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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JUNE 20, 2012

## Prayers for Eucharistic Congress

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI called for prayers for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress under way in Dublin, expressing hopes it would lead to a greater appreciation of Jesus' self-sacrifice and deeper love and unity in the church.

The weeklong gathering, which opened June 10, is "a

precious occasion for reaffirming the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the church," the pope said at the end of his weekly general audience June 13.

Christ's true presence in the Eucharist is a reminder of his gift of self-sacrifice for all humanity, Pope Benedict said.

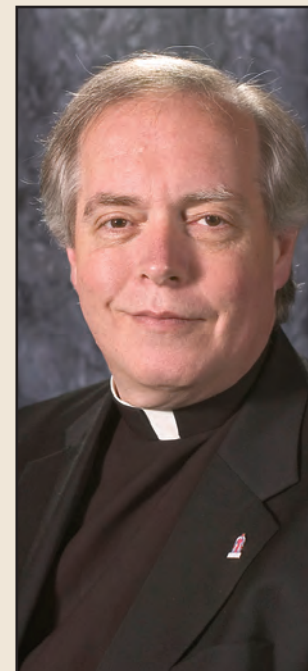
It's also through the Eucharist that Christ becomes nourishment for his flock so as "to assimilate ourselves to him and let us enter into communion with him," which then unites all Christians to one another, Pope Benedict said.

The pope invited everyone to "join me in praying that

the congress will bear rich spiritual fruit in a greater appreciation of our Lord's gift of himself to us in the Eucharist and a deeper love of the mystery of the church, which draws us into ever fuller communion with him and with one another through the daily celebration of the eucharistic sacrifice."

### REST IN PEACE

Rev. Francis J. Coryer, 62



Father Francis J. Coryer, 62, died Jan. 12 in his Plattsburgh home. Bishop LaValley presided at a Mass of Christian Burial June 18 at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh with priests of the diocese concelebrating. Father Alan Shnob, pastor of St. Augustine's in Peru, served as homilist. Father Frank hasn't been well enough to lead a parish in recent years but he volunteered at a Plattsburgh nursing home where he celebrated Mass and made regular visits with the residents.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

## A new role for Msgr. John Murphy

Members of the diocesan staff will bid farewell to Msgr. John R. Murphy who will become a full-time pastor later this month after more than 30 years of service in the diocesan offices.

The current moderator of the curia and episcopal vicar for pastoral services will become the pastor in Norfolk and Raymondville June 27 and with added responsibilities as pastor in Norwood in September.

Msgr. Murphy will be the guest of honor at a farewell luncheon June 26.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4-5

## NCC summer schedule

The *North Country Catholic* will be published every other week through the end of August. Keep up with all the news on the *NCC* Facebook page!

## FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM BEGINS



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Deacon Gregory Kiley displays a crucifix and an American flag as he takes part in a silent procession in Canandaigua, N.Y., that was part of the national "Stand Up for Religious Freedom" effort June 8 in the Rochester diocese. The issue of religious freedom will take center stage during the June 21-July 4 "Fortnight for Freedom," organized by the Bishops of the United States. Bishop LaValley will open the observance in the Diocese of Ogdensburg June 21 with a holy hour at St. Mary's Cathedral beginning at 7 .m. Full coverage, page 3.

**FIRST YEAR TEACHER:** A tribute to the kids at the end of a great year... p. 16

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Fond and  
sad farewells

Once again, I'm compelled to write about priests who have become my friends and, once again, it's a bittersweet endeavor.

In this week's paper, members of the diocesan staff join me in bidding farewell to a beloved boss.

It's nearly impossible to imagine what work will be like in July when we won't be able to depend on the wisdom and support of Msgr. John R. Murphy, the moderator of the curia.

For more than three decades, Msgr. Murphy has been a comforting resource of stability as we've adjusted to five different bishops.

We've been able to take for granted that Msgr. Murphy always knew *what* needed to get done and *who* needed to do it to keep the diocesan "ship" running smoothly... talk about "institutional memory!"

We all know that when a man is ordained, he hopes to spend his life offering pastoral care to people in his parish.

After all these years, Monsignor finally gets to follow this path.

We can't begrudge him but we will surely miss him!

God bless you, Msgr. Murphy, and please don't be a stranger.

You certainly know how to find us!

## Father Frank, RIP

While it saddens me to say farewell to Msgr. Murphy, it breaks my heart to bid a final goodbye to another priest in my life.

Father Frank Coryer hasn't been well for a number of years but his death on June 12 was still shocking.

It was just a couple months ago that I spent 12 days with him in Italy.

It was just last week that I was part of a long list of friends who received the latest of his frequent funny/poignant emails.

While he hasn't been able to lead a parish in re-

cent years, Father Frank never stopped providing priestly ministry. He was a volunteer at the Samuel T. Vilas Nursing Home in Plattsburgh, celebrating Mass and visiting residents. When the residents can't come to church, he told the NCC, "the Church will come to them."

One of his other e-mail friends shared her thoughts with the rest of us upon hearing of his untimely death:

"His love of Christ was so very obvious, we enjoyed his celebration of Mass, and I am certain that he was welcomed into the Kingdom with open arms."

Amen.

Rest in Peace, Father Frank. You will certainly be missed.

Mary Lou  
Kilian

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## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

Prophet of the Most High  
The Nativity of St. John the Baptist - June 23-24

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ

Director of Evangelization

It is not often that the Church celebrates a birthday of a saint in the Sunday Liturgy. But today, the Church celebrates "the prophet of the Most High"; the man sent from God, named John, who would prepare the people of God for the coming of the Messiah.

The readings from Isaiah and from the Acts of the Apostles testify to the witness of who John the Baptist was in God's plan of salvation. John was a man of the desert who prepared himself to be the forerunner of Christ's appearance and ministry.

There was never a question that John knew who he was, "What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet" (Acts 13:25).

In John's own manner, he became the way, the evangelizer, for the coming of the Messiah. He shows by his way of life the meaning of his name, "Yahweh is gracious"

The witness of his humility, his cry to prepare the way, and his proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins were the beginnings that laid the foundation for Jesus' ministry to announce that the Kingdom of God was at hand. God did make him "a light to the nations," so that "my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth" (Isaiah 49:6).

In the Gospel reading from Luke, there is the foreshadowing of "what, then, will this child be?" for surely the hand of the Lord was with him" (Luke 1:66). John prepared for his ministry in the desert because he needed to hear what God was saying to him. He needed time to assess the world around him. He knew that the world needed a Savior.

