hearing about the newly designed [www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://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!"*

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Pope tells American colleges to strengthen Catholic identity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI called on America's Catholic colleges and universities to reaffirm their Catholic identity by ensuring orthodoxy in theological studies and accepting the oversight of bishops. The pope made his remarks May 5 to U.S. bishops from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Wyoming, who were making their periodic "ad limina" visits to the Vatican. While he acknowledged recent efforts by America's Catholic institutions of higher education to "reaffirm their distinctive identity in fidelity to their founding ideals and the church's mission," Pope Benedict said that "much remains to be done." The pope emphasized the need for compliance with canon law in the appointment of theology instructors, who are required to possess a "mandate" from the "competent ecclesiastical authority," ordinarily the local bishop. The requirement for a mandate was underscored in 1990 by Blessed John Paul II in his apostolic constitution "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," but many Catholic theology departments in the U.S. have yet to comply. Pope Benedict said that the need for a mandate was especially clear in light of the "confusion created by instances of apparent dissidence between some representatives of Catholic institutions and the church's pastoral leadership

## Bishop reiterates concern that House budget fails a 'basic moral test'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The proposed funding cuts in programs that meet the needs of poor and vulnerable people being weighed in the House of Representatives fail a "basic moral test," said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. In a letter to House members May 8, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., reiterated an earlier view that "the budget starts with the proposition that first, Congress must do no harm" and that elected officials must assess every budget decision on "whether it protects or threatens human life and dignity." Acknowledging that the country's budget deficit is a serious concern and Congress faces difficult decisions, Bishop Blaire called upon House members to "ensure all policies meet the moral criteria established by the Catholic bishops of the United States to create a circle of protection around programs that serve poor and vulnerable people and communities. The needs of those who are hungry and homeless, without work or in poverty should come first. Government and other institutions have a shared responsibility to promote the common good of all, especially ordinary workers and families who struggle to live in dignity in difficult economic times," the letter said. Bishop Blaire wrote that the framework for future budgets "cannot rely on disproportionate cuts in essential services to poor persons; it requires shared sacrifice by all, including raising adequate revenues, eliminating unnecessary military and other spending, and addressing the long-term costs of health insurance and retirement programs fairly

# Catholic leaders reject Obama's support for same-sex marriage

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Catholic leaders rejected President Barack Obama's May 9 declaration in a television interview that "personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."

"President Obama's words today are not surprising since they follow upon various actions already taken by his administration that erode or ignore the unique meaning of marriage," said Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, in a May 9 statement.

"We cannot be silent in the face of words or actions that would undermine the institution of marriage, the very cornerstone of our society," Cardinal Dolan added. "The people of this country, especially our children, deserve better."

In December 2010, Obama said his views on same-sex marriage were "evolving" and that he "struggles with this," adding he would continue thinking about the issue. An Associated Press story May 10 quoted Obama as saying he wanted to announce his support for such unions "in my own way, on my own terms" but acknowledged earlier remarks by Vice President Joe Biden prompted his announcement.

On May 6, Biden, a Catholic, said he was "absolutely comfortable" with same-sex couples marrying, adding they should get "the same exact rights" heterosexual married couples receive.

The Catholic Church upholds the sanctity of traditional marriage as being only between one man and one woman, and also teaches

that any sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful.

"I pray for the president every day, and will continue to pray that he and his administration act justly to uphold and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman," Cardinal Dolan said. "May we all work to promote and protect marriage and by so doing serve the true good of all persons."

In a May 9 statement, the Archdiocese of Washington said it "opposes the redefinition of marriage based on the clear understanding that the complementarity of man and woman is intrinsic to the meaning of marriage. The word 'marriage' describes the exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman open to generating and nurturing children. Other unions exist, but they are not marriage."

In its statement, the archdiocese said it would "continue to strongly advocate for the federal government's existing definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman," adding it supports efforts undertaken by those who uphold the traditional meaning of marriage."

One such effort is a petition drive in the state of Maryland to overturn a law passed earlier this year to allow same-sex marriage in the state. The archdiocese covers five Maryland counties in addition to the District of Columbia.