John the Baptist knew that he had to do some changing in his own life before he could leave the desert back into an arena that was in need of reconciliation. His message would become a wake-up call that Someone greater than he was coming. The Messiah, the long-awaited One, would be the Savior that would come to transform the world.

Each of us, by our Baptism, becomes a child of God, a gift and a grace of God's transformative power already in our lives to be the bearer of the Good News and to bring that message to our family, the parish family, to the community, and to the world at large.

As a Church, a Family of Faith, we are the faces of faith, witnesses of love, justice, and peace for those who have no faith, no hope, or no support. God wants us to let that light be seen by others so that they too might come to live in the light.

But, we ourselves—neither as individuals, nor as a church—are the light. We are only witnesses to the light who is Christ ever coming everywhere and in everyone who comes into the world. Jesus Christ is the one and the only one to whom we should point.

As we celebrate John the Baptist's birthday today, let us remember, that we, too, prepare for the final coming of Christ by the witness of our lives, rejoicing that we have been wonderfully made by the hands of God (Ps. 139).

In what ways do you announce the Good News to another? Have you considered becoming a commissioned lay minister for the service of the Church? Or a permanent deacon? Are any of you being called to priesthood, a consecrated religious? Many are called to the married life. As a family, how do you hand on the faith to your children?

The Church needs you to be the seeds of faith to prepare the way for our young people so that they may pass on the faith to others.

# Fortnight for Freedom

## Bishop will lead diocesan observance

OGDENSBURG – Bishop Terry R. LaValley will open the diocesan observance of the “Fortnight for Freedom” with a Holy Hour for Religious Freedom June 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Bishop LaValley has joined all the bishops of the United States who have called for the Fortnight for Freedom, a 14-day period of prayer, penance, education and action in defense of religious freedom from June 21 to the Fourth of July.

The bishops’ campaign emerged because of the federal government’s attempt to force religious organizations to pay for health services that violate fundamental religious principles.

The recent Department of Health and Human Services mandate requires almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

The mandate was announced Aug. 1, 2011, as part of the rules the Department of Health and Human Services is issuing to implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed in 2010.

Along with the mandate, HHS released a four-pronged religious exemption that has raised objections among Catholic Church officials and others who say it is so narrow that most religious employers will not qualify.

“No amount of verbal gym-



nastics or political grandstanding can deny the fact that with this mandate, the federal government is forcing religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching and purport to define which religious institutions are ‘religious enough’ to merit protection of their religious liberty,” Bishop LaValley said.

“Because our Church seeks to contribute to the common good by providing needed services to those who may or may not be Catholic, i.e. Catholic Charities, Catholic schools, Catholic nursing homes, this law dictates that the Church would not be exempt from this mandate which violates its moral teaching,” he said. “This is a tragically unjust law.”

Bishop LaValley has encouraged all pastors in the Diocese of Ogdensburg “to join the faithful of our nation in leading the Christian faithful in prayer, observing a Fortnight for Freedom”

“I have provided the pastors with suggestions of how to participate in this prayer

campaign,” he said. They have, also, received material and resource information that will aid parishioners in this special national effort of teaching and witness for religious liberty.”

“This is a time for earnest prayer and firm resolve,” Bishop LaValley said. “I am most grateful for the support of all the faithful throughout our beloved North Country in this vital struggle.

“With God’s grace, we can make a difference,” the bishop said.

“Some, with other agendas, would have us believe that this is really an issue about contraception and women’s reproductive rights,” Bishop LaValley said. “It is not. This is first and foremost a question about religious liberty.

“As a bishop, it is my responsibility to bring the light of the Gospel to our public life, but the work of committed and courageous lay Catholics in the public square is crucial in the witness of our faith,” he said. “We must not succumb to the current tendency to reduce the freedom of religion to the mere freedom of worship.

“There is an urgent need for all the lay faithful, in cooperation with others, to impress upon our elected representatives and others the importance of continued protection of religious liberty in a free society,” Bishop LaValley said.

## National fortnight events

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Masses at well-known basilicas in Baltimore and Washington will open and close the “fortnight for freedom,” a special period of prayer, study, catechesis and public action proclaimed by the U.S. bishops for June 21 to July 4.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore will celebrate the opening Mass at Baltimore’s historic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 7 p.m. June 21 to kick off the Catholic Church’s national education campaign on religious liberty.

The closing liturgy will be at 12:10 p.m. July 4 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington will celebrate the Mass, and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia will be the homilist.

The Eternal Word Television Network will carry the shrine Mass live.

Both national and local efforts will comprise the campaign that has been launched by the bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty.

In addition to the Baltimore and Washington liturgies, national efforts include establishment of a website at [www.fortnight4freedom.org](http://www.fortnight4freedom.org).

The site features resources such as frequently asked questions about religious liberty, including quotes from the Founding Fathers, the Second Vatican Council and Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

Also available is a study guide on “Dignitatis Humanae,” the Second Vatican Council’s document on religious liberty. In addition, the site provides several one-page sheets outlining current threats to religious freedom both in the United States and abroad.

The website also lists a sample of activities already planned in particular dioceses, as well as resources and recommendations for other local efforts, such as special liturgies and prayer services.

Bell ringing is planned for noon on July 4 to remind citizens nationwide of the primary place of religious freedom in the history, law and culture of the United States.

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**JOB OPENING**

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg has an immediate opening for the full-time position of **Secretary for the Department of Education.**

The Secretary will provide administrative support to the Director of Education, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Youth Ministry. The Secretary must possess strong secretarial, bookkeeping, and computer skills. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is required. Strong interpersonal skills and good oral and written communication skills are also required. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to:

Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg  
 P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.  
**Deadline for application is July 6, 2012.**

## FOLLOW ME

# 'Thank you, for your cherished leadership'

## Editor's note

Members of the diocesan staff will bid farewell to Msgr. John R. Murphy this month as he leaves his diocesan administrative work to become a full-time pastor. Msgr. Murphy currently serves as moderator of the curia and episcopal vicar for pastoral services. On June 27, he will become pastor in Norfolk and Raymondville where he has served as administrator for the past year. In September, he will take on added responsibilities as pastor in Norwood. Here, Bishop LaValley expresses his gratitude for Msgr. Murphy's work in the Chancery offices.

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

June 27, 2012 will mark the end of an era during which one of our priests has served the Church of the North Country so very faithfully in the diocesan offices.

After thirty one years of wise counsel and self-less service to five bishops in a variety of diocesan positions, I have accepted Monsignor John Murphy's request that he complete his term as Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services and devote his full time energies to his pastorate.

In so many ways, Monsignor Murphy has been an anchor for our local Church through many transitions. No one has been more supportive of our priests, advising them in their pastoral questions and caring for their personal needs, particularly during these most rocky of times.

Bishops have given him many very difficult tasks and he has fulfilled them with such pastoral charity and unassuming wisdom.

No one has taught me more about the Diocese of Ogdensburg when I first began work in the Chancery back in 1990. He has always been there to answer the many questions I would pose (and still do).



PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN

Msgr. John R. Murphy and Bishop LaValley are shown in front of the Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana Pastoral Center in Ogdensburg where Msgr. Murphy has worked for 31 years. Bishop LaValley called Msgr. Murphy, who will become a full-time pastor June 27, "an anchor for our local Church through many transitions."

Monsignor Murphy is a tireless co-worker whose love for the Church has been evident and so inspiring these many years.

While we will certainly miss his daily presence in Ogdensburg, the local Church continues to be so well served by his fine pas-

toral ministry.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Monsignor.

The diocesan staff, my brother priests, and the entire Diocese of Ogdensburg, join me in saying, "Thank you, Monsignor, for your faithful service and cherished leadership!"

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of  
Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

Ask God's blessings on Msgr. John R. Murphy

for his extraordinary service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
and to Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

We extend our best wishes in his return to full-time parish ministry



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**Msgr. Murphy,**  
Thank you for all your  
guidance and support  
over the years.  
You will truly be missed.  
God's peace in your future  
ventures.

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett and Molly Ryan  
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## OFFICE OF EPISCOPAL DELEGATE FOR RELIGIOUS

*Thank you Monsignor Murphy  
for your service to  
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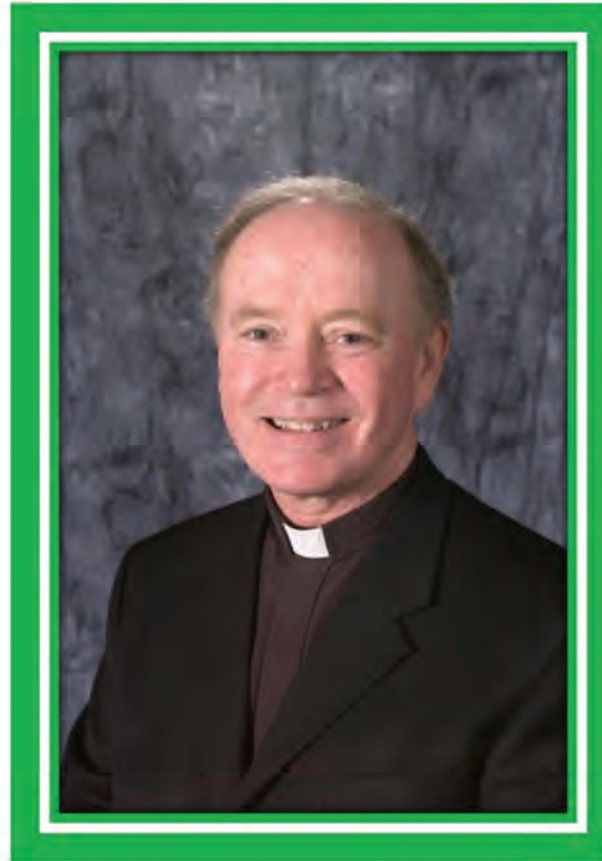
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# Thank You Msgr. Murphy



*for your dedicated and faithful service  
in the Diocesan Offices for 31 years  
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OUR READERS WRITE

**A great issue!**

As a subscriber to the North Country Catholic, the issue of May 30, 2012 certainly was outstanding.

The range of diocesan news about the faithful priests now active in the various parishes in the diocese, and those who have served in the past, could be called a proper tribute to both groups. The photograph of the 2012 Presbyteral Assembly certainly indicates that the Diocese of Ogdensburg is more than fortunate to be possessed with such a great group of priestly servants.

Congratulations on a great issue!  
 GEORGE B. TOWSLEY  
 WATERTOWN

Blessed Sacrament.

Even if one spends time there and isn't aware that God has already answered his request, God's timing is so complete for past present and future that He may have already resolved the request.

If it might not be possible for one to go to Church, private prayer or joining with EWTN in their prayers is good also.

So many trials and tribulations are confronting us. We can always rely on Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for all our solutions.

ROSE MOORE  
 CHAMPLAIN

**Don't trust Planned Parenthood**

Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York (PPNCNY) is now running public announcements in local newspapers and media outlets in the region offering the HPV vaccination known as "Gardasil" throughout the month of June. They are offering the first shot free

of charge. But, the necessary second and third shots will be at your own expense. This "Gardasil" vaccine is a hoax under the guise of protection against cervical cancer. Do not trust Planned Parenthood.

Dr. Diane Harper, a lead developer of Gardasil, states emphatically, "The best way to prevent cervical cancer is with routine Pap screening starting at age 21 years." The American Cancer Society concurs. She also warns that "Gardasil is associated with Guillian-Barre Syndrome that has resulted in deaths."

Dr. Harper cautions that, "the side effects are many." She further states, "Unfortunately, the FDA has given Merck (Pharmaceuticals) a blanket approval to use Gardasil in males and females ages 9-26 without making it clear to parents that the only data for male cancer preventions is in gay men, not in heterosexual men."

With a Master's Degree in Public Health (MPH), Dr. Harper strongly urges parents and anyone suffering from side effects from Gardasil to "push for full disclosure in consent forms so that parents and potential vaccinated persons can weight the benefits and risks of the HPV vaccination from their own perspective."

Be aware that the American Cancer Society's list of seven suggestions makes no recommendation for giving anyone the HPV vaccination. But, it strongly advises that a woman who has been vaccinated against HPV should still follow the normal screening procedures (pap smear, etc.) for her age group.

Check the following websites regarding Gardasil: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org); [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); [www.Free-Press-Release.com](http://www.Free-Press-Release.com) (The Truth About Gardasil).

DONNA MAREK, RDH (RET.)  
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 EM

**Bishop LaValley' Schedule**

**June 21** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg; 7 p.m., Holy Hour for Fortnight for Freedom at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**June 23** – 4:30 p.m., Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroon Lake; 7 p.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Olmstedville.