The Maryland Marriage Alliance said May 2 that a petition to put the law to a vote had collected more than 30,000 voter signatures.

Nearly 56,000 valid signatures are needed by June 30 to add the referendum to the November ballot, with half due May 31 to the Maryland State Board of Elections.

"For us in Maryland, the

vote on marriage this November has nothing to do with politics," said Mary Ellen Russell, executive director of the Maryland Catholic Conference, in a May 9 statement. "It will be a vote on the issue of marriage itself." She added, "The definition of marriage is not a matter of politics. It is a matter of values and the foundation of society and family."

In Washington state, signatures were being gathered for a referendum challenging a new Washington state law that legalized same-sex marriage.

Opponents of the law have until June 6 to gather 121,577 signatures to suspend the law until the public makes a decision about it on Election Day in November. Otherwise the law takes effect June 7.

On May 8, North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman by a 3-to-2 margin.

According to an initial tally by the North Carolina State Board of Elections, 1,303,952 people - 61.05 percent - voted for the amendment while 831,788 people - 38.95 percent - voted against it.

The amendment read, "Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state." It enshrines the definition of traditional marriage in the state constitution, elevating it from what has been state law since 1996.

The outcome in North Carolina "affirms the authentic and timeless meaning of marriage," said Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of Oakland, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the Promotion and Defense of Marriage.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Truth - the divine force that insures unity

This last Sunday of the Easter season falls between the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost.

Our first reading from the book of Acts records a time of great tension for the Apostles. They felt abandoned and uncertain after witnessing Jesus slowly fade from sight into the heavens.

With nervous uncertainty they huddled closely around Jesus' mother Mary in that same Upper Room where the Master had first appeared to them following His Resurrection.

Obedient to his instructions, they gathered there to

pray while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit.

First, however, they felt it necessary to round out their numbers again to twelve.

We may well wonder why the number twelve was so important. Scholars are generally in agreement that Jesus Himself carefully chose twelve to fulfill the mission of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

In any case, the Holy Spirit chose Matthias.

In choosing Matthias, they established a key criterion for an apostle.

He must have accompanied the others the whole

time, and have been a witness to the Resurrection.

Listeners to the Gospel would be strongly drawn to believe those who, with their own eyes, had seen Jesus alive in His own body.

Even Thomas had believed when he saw the wounds of His Lord and Saviour.

The Gospel continues from last week the farewell address of Jesus at the Last Supper. "Consecrate them in the truth", Jesus prays. All successors of the apostles are so consecrated. Truth is the one great divine force which will assure the unity of the infant church.

"One faith, one Lord, one Baptism" binds all who would be faithful branches on the Vine which is Christ.

MAY 20

Seventh Sunday of Easter

READINGS

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

1 John 4:11-16

John 17:11b-19

We have seen through the ages from the beginning how deviation from Christ's teaching tears asunder the solidarity of one Church.

Christian bodies generally separate from this unity on one or another point of doctrine. The physical unity of Christ's church will only be restored when there is a return to consensus on all aspects of the "deposit of faith".

Today's second reading from the first letter of John provides the key to unity in truth and adherence to authority through the great prayer of Jesus to "remain in my love".

Although one third of the world's population is Christian, there are over thirty thousand different ways in which they interpret the truths that Jesus taught!

How on earth will there ever be total unity in His Church?

It will only come about through a very courageous living out of that command of the Lord to "love one another".

May Christ this Pentecost help all Christians to be consecrated in the unity of Love and Truth!



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

## Powerlessness, or hidden power in our suffering?

In a 1999 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, patients with serious illness were asked to identify what was most important to them during the dying process.

**The greatest possibility we have for achieving control, then, is to align ourselves in our suffering and weakness with God and his redemptive designs**

Many indicated they wanted to achieve a "sense of control." This is understandable.

Most of us fear our powerlessness in the face of illness and death. We would like to retain an element of control, even though we realize that dying often involves the very opposite: a total loss of control, over our muscles, our emotions, our minds, our bowels and our very lives, as our human framework succumbs to powerful disinte-

grative forces.