**June 25** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

**June 26** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**June 27** – 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

**June 28** – 8 a.m., Diocesan CORE Day of Reflection at the Edgewood Resort in Alexandra Bay.

**June 29** – 11 a.m., Mass for the Directed Retreat at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

**June 30** – 10:30 a.m., Mass for the 40th Anniversary of Guggenheim Summer Camp in Saranac Lake; 4 p.m., Mass followed by Bishop's Burse Dinner at St. James Church in Carthage

**July 1** – 8:30 a.m., Mass at Holy Name Church in Tupper Lake; 11 a.m., Mass at St. Alphonsus Church in Tupper Lake.

**July 3** – 4 p.m., Mass at Camp Guggenheim in Saranac Lake.

**Rest in Peace**

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

**June 20** – Rev. James O'Hara, 1949

**June 21** – Rev. Joseph T. Moriority, O.S.A., 1905; Msgr. Joseph F. Luker, 1972

**June 23** – Rev. Edward Cheavlier, O.M.I., 1894; Rev. Donat Morrissette, O.M.I., 1976

**June 24** – Rev. John Simard, 1943; Msgr. Timothy P. Holland, 1948; Rev. Joseph P. Ryan, 1968; Rev. W. Cyril Rapin, 2006

**June 25** – Rev. J. Rodrigue Lauzon, 1944

**June 26** – Rev. Charles F. Turgeon, 1888; Rev. Jean Baptiste Frigon, O.M.I., 1930; Rev. Arthur St. Cyr, O.M.I., 1957

**June 27** – Rev. Auguste A. Brunet, O.M.I., 1866; Rev. Francis X. Charbonneau, 1928

**June 28** – Rev. John J. Regnery, O.S.A., 1954

**June 29** – Rev. Pierre Huet de la Valiniere, 1806; Rev. Adonat L. Dufresne, 1940; Rev. Gilbert J. Faucher, 1981; Deacon Francis E. LeRoux, 1996

**July 1** – Rev. Norbert Callahan, M.S.C., 1909; Rev. William A. O'Connor, 1922; Rev. P. Leon Legault, 1991

**July 2** – Rev. Richard A. Gleason, O.S.A., 1939; Rev. Denis F. Finnegan, 1951; Msgr. John A. Stone, 1964; Msgr. Francis J. Connors, 1977; Rev. George A. Lemieux, 1993

**July 3** – Rev. E. Leonard Murphy, 1954

**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**, Terri-rienne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: [aycsnn@yahoo.com](mailto:aycsnn@yahoo.com); Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

**NO PAPER NEXT WEEK**

The North Country Catholic summer schedule has begun. The next issue of the NCC will be dated July 4

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**Holy Land and Jordan**  
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# Funeral held Monday for Fr. Francis Coryer, 62

PLATTSBURGH – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass of Christian Burial for Father Francis J. Coryer, 62, June 18 at St. John's Church.

Father Coryer died at home June 12.

Father Alan D. Shnob, pastor of St. Augustine's parish, Peru, served as homilist while priests of the diocese concelebrated at the liturgy.

Burial followed in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Father Coryer was born in

Plattsburgh Nov. 7, 1950 son of the late Francis James and Ellen Greeno Coryer. He attended Beekmantown Central School and St. John's Academy, graduating in 1967. He completed an A.A. Degree at Clinton Community College in 1971.

Father Coryer entered Wadhams Hall, and then completed his the-



Name goes here

ological studies at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora in 1975.

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana on May 1, 1982 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Father Coryer was assigned parochial vicar at St. Patrick's, Watertown in 1982, followed by assignments as parochial vicar in

Sacred Heart, Massena, St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake, Holy Name, Au Sable Forks and then administrator at that same parish, then parochial vicar at St. Augustine's, Peru, Notre Dame, Malone, and St. John the Baptist, Keeseville.

In 1994, he was named administrator of St. Henry's in DeKalb Junction and then pastor; following that, pastor of Sacred Heart in Edwards, Church of the Assumption, Redford, St. Patrick's,

Chateaugay.

Father Coryer retired from St. Patrick's in 2009.

He is survived by his sister Deborah White, two nephews Frances Coryer III, Michael Coryer and a cousin Dorrine Provost.

In lieu of flowers, Father Coryer requested that donations be given to Clinton Community College Foundation where he served as president of the Alumni Association.

## OUR READERS WRITE

# On the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life

By Chris LaRose  
Contributing Writer

What is a *Missionary of the Gospel of Life*?

He or she is a disciple of Christ who recognizes that the number one moral priority of our day is bringing an end to the massive child-killing taking place through abortion and restoring the right to life to children in the womb!

Moreover, such a disciple devotes him/herself to either full-time or part-time pro-life activity, in accordance with the spirituality developed by Priests for Life.

This involves making certain commitments to prayer, personal study and pro-life work to the extent that one's duties permit. Very simply, whatever pro-life work you are already doing can now be done in the context of the spiritual commitment to belong to this Association and with the special blessing of the Church which such membership brings.

For us, pro-life work is not merely an assignment or one aspect of ministry. It is, rather, a life's work, a vocation within a vocation.

Pro-life activists are sometimes made to feel like "outsiders." By belonging to this Association, however, the blessing and support of the Church will be felt in a new way and pro-life activists will

be affirmed in what they are doing by their unity with other members of the Association. This new Pro-life Association is a direct response to the call issued by John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae*: "What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. All together, we must build a new culture of life" (EV, # 95).

*Missionaries of the Gospel of Life* (MEV) witness before the Church and the world to the priority of the right to life as the foundation of all other rights and promotes and defends the natural human right to life, in the light of the Gospel, focusing in particular on ending the scourge of abortion. We undertake a process of spiritual and pro-life formation making special promises to defend human life and to collaborate with the Association by following its spirituality and sharing its mission to the extent that their duties allow.

We seek to respond to the call to holiness and live out our vocation concretely by striving:

- To bear public witness, in every sector of society, to the sanctity of each human life and to defend human life against direct attacks by abortion and other evils such as infanticide, destruction of embryos in the name of re-

search and euthanasia;

- To be a prophetic voice within the Church, in order that pastoral programs, preaching, teaching and the allocation of time and resources in every sector of the Church reflect the "urgent priority and attention" that the tragedy of abortion deserves (see *US Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities: A Campaign in Support of Life, Introduction, 2001*);

- To provide ongoing education, motivation and resources for the clergy and all who minister in the Church, helping them to network with each other and equipping them with the necessary tools to preach and teach the pro-life message, to counsel those tempted to abort or who have aborted and organize their people for pro-life activities;

- To minister to the entire pro-life movement by offering spiritual support, guidance, teaching and direction.



In short, we minister to the unborn child and to the pro-life movement.

*Missionaries of the Gospel of Life* (MEV) and *Priests for Life* are the same canonical entity – an Association of the Faithful.