Even when those disintegrative forces become extreme and our suffering may seem overwhelming, however, a singularly important spiritual journey always remains open for us.

This path is a "road less traveled," a path that, unexpectedly, enables us to achieve genuine control in the face of death.

The hallmark of this path is the personal decision to accept our sufferings, actively laying down our life on behalf of others by embracing the particular kind of death God has ordained for us, patterning our choice on the choice consciously made by Jesus Christ.

When asked about the "why" of human suffering, Pope John Paul II once stated, with piercing simplicity, that the answer has "been given by God to man in the cross of Jesus Christ."

He stressed that Jesus went toward his own suffering, "aware of its saving power."

The Pope also observed

that in some way, each of us is called to "share in that suffering through which the Redemption was accomplished."

He concluded that through his only-begotten Son, God "has confirmed His desire to act especially through suffering, which is man's weakness and emptying of self, and He wishes to make His power known precisely in this weakness and emptying of self."

The Holy Father echoes St. Paul's famous passage: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

The greatest possibility we have for achieving control, then, is to align ourselves in our suffering and weakness with God and his redemptive designs.

This oblation of radically embracing our particular path to death, actively offered on behalf of others and in union with Christ,

manifests our concern for the spiritual welfare of others, especially our friends and those closest to us.

We are inwardly marked by a profound need to sacrifice and give of ourselves, a need that manifests our inner capacity to love and be loved.

As no one had ever done before, Jesus charted the path of love-driven sacrifice, choosing to lay down his life for his friends.

He was no mere victim in the sense of being a passive and unwilling participant in his own suffering and death. He was in control. He emphasized, with otherworldly authority, that, "nobody takes my life from me: I lay it down, and I take it up again."

Yet we see that his life was, in fact, taken from him by those various individuals and groups who plotted his death and sought his execu-



Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

tion. His life was taken from him by evil men, even though, paradoxically, nobody took his life from him, because nobody had power over his being, unless granted from above.

We experience a similar paradox in our own deaths: while it may seem that our life is being taken from us through the evil of a particular ailment or the ravages of a particular disease, we can reply that nothing takes away our life, because nothing has power over our being, except what is ordained from above.

In his providence and omniscience, years before the fact, God already knows and foresees that unique confluence of events that will constitute our death, whether it be by stroke or cardiac arrest, liver failure or Alzheimers, or any other means.

By spiritually embracing in God that specific path to death, our freedom is elevated to new heights; indeed, we "achieve control"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## AT THE MOVIES

## DARK SHADOWS

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

Long before "Twilight's" Edward Cullen and other Johnny-come-lately vampires, there was television's Barnabas Collins, played by the recently deceased Jonathan Frid.

Time was when legions of teenage baby boomers would rush home from school each weekday afternoon to find out what Barnabas was up to by catching the latest episode of "Dark Shadows," the wildly popular gothic soap opera that largely revolved around him. Mostly set in 1972, the year after the television version went off the air - it was first broadcast in 1966 - director Tim Burton's big-screen homage, "Dark Shadows" (Warner Bros.), is a campy comic take on the original.

Though visually striking and initially amusing, his riff on the low-budget, but by now venerable, property introduces some discordant notes as it seeks to garner laughs from casual sexual

encounters. Then the melody gets lost altogether amid a crescendo of special effects and supernatural mayhem.

Johnny Depp takes the part of Barnabas, a figure with whom the actor is said to have been obsessed since childhood.

Opening scenes carry us back to the mid-18th century - and play like something between a novel by one of the Brontes and a Harlequin romance - as they recount Barnabas' back story. This culminates in the vein-drainer being buried alive by an angry mob of New England townsfolk.

Flash forward to the Age of Nixon where we find Barnabas accidentally exhumed by a construction crew - who quickly learn to regret their discovery of him.

Returning to Collinwood, the ancestral manse his parents built, Barnabas encounters the descendants who currently inhabit it: Matriarch Elizabeth Collins Stoddard (Michelle Pfeiffer), her disaffected teen daughter, Carolyn (Chloe Grace

Moretz), her ne'er-do-well brother, Roger (Jonny Lee Miller), and his troubled young son, David (Gully McGrath).

Also in residence are the children's governess Victoria Winters (Bella Heathcote) -- who's a dead ringer for Barnabas' true love of long ago, Josette DuPres (also Heathcote) -- and David's live-in psychiatrist, Dr. Julia Hoffman (Helena Bonham Carter).

As he tries to restore the dwindling family fortune, Barnabas battles Angelique Bouchard (Eva Green), the still-living witch whose jealousy-fueled curse transformed him into a bloodsucker in the first place. She's now the Collins' main competitor in the local fishing industry.

Much of the humor is derived from Barnabas' anachronistic outlook on psychedelic-era America. With his formal, not to say stilted, personal manner -- which Carolyn quickly labels "weird" -- Barnabas is a bemused fish out of water in the world of pot-smoking hippies, VW vans and the



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Johnny Depp stars in a scene from the movie "Dark Shadows."

cocktail-quaffing antics of Dr. Hoffman. The contrast works for a while, but eventually wears thin.

Perhaps sensing that the joke has run its course, Burton and screenwriter Seth Grahame-Smith devote the last quarter-hour or so of the movie to a noisy, effects-driven showdown between Barnabas and his age-old nemesis Angelique. Neither funny nor frightening, this finale will only add to the dissatisfaction of nostalgic viewers and the bewilderment of those too young

to remember Barnabas in his undead prime.

The film contains some action violence, semi-graphic sexual activity, a suicide, drug use, mature references, crude and crass language. 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. Material may be inappropriate for children under 13

## Power

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

in the most important way possible, through willed surrender and radical gift in our innermost depths.

Jesus foresaw that his greatest work lay ahead as he ascended Calvary to embrace his own powerlessness and self-emptying.

Although we may feel condemned to our powerless-

ness as we receive help from others in our sickness, and although we may feel supremely useless as we are "nailed" to our hospital bed, our active, inward embrace of the cross unleashes important graces for ourselves and others, and reveals a refulgent light beyond the obscurity of every suffering.

Jesus' radical embracing of

his Passion - and our radical embracing of our own - marks the supreme moment of a person who achieves control over his or her destiny through immersion into the hope-filled and redemptive designs of God.

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Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and

did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncb-center.org](http://www.ncb-center.org)



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## ADIRONDACK

## HGA AUCTION

**Tupper Lake** —K of C Council #2177 will be sponsoring an Auction.

**Date:** May 20

**Time:** Doors open at 9 a.m. for the flea market, auction begins at noon.

**Place:** Holy Ghost Parish Center (formerly Holy Ghost Academy)

**Features:** To benefit the Guggenheim Summer Camp scholarship fund, the Tupper Lake Ecumenical Council, & K of C Home Association building renovations. Breakfast & Lunch available. Cash prizes awarded every hour from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for Gas/Charcoal Grill

## CLINTON

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Peru** — St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host its 26th annual golf tournament.

**Date:** June 15

**Time:** Shotgun start at 10 a.m.

**Place:** Adirondack Golf and Country Club.

**Features:** The four-person scramble will feature a "New Car Hole in One" prize sponsored by Bill McBride Chevrolet and other prizes. There will be an awards dinner following the event in the clubhouse. The entry fee is \$260 per team until June 1st and \$280 per team thereafter. Spouses are invited to attend the dinner at \$15 each.