### Lay Missionaries Prayer of Consecration

*Precious Lord, I consecrate myself to you this day so that I may love you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and love my neighbor as myself. I promise to live a chaste, obedient and*

*simple life of faith and to nurture these promises through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, study, community and apostolic witness. I ask all this through Jesus Christ, the Author of Life. Amen!*

For more information, email: [missionary@priestsforlife.org](mailto:missionary@priestsforlife.org)

or visit their website at: <http://www.priestsforlife.org/missionary>

Contact in Diocese of Ogdensburg: Chris LaRose MEV, 221 Mayfield Dr. Potsdam, NY 13676.

1st Prize  
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2nd Prize  
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# IHC announces 2012 senior class leaders

**WATERTOWN**-Academic leaders of the Immaculate Heart Central Class of 2012 are Hannah M. Connolly, Valedictorian, with a cumulative grade point average of 98.627, and Christine M. Wright, Salutatorian, with a 97.894 GPA.

## Valedictorian

Hannah, the daughter of Rebecca and John Connolly, Watertown, has received the Sisters of St. Joseph Departmental Award in Science, the NYS Attorney General's "Triple C" Award and a Presidential Academic Fitness Award.

She was elected to membership in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter of the National Honor Society in grades 11 and 12 and was Secretary of the Student Council during the 2011-2012 school year.

During her school years Hannah has been actively involved in Faith community Service, the Respect Life Initiative, the IHC Ambassadors Club and the Peer Tutor Program.

A three sport athlete, Hannah was a captain of the IHC varsity soccer team, a member of the varsity basketball team and was chosen by her teammates as a captain for the lacrosse team where she earned a Frontier League Scholar Athlete Award and

was selected as an All Star. She participated in the New York Math League and a medical shadowing program.

As a senior, Hannah was a member of the Cavalier Yearbook staff and an IHC Mystery Player. She has been accepted as a biology and pre-med student at Hobart and William Smith Colleges this fall with an HWS Trustee's Scholarship of \$20,000 per year.

## Salutatorian

Christine M. Wright is the daughter of Barbara and Thomas Wright, Watertown.

In addition to earning Salutatorian honors she was selected as the recipient of the Sisters of St. Joseph Departmental Awards for English and Math and the Clarence "Boots" Gaffney Award for Outstanding Female Athlete.

Her numerous other awards include the American Legion School Award, the US Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award, the US Air Force Math and Science Award, the New York State Comptroller's Award and a Presidential Academic Fitness Award. She is also a member of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter of the National Honor Society and was voted President of the Senior Class.

She was selected as a cap-



Hannah Connolly

tain of the IHC varsity girls soccer team, named a Frontier League Scholar Athlete and a Frontier League All Star, a Section III All Star and All North 2nd Team in Girls Soccer. She was chosen as a Captain of the varsity girls basketball team and was selected as a Frontier League All Star and All North 2nd Team. She was also named as a Frontier League All Star for lacrosse.

Christine was a member of the IHC Mystery Players, worked on the Cavalier Yearbook and participated in the Peer Tutoring Program.

She plans to begin her college career this fall at Clarkson University where she will major in engineering.



Christine Wright

## Bishop's Award

Michael J. Hough, son of Lourdes and Joseph Hough, Watertown, NY, was named as the recipient of the Diocesan Bishop's Award for 2012.

This prestigious award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated high leadership and potential in spiritual development, character evaluation, participation in school sponsored activities and scholastic effort.

Michael was also recognized with the Sisters of St. Joseph Departmental Award for Religion and the SSJ Award for Dramatic Arts.

Throughout his junior-senior high school career Michael has earned leading roles in music and other stage productions. In grades



Michael Hough

11 and 12 he has also been responsible for helping to plan and perform music for many school liturgies and other special events.

His leadership roles have included class offices and, this year, Treasurer of the IHC Student council and Vice President of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapter of the National Honor Society. Michael was a member of IHC's Quiz Team and a Peer Tutor.

He was selected as an IHC Mystery Player, was an active participant in the Faith Community Service Program, the IHC Respect life Initiative and the New York Math League.

Michael will enter Clarkson University in September to study chemical engineering.

## *Bishop: your family of faith will always be with you*

Bishop LaValley's graduation address at Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh June 16

Seton Class of 2012...let's talk turkey, I mean, goose! There is much, much we can learn from those honking feathered flyers. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift draft for the bird following it. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds a greater flying range than if one bird flew alone.

Such behavior of these birds teaches us that people who share a common direc-

tion and sense of community can get where they're going quicker and more easily when they're traveling on the strength of one another rather than going solo.

Our faith provides us with a host of rich images that help us embrace that reality: We are a pilgrim people, all seeking to follow Jesus. That's the direction in which we are headed--the journey of life on this earth, leading to our eternal home.

As members of a family of faith, we have the community of sisters and brothers, who are fellow companions on this common journey. We need never walk alone.

Wherever life takes you—after this, your graduation day, whether you remain here in the Champlain Valley, attend college out of this area, join the military, begin a family in other parts of our country, wherever you find yourself in the years ahead, know that the family of faith, the Church into which you have been baptized, is always there for you.

Be active members of the parish where you live. Travel the journey of life and depend on the strength of others who share the common faith vision. And... let others rely on you for

support and assistance. After all, we are all, hopefully, headed in the same direction.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

The lesson to us here is that if we have as much sense as geese, we will stay in formation, be willing to accept help when we need it, and give help when it's needed.

Jesus says, "Follow me."

But sometimes, it seems easier to stray. We must never forget to celebrate the sacrament of Confession at those times in which we fall out of formation and try to go through life alone, forgetting Jesus as our life's Companion.

Refusing the love and support of family and fellow believers means we will encounter all sorts of resistance.

Another lesson of life that this behavior of the geese reveals to us is the need to be forgiving.

People close to us will take detours in life.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





Mallory Favreau



Stephanie Kustos



Elijah Beaudin

## Valedictorian and two co-salutatorians are named at Seton Catholic

PLATTSBURGH - Seton Catholic Central High School has announced the academic leaders of the graduating Class of 2012.

The commencement exercises were held Saturday featuring Bishop Terry R. LaValley as the graduation speaker.

His address is printed, beginning on page 8.

### Valedictorian

The Valedictorian for the Class of 2012 is Ms. Mallory Anne Favreau. Ms. Favreau, daughter of Mr. William and Mrs. Connie Favreau, is a resident of Plattsburgh.

Mallory consistently performed at the highest level in all of her endeavors.

She has been involved in National Honor Society, Key Club International, Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America as acting President, and has received Highest Honors for consecutive quarters throughout high school.

Additionally, she has participated in Model United Nations, numerous Youth Leadership conferences, and the Junior Volunteer Program at CVPH Medical Center.

Ms. Favreau balances

work and volunteerism with varsity tennis, soccer, and indoor track.

Ms. Favreau has received the Heights Scholarship at LeMoyne College in Syracuse and will study History Education with a minor in Business in the fall of 2012.

### Co-Salutatorians

The Co-Salutatorians for the Class of 2012 are Ms. Stephanie Andrea Kustos and Mr. Elijah Miller Beaudin.

Ms. Kustos, daughter of Mr. Nicholas and Mrs. Andrea Kustos, is a resident of Plattsburgh.

Stephanie consistently performed at a high level in all of her endeavors.

She has been involved in National Honor Society, Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, and was a devoted Faith Ambassador in Seton Catholic Central's Campus Ministry program.

Stephanie has competed in varsity tennis and indoor track.

Stephanie was awarded the Augsburg North Country Scholarship at St. Lawrence University and plans to attend St. Lawrence University in Canton, studying Bio-

chemistry.

Mr. Beaudin, son of Mr. Peter and Mrs. Laurie Beaudin, is a resident of Plattsburgh.

Eli has performed at a very high level in all endeavors.

He is the current President of National Honor Society, was a member of Student Council, and an active participant in Model United Nations.

Eli has competed in varsity football, tennis, and basketball.

Mr. Beaudin was awarded the Presidential Scholarship for Siena College in Loudonville, where he will be attending and studying Pre-Law as an honors student within the 4+3 Law Program with SUNY Albany.

### Other academic leaders

In addition, the following students are at the top of Seton Catholic's Academic Class of 2012:

Mallory Anne Favreau, Stephanie Andrea Kustos, Elijah Miller Beaudin, Eva McComb Zalis, Carson Richard Hynes, James Patrick Downs, Michael Robert Richter, Barrett T Waling, LingLong Yan, and Wei Quan Liu.

## Bishop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Mistakes will be made. Feelings will be hurt. Life's journey is too brief to harbor grudges or let hurts fester. When you hurt others, quickly seek their forgiveness and be generous in your forgiving others who hurt you.

When the lead goose gets tired, it rotates back into the formation, and another goose flies in the point position. This behavior tells us that geese instinctively share the task of leadership and don't resent the leader.

In your pilgrimage of life, you will be called upon to become leaders. Never let that position prevent you from appreciating the fact that we must always be team players.

We are all members of the same body, all of equal value and dignity.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. Our lesson: We need to make sure our honking from behind is encouraging and not something else.

Sometimes it seems a whole lot easier to sit back and criticize, to always be negative. It's so much more productive and life-giving to encourage and build up rather than to tear down.

When a goose gets sick or is wounded, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to earth to help and protect it. They stay with their disabled companion until it's able to fly again or dies. They then launch out searching for another formation or try to catch up with their flock.

Our lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we, too, will stand by one another in difficult times and help the one who has dropped out to regain his or her place in the formation.

The Seton Catholic family experienced difficult times and has suffered wounds this school year. Tragedy and death have touched each of you. Students, faculty and staff members

have all bravely supported one another as a family of faith when you were hurting. In the midst of the agonizing pain, you have been wounded healers giving remarkable witness of faith, love and support for one another. Your Church family is so very proud of you!

**Buckle your seat belts  
and get ready... God has  
great things in store  
for each of you**

We continue to keep your deceased fellow students, Allen and Dat, and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Seton Class of 2012 - you have been provided an environment that has prepared you well for what tomorrow's exciting journey has in store for each of you. While we are in school, we get our lessons and then receive the tests.

When we leave school and get into the world, we get the test first and then learn the lesson later.

May your friends always be at your side to support and challenge you.

May your life travels never find you traveling alone. Seek the strength of fellow companions. When you fail, and we all do, allow others the privilege of helping you back into faith's flight pattern with renewed energy and hope.

Dear graduates, in a world that too often is cynical and suspicious, know God's love and care for you. Be not afraid to follow Jesus.

Buckle your seat belts and get ready... God has great things in store for each of you. Yes, there's sure to be turbulence in the years ahead, but know that you have fellow companions on this journey of life and faith.

Congratulations and God's blessings to all our graduates. Teachers, staff, parents, and pastors... thank you for a ministry well done!

# Bishops discuss religious liberty, economy

ATLANTA (CNS)—During the public sessions of their spring meeting in Atlanta, the U.S. bishops received a 10-year progress report on their abuse charter, voted to draft a message on work and the economy, and heard reports about religious liberty issues in the United States and abroad.

They also listened as an Iraqi bishop made an impassioned plea on behalf of Iraq's dwindling Christian population and called on the U.S. prelates to press the Obama administration to take steps to protect religious rights in the Middle Eastern country.

The meeting was June 13-15, with public sessions the first day and a half; the rest

of the time was scheduled for executive session and not open to media coverage.

On the opening day, the bishops voted 171-26 to move ahead with a draft of a message on work and the economy as a way to raise the profile of growing poverty and the struggles that unemployed people are experiencing. It is expected to be ready in time for a final vote at the bishops' fall meeting in November.

Titled "Catholic Reflections on Work, Poverty and a Broken Economy," the message would advance the bishops' priority of human life and dignity to demonstrate the new evangelization in action, explained Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif.,

chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development.

## At annual meeting

It would be a follow-up to a Sept. 15, 2011, letter by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, in which he urged bishops and priests across the country to preach about "the terrible toll the current economic turmoil is taking on families and communities."

Al J. Notzon III, chairman of the lay-led National Review Board, presented a report marking the 10th anniversary of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The charter was part of the U.S. bishops' response to the clergy abuse scandal that was a major concern when they met in Dallas in 2002.

While the Catholic Church has taken major steps in addressing allegations of clergy sexual abuse, it must continue to be vigilant in assur-

ing that victims and their families will receive the attention and care they deserve, Notzon told the bishops.

Meeting that transparency remains a crucial component of building and maintaining credibility among the Catholic faithful as well as the general public, he said.

Despite the successes, Notzon said the church's credibility continues to suffer because many Catholics and the broader community not only believe clergy sexual abuse remains at a high level but also think that local bishops continue to cover up the problem by not reporting allegations of abuse to local authorities.

"This suggests a trust problem and must be met with scrupulous adherence to the charter," he said.

In a presentation on religious liberty issues, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Freedom, acknowledged the U.S. bishops'

"fortnight for freedom" campaign has come under heavy criticism in the secular media, in the blogosphere and by some Catholics as being a partisan political effort.

But the two-week period is meant to be free of politics and will emphasize church teaching on religious freedom, he said.