**Contact:** Obtain entry forms and information by contacting Bill McBride Jr. at 643-6678 or by emailing Scar6064@charter.net

## 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. Peter's

**Features:** A quiet prayerful environment, along with a focused instructional CD followed by soothing instrumental music, allows participants to be immersed/soaked in God's love and healing grace. Everyone is welcome

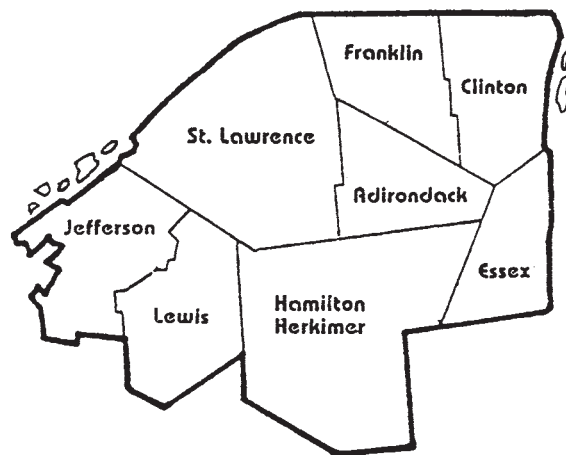
## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

Theme: "Jesus is present with us . . . Jesus rose again, He ascended into heaven: but He willed to remain with us



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](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org).

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

and for us, in every place on earth. The Eucharist is really a divine invention!"

**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email us at [Sjohnsadoration@aol.com](mailto:Sjohnsadoration@aol.com)

## SOAKING PRAYER

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

**Date:** Every 3rd Monday.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 11

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

## HEALING MINISTRIES SCHOOL

**Ellenburg** — Our Lady of the Adirondacks house of Prayer will be offering Christian Healing Ministries School of Healing Prayer Training

**Date:** July 26-29

**Features:** This course offers a scriptural basis for God's gift of healing prayer and teaches the student how to be an effective prayer minister. Topics include: Scriptural Foundations for Healing, History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Introduction to Deliverance Prayer, and more. This will be the 1st of 3 level. Nominal fee for materials.

**Contact:** Register by June 1 by email to [olaprayerhouse@gmail.com](mailto:olaprayerhouse@gmail.com) or call 518-594-3253.

## FRANKLIN

## RELIC OF BLESSED MOTHER TERESA

**St. Regis Falls** - Saint Ann's Parish received a First Class Relic of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta for a shrine. The public is invited to visit the church to pray at the shrine to view the reliquary that contains the relic.

**Schedule:** The church is opened Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 8:45am with Mass at 8am, Saturday's from 3:30pm to 5:15pm with Mass at 4:30pm, and Sunday's from 9am to 10:15am with Mass at 9:30am.

## JEFFERSON

## WAY OF CROSS FOR CANCER

**Watertown** — IHC Mystery Players present "The Way of the Cross for those dealing with Cancer".

**Date:** May 20

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place:** IHC

**Cost:** Free will offering with proceeds going to the American Cancer Society.

**Features:** Jesus will never ask us to bear any suffering that He Himself has not experienced in its fullest. He shares it with us. This powerful and emotional mystery play will attempt to compare the suffering that Jesus suffered on His "Way to the Cross" to the journey that the cancer patient makes as they fight this disease.

This play is open to the public but the emotional nature of the play make it unsuitable for young children.

## HEALING MASS

**Clayton** — St. Mary's Church will be celebrating its Annual Healing Mass and Antoine Tetrault Memorial Service.

**Date:** June 9

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Features:** This will be the 20th anniversary of St. Mary's Healing Mass. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered during Mass. The Cele-

brants will be Father Arthur LaBaff and Father Thomas Kornmeyer. Immediately following Mass there will be prayer teams to pray for individual needs. A Social time to meet the Tetrault family and share testimonies of healing will be held in the Parish Center along with refreshments.

**Contact:** If you have any questions, call the Parish Office at 686-3398.

## FAMILY ROSARY CRUSADE

**Carthage** — Please join us for the 10th Annual Family Rosary Crusade.

**Date:** May 18

**Time:** 5:15 p.m. Mass, followed by 7 hours of praying the rosary.

**Place:** St. James Church

**Features:** Pray for one or all 7 hours (in honor of Our Lady's 7 Sorrows). If you stay to pray for 3 hours, receive a free print of this year's painting by artist, Bob Renaud. For more information and to see all past paintings: <http://catholicof-carthagecopenhagen.org>.

**Contact:** Bob Renaud at [RRenaud@carthagecd.org](mailto:RRenaud@carthagecd.org)

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** — An ecumenical bereavement meeting is to be held.

**Date:** May 28

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Hearthside Hospitality Center of the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse

**Speaker:** Maria Roche, former school counselor and Athena Recipient on "Humor Can Ease Our Pain of Loss".

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

**Date:** May 31

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75

**Features:** Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

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

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** 312 Sherman St.

**Features:** Liferight is a pro-life educational organization. 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](http://www.liferight.org).

## LEWIS

## ST. PETER'S ANNUAL FESTIVAL

**Lowville** — St. Peter's Annual Festival has been planned.

**Date:** May 18-20

**Place:** grounds of St. Peter's Church

**Features:** Carnival rides including a special Saturday matinee with unlimited rides for \$12 per person from 1 p.m. to 5. Homemade food Other booths will include "This-n-That", a Giant Bake Sale, and Games for all ages Bingo will be held Friday evening at 7 p.m. The festival concludes on Sunday with a Chicken Barbecue with all the fixings. Take-outs will be available. ; at 4 p.m. the drawings begin for cash prizes totaling \$2000

## CHICKEN BBQ

**Port Leyden** — Cub Scout pack 92 will be having a Chicken BBQ.

**Date:** May 19

**Time:** 11 a.m. until sold out

**Place:** Port Leyden Community Hall

**Cost:** ½ Chicken \$5; Dinner \$7.50

**Contact:** Pre-sale tickets are available from any Pack 92 Cub Scout or by calling Cub Master Connie Jordan at 348-6231.

## K OF C BRUNCH

**Lyons Falls** — The South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having a Brunch.

**Date:** May 20

**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon

**Place:** St. John's Church Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 5-12, \$3; under 5, Free

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Harrisville** — St. Francis Solanus Church will be having a Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** May 27

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10:30

**Cost:** Adults, \$7.50; Children 12-5, \$5.50; under 5, Free

## ST. LAWRENCE

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Massena** - St. Mary's & St. Joseph's holds 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.

## 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.



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

# Neighbors in a global village

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

*Not just the ones living next door, or down the block.  
Not just those from my hometown or country...  
No, my neighbors may or may not look or talk or think like me.*

*My neighbors may be of another faith or race or political persuasion.*

*My neighbors are whoever needs my help right now, whether standing beside me or half a world away. But wait, there's more! My neighbors do not so much need my help as I need theirs. Without them, I cannot fulfill the law of Christ. Without them, my worship rings hollow and my prayers echo in the emptiness of my heart like an abandoned cathedral, cold, dark and deserted.*

*But if I believe God wants me here and now to bear witness to the truth and announce God's reign and fulfill God's plan for peace and justice on this earth, then let my eyes and ears and voice and hands be opened to see and celebrate and share God's gifts...no matter how small."*

The above passage is from "Who are My Neighbors" a meditation by Maryknoll Father Joseph Veneroso. Upon reading this passage, we realize that our neighbors are not just next door, but everywhere. Today, we live in a "global village" where advances in technology and communication have affected every aspect of our lives. The world seems smaller.

Globalization can be seen in large multinational corporations which affect the world economy. All too often, we see how corporate greed has brought to light grave injustices to employees, investors and citizens of our global village. Such injustices likewise affect the poorer nations of the world. As missionaries we are called to bring the Kingdom of God, namely justice, peace, mercy and love to all of God's global village.

Missionaries are often on the front lines in dealing with both the positive and negative effects of globalization. As Catholics, we have the moral obligation to promote the positive effects and condemn the negative impacts of globalization to the integrity of human beings and their cultures. We pray for missionaries throughout the world. We remember that we are neighbors in a global village that is the Catholic Church. We pray that we may ever be faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Christ Himself.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Chazy** – Pearl A. (Forkey) Latremore, 94; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Deferiet** – Stella E. Rigabar, 89; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at St. Rita's Church; burial in Old St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

**Gouverneur** – Eugenie J. (Joudry) Gardner, 85; Funeral Service May 7, 2012 at French Funeral Home; burial in the Old St. James Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** – May Ann "Warianen" Cook, 68; Funeral Services May 8, 2012 at St. Regis Catholic Church.