"Already we realize that defending religious freedom is not a walk in the park," he said. "We've seen some reaction to our work that is sometimes hostile, sometimes unfair and inaccurate and sometimes derisive."

The upcoming fortnight, which takes place June 21-July 4, will be a period of prayer, education and action aimed at explaining how a federal health care contraceptive mandate violates religious principles. The mandate requires most religious employers to provide free health insurance coverage for contraceptives, abortion-inducing drugs and sterilizations.

At the end of the discussion on religious freedom in the United States, the bishops affirmed by a unanimous voice vote a recent statement of the USCCB Administrative Committee regarding the HHS mandate titled "United for Religious Freedom."

## TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE

Trinity Catholic School currently has an opening for an elementary level teaching position. Applicants should be Catholic and possess a NYS State teaching certificate. Send letter of interest and resume by July 6 to Joan Rufa, 188 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662.



Calling all Pre-Cana Presenters

And those wishing to become involved in Pre-Cana:

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Presented by John and Kathleen Colligan

Saturday, July 21, 2012

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To register contact Dayna Leader Pre-Cana Coordinator

dleader@dioogdensburg.org 315-287-2874

## St. Mary's Church, Clayton 10th Annual Summer Gala & Raffle

To benefit St. Mary's Church

**Only 370 Tickets to be sold!**

(One need not be present to win)

**Ticket Price:** \$100.00 U.S. (Includes dinner for two, two drinks and chances to win - Sorry no take outs)

**1st Prize \$10,000.00**

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\*\*Prize amounts depends on 370 tickets sold\*\*

All winning tickets will be returned to drum and be eligible for all 11 prizes.

**Where:** The Town of Clayton Recreation Park Arena

**When:** Tuesday, August 7 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

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521 James Street, Clayton, NY 13624  
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### Prayer to Blessed Virgin

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful wine splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the sea, help me and show me, herein you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this prayer in your hands (3X).

EM

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Year of Faith activities aimed at bringing Catholics closer to Jesus

ATLANTA (CNS) -- The Year of Faith set to begin in October will give Catholics the chance to experience a "conversion" by turning back to Jesus and entering into a deeper relationship with him, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis said June 13. Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., told the spring meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that the 2012-13 observance stems from Pope Benedict XVI's call for a new evangelization and will incorporate television, radio, social media and numerous online resources to better connect -- or reconnect -- Catholics with their faith. Special emphasis will be placed on explaining church teaching through liturgy and prayer, catechetical aids, parish programs, homily guides and online applications and websites. Already weekly posts on Facebook promote the lives of saints and those declared blessed and venerable, while quizzes on the Catechism of the Catholic Church help connect online users with tenets of the faith, Bishop Ricken said. The Year of Faith opens Oct. 11, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the catechism. It runs through Nov. 24, 2013, the feast of Christ the King. Pope Benedict announced the Year of Faith in "Porta Fidei" ("The Door of Faith"), an apostolic letter released Oct. 17, 2011.

## Church leaders tell eucharistic pilgrims Ireland is on path to renewal

DUBLIN (CNS) -- The church in Ireland is on the path to renewal, church leaders told pilgrims at the opening Mass of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress June 10. Welcoming pilgrims from more than 120 countries at an open-air Mass, Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin said, "The church in Ireland rejoices today in the presence of pilgrims from many parts of the world who witness to the universality of our Catholic faith and who show their faith-filled fellowship and solidarity with the Church in Ireland." Ominous-looking rain clouds that had threatened proceedings receded as pilgrims began to arrive for the Mass. Delegates from the four provinces of Ireland carried their county flags and symbols of Ireland's Christian heritage which, pilgrims were reminded, goes back to St. Patrick and the fifth century. The congregation clapped and cheered as a young man spoke of Ireland's faithfulness to the Mass during centuries of persecution in which many priests and Catholics were martyred. International visitors took an opportunity to toll the congress bell and "ring for renewal." The bell has been crisscrossing the country over the past two years and an estimated 250,000 people have rung it as a concrete symbol of hopes for renewal. In his homily, the papal legate, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, head of the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops, prayed the congress would "bring a special blessing to Ireland at this turbulent time."

# LCWR reform is not criticism of religious orders, archbishop says

By Francis X. Rocca  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - A Vatican-ordered reform of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious is not directed at women's religious orders or at any individual sisters, nor is it a statement on the general quality of religious life today, said the American archbishop overseeing the controversial measure.

"The impression is given that the Holy Father or anybody involved is saying something negative about religious women in the United States, which is not the case," said Archbishop J. Peter Sartain of Seattle. "This particular task is not about making comments on any particular religious order or religious women in general."

The archbishop spoke to Catholic News Service June 14 in Rome, two days after meeting with U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the LCWR's top two officials, Franciscan Sister Pat Farrell, president, and St. Joseph Sister Janet Mock, executive director. None of the parties has revealed details of what they discussed.

In April, the doctrinal congregation appointed Archbishop Sartain to provide "review, guidance and approval, where necessary, of the work" of the LCWR, a Maryland-based umbrella group that claims about 1,500 leaders of U.S. women's communities as members, representing about 80 percent of the country's 57,000 women religious.

The appointment came the same day the congregation released an eight-page "doctrinal assessment" of the LCWR, citing "serious doctrinal problems which affect

many in consecrated life," and announced a reform of the group to ensure its fidelity to Catholic teaching in areas including abortion, euthanasia, women's ordination and homosexuality.

On June 1, the LCWR's national board criticized the Vatican's action as "based on unsubstantiated accusations and the result of a flawed process that lacked transparency," saying it had "caused scandal and pain throughout the church community and created greater polarization." The reform has also been the target of Internet-based protests and of generally unfavorable commentary in the press.

Archbishop Sartain told CNS that he regretted "distractions from the outside that include misinterpretations," and that he was especially "saddened" by the perception "that this particular doctrinal assessment is about American religious life in general or about particular religious orders or about particular sisters."

"The task that's been given to me and my brother bishops and others who will eventually help us is specifically about the Leadership Conference of Women Reli-

gious, that organization precisely," he said, "because it has great importance for the relationships among the member religious communities and between those specific religious communities, the Holy See and the bishops' conference of the United States."

The archbishop dismissed a question as to whether the reform of the LCWR might be part of the larger process of clarifying the church's understanding of religious life in the light of modernizing reforms that followed the Second Vatican Council.

"This is specifically about the LCWR," he said.

Archbishop Sartain defended the Vatican's emphasis on the conference's approach to doctrine, saying that a proper appreciation of church teaching is vital even for communities focused on practical service.