**Keeseville** – Albert F. Robare, 82; Funeral Services May 30, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial Whispering Maples Memorial Mausoleum, Ellenburg Depot.

**Lake Placid** – James T. Vize, 63; Funeral Services May 12, 2012 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Allen J. Bero, 83; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Beach Bridge Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Louis Gorczyca, Sr., 90; Funeral Service May 12, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

**Massena** – Antonio J. Alaimo, 61; Funeral Services May 7, 2012 at Philips Memorial Home; burial Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Marie J. (Bruness) Heath, 83; Funeral Services May 7, 2012 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

**Massena** – Gregory J. Reid, 63; Funeral Services May 12, 2012 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Newcomb** – Ruby Veronica Gibbs, 95; Funeral Services May 7, 2012 at St. Therese Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**North Bangor** – Katherine M. (Martin) Trim, 89; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Edward S. Ashton, 65; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Ogdensburg** – Lynn R. Thornhill, 79; Funeral Services May 9, 2012 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Heuvelton.

**Peru** – Sheila A. (Martino) Prandato, 58; Funeral Services May 8, 2012 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. John's Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Redford** – Ruth (Haltenhof) Gryger, 89; Funeral Services May 10, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Assumption of Mary Cemetery.

**Redford** – Charles E. Hall, 69; Funeral Services May 7, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Redford** – Roland R. LaPier, Sr., 76; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery, Morrisonville.

**Saranac Lake** – Sandra L. (Daphnis) Beede, 66; Funeral Services May 7, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

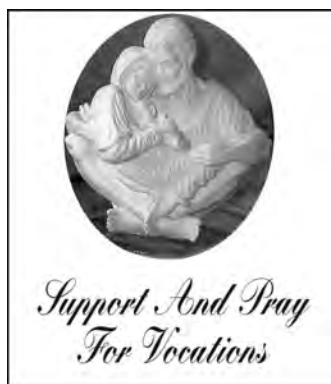
**Tupper Lake** – Theode A. Desmarais, 88; Funeral Services May 9, 2012 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Grace (Bastrella) Borello, 94; Funeral Services May 11, 2012 at St. Antony's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum

**Watertown** – Alden F. "Luke" Corbett, 84; Funeral Services May 9, 2012 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Sally F. (Jean) Helmerci; Funeral Services May 5, 2012 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Ray Lloyd Noble, 69; Funeral Services May 10, 2012 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.



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## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# My prayer for sisters: answered!

By Kristina Dean  
Staff Writer

When I was eight, my fourth brother came into this world. I was extremely disappointed. Why couldn't God make him a girl? I prayed for a sister, and He knew how much I desperately wanted one. Why couldn't He give me what I wanted?

An only girl with four younger brothers, I felt misunderstood. My eight-year-old self didn't want to be around loud, obnoxious boys. Growing up in an all-boy family is tough when it comes to girl matters. I wished for someone who understood how I felt, who would love me and support me no matter what.

**The retreat was a refreshing reminder that we all contain Mary within us, that in order to come to our fullest realization of ourselves, to realize our "feminine genius" we need only to give our "fiat" or yes to God.**

Sometimes it was lonely, especially because my family was greatly involved in the Boy Scouts of America – where there were other boy-heavy families as well.

As the years passed, I continued to long for sisters. Sisters who would give advice, bring me up when I was down, and appreciate my sensitivity. Sisters who would understand my heart.

Well, I found them.

I found sisters who gave me the most beautiful compliments, who encouraged me when I was feeling down, and who held my hand during a moment of tears.

I found sisters who celebrated with me, who were excited with me, and who lifted me up to heights I could never achieve on my own.

I found these sisters of my heart at the Women of Grace retreat held April 20 – 22 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. Beautiful sisters.

I found reflections of Mary.

One essential part of my life is the Women of Grace foundational study, created by Johnette Benkovic, the featured speaker at the retreat.

Since I started two years ago, I have been transformed, not only in my relationship with God, but my relationship with the other ladies in the group. I have watched them learn, struggle, grow and blossom. Co-facilitators Mary Dillenback and Meg Ringer have led us to a new understanding of what it means to be women of God.

And during the retreat, I encountered more shining examples of women filled with the Holy Spirit. If each woman was a flower, we were in Mary's garden - a gathering of women at their best.

During Friday, the first day of the retreat, Bishop Terry LaValley was the main celebrant for Mass, concelebrated with Father Mark Reilly, the retreat chaplain.

During the Homily, Bishop LaValley spoke of



Kristina Dean of Antwerp served as leader of song for the Women of Grace retreat held in April at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. She reflects on the experience here.

his recent trip to Rome and meeting the Pope. Upon being questioned by the Holy Father about what the Diocese was doing for families, he thought about a previous meeting with Mrs. Dillenback regarding the Women of Grace program.

He spoke with the Pope about the women in the North Country involved in the program. In the church, I watched as heads turned and reacted to his words. Catholic women are coming into their own. We are finding ourselves and our role within the church.

And - wow- we were mentioned to the Holy Father! How much better can that be?

I will hold some very special moments from the retreat in my heart.

As my fellow Evans Mills Women of Grace were sitting at a round table after a meal, Gail Patrick, of St. Teresa, began to thank all of us. She stopped and tears filled her eyes. She didn't need to continue because we knew what she was saying. Thank you for being part of my journey, thank you for being part of this amazing transformation, thank you for your love. Thank you for being my sisters in Christ.

Several others around the table began to chime in their thanks and within two minutes all of us became emotional. We didn't need words. I looked into their eyes and saw something holy. Mary was with us. We all understood.

A truly special moment was when Johnette shared two painfully tragic but beautiful mo-

ments - her son's death in a car accident and her husband's passing. As her husband lay on his deathbed, she described gently telling him that he was about to meet his Lord, and her joy and excitement for him. Instead of focusing on her grief, she was able to see around the corner, to the joy waiting for him.

Another special time for me was when Johnette prayed over Father Mark. Recently, the pastor of St. Bernard's in Saranac Lake was notified the Navy was mobilizing him to a base in Djibouti, Africa for a year.

Johnette asked all facilitators to come to the front of the church to pray. I thought it was beautiful that she included Father Mark's mother who sat beside him for the prayers. Holding one hand over his head and one up to the heavens, Johnette called upon the Holy Spirit to protect and guard him. It was a powerful moment.

Although I am one of the three self-acknowledged "criers" in my WOG group, I hate to cry in public. I fight against it – and my sisters know this.

As we sat in the pews listening to the prayer over Father, I scooted over next to Gail and grabbed her hand. Rose Perkins of St. Joseph's in Philadelphia, reached over and squeezed my fingers on the same hand as well. The three of us sat linked together. I knew they could feel my hand shaking as I fought to contain emotions. I knew they understood.

The retreat gave the women of the diocese a place to connect, to feel the Holy Spirit's presence, to see Mary in one another. So many women approached me, took my hand, talked with me. It was amazing to see, to experience. Such a circle of love.

So many times the secular world gives us its version of what women should be, should look like, of how we should act.

The retreat was a refreshing reminder that we all contain Mary within us, that in order to come to our fullest realization of ourselves, to realize our "feminine genius" we need only to give our "fiat" or yes to God.

During her talks, Johnette reminded us that we share in the creation of life with our Lord. Our bodies are God's masterpiece - designed to give life and nurture. And our souls are inherently feminine as well. We are created to bring spiritual life to others. When we are at our best, we are vessels of the Holy Spirit, designed to house and carry that grace to others.

This is something I never tire of hearing.

There were many other special moments during the three days, working with my ladies to sing the Women of Grace theme song for Johnette, the special Rosary led by Fr. Mark that included his beautiful reflections and prayers, the healing Rosary led by Johnette the following day, and simply getting a chance to meet so many holy women.

In His time, God granted my prayer for sisters just when I was supposed to have them. I am so blessed.