"For the Christian life, we're always trying to delve more deeply into the truth who is Christ, into the mystery of Christ," he said. "Sound doctrine ... helps us to understand that truth and then to delve into it more deeply in prayer, and to live it more fully in our life every day."

## JOB OPENING

### Director of Advancement

St Mary's School in Ticonderoga NY is seeking to hire a person for the position of Director of Development/Marketing. While we are eager to develop relationships with local business and philanthropists in the greater Northern NY area, we are also desirous to connect to prospective donors outside of our area. This position will report to the Pastor while working closely with the Principal. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: donor cultivation, major gifts, planned giving, annual appeals, parish stewardship and grant writing. In addition to working closely, with the Principal of the school, the Pastor of the Parish, along with respective councils this individual will also provide collaborative leadership to our annual fundraisers as well as the Annual Alumni Appeal.

**For more information about the requirements for this job**

**please go to [www.sms.org](http://www.sms.org) or**

**[www.stmarysschoolticonderoga.org](http://www.stmarysschoolticonderoga.org)**

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Of St. John the Baptist

Today is one those rare times that the feast of a saint replaces the usual Sunday readings (the other three are St. Joseph, Ss. Peter and Paul, and All Saints).

June 24th is also called Midsummer's Day, the longest day of the year. From here until Christmas, the Birth of Jesus, the days start to get shorter.

Jesus told his followers that his cousin, John, was the greatest man born of woman.

This feast clearly shows his "claim to fame", for John spent his whole life preparing the people of Israel for the mission of Jesus. The world would never be the same again.

The first reading from Isaiah is one of four Suffering Servant songs that foretell the coming of the Messiah.

Besides prophesying the birth of Jesus, this reading

can also be applied to John the Baptist. The names of both John and Jesus were determined before their

birth. Both were in their mother's wombs when John "leaped for joy" at the presence of Jesus.

John's preaching of repentance in the desert prepared the way for the "light of the nations" to bring salvation to all the world.

As Jesus grew in favor before the

people, John could see that his work was coming to a close. In humility, he helped his own followers attach themselves to Jesus by declaring, "Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet."

In our second reading, St. Luke quotes St. Paul as using this statement of John



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

## JUNE 24

The Feast of the Nativity  
of St. John the Baptist

## READINGS

Isaiah 49:1-6

Acts 3:22-26

Luke 1:57-66,80

in his own preaching of the Good News.

In the Gospel of Luke today, we learn of God's special providence in the circumstances of John's birth, and how God used John's father, Zechariah, as his special prophet.

In the beautiful hymn, the Benedictus (skipped over in today's selection), Zechariah connects his son's future mission with that of Moses, who told of God's promises to bring salvation to all peoples.

There are no greater birthdays in all of history to compare with those of John in today's feast, and the birth of Jesus which we celebrate six months from now.

Two cousins, bound together in the great rescue mission of redemption!

As confirmed followers of Jesus, we, too, are commissioned by Jesus to proclaim the Good News.

In order that society may pay better attention to what we say and do, it is very necessary for us to seen as people of prayer, reflection, and faith, courageous in speaking about and living our faith.

The interests of Jesus Christ must come before our own.

**Novena to St. Theresa**

St. Theresa, the little flower, please pick me a rose from your heavenly garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore. And tell him I will love him each day more and more.

Say the above prayer plus 5 Our Father's, 5 Hail Mary's and 5 Glory Be's.

EM

**Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Canada****Sunday Aug. 19 to Thursday Aug. 23, 2012**

Fr. Alan Shnob is leading a pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre, Cap-de-la-Madeleine and St. Joseph's of Montreal.

◆ Cost is \$500.00 for a single, \$450.00 per person for a double and \$430.00 per person for a triple. Cost is in US dollars. Price includes transportation, 4 nights lodging, admission to all events and all meals except for 3 lunches.

◆ We have 2 pick-up sites one in Massena and one in Peru.

**For further information contact:**

Paul Bronchetti at 315-764-0239 or  
Roberta Evans at 518-643-6759 pilgrimage co-coordinators.

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Exploring the Mysteries of the Human Person, God, and Love



Why did God create us?

What is His plan for Sex and Marriage?

How can we share the beauty and truth of the Theology of the Body within our parishes?

What programs are available and how are they used?

**Join us for a  
Roundtable discussion**

Friday, July 20, 2012  
Guggenheim Lodge  
Saranac Lake, NY

11:00 am-5:30 pm concludes with  
Mass celebrated by Bishop LaValley at  
4:30

Lunch provided

The future starts today,  
not tomorrow.

Pope John Paul II

**To Register Contact:**

Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli  
518-483-0459  
apietropaoli@diogdensburg.org

## AT THE MOVIES

## MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED

By Kurt Jensen  
Catholic News Service

The Holy Father plays straight man to an amorous lemur in "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" (DreamWorks).

It's one of dozens of "Bet you didn't see that one coming!" moments, and all in good fun in this fast-moving, animated 3-D adventure, the third installment in the "Madagascar" franchise.

Explaining cartoon silliness not intended to give offense is the most tedious exercise possible, but since this one involves the Holy See, here goes:

King Julien, the lemur from the first two films (voiced by Sacha Baron Cohen), is besotted with Sonja, a performing circus bear. In a swift montage that goes from Rome to Vatican City, they have a private audience with the pope (It's cartoon logic, remember) and while kissing the papal ring (all of the pope that's seen), King Julien sucks it off the papal finger so he can buy his new love a fancy motorbike to replace her tricycle. Police descend

on the motorcycle dealer to retrieve the ring, so the theft is quickly punished -- although not King Julien.

So it's more weird than funny, but so is the notion that a zebra can fly, and that happens, too. Laws of physics don't apply here.

The plot picks up where the second film ended, with the four principal characters: Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Melman the giraffe and Gloria the hippo (voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer and Jada Pinkett Smith, respectively) stranded in Madagascar by the mischievous penguins and chimpanzees, and trying to return to New York City and their home in the Central Park Zoo.

They swim (how else?) to Monaco to catch up with the penguins, chimps and their cache of jewels at a casino, and while escaping from French animal-control officer Chantel DuBois (voice of Frances McDormand), who only wants Alex's head as a trophy, they stumble onto a decrepit European circus, which they then buy with the jewels so they can turn the circus around so it will tour in America.

At this point, the film takes on its moral footing, since the gang has to restore confidence to the animal performers, including Vitaly, a Russian tiger (voice of Bryan Cranston) who has lost his courage to dive through an ever-smaller set of rings. Co-directors Eric Darnell, Tom McGrath and Conrad Vernon, with a script co-written by Darnell and Noah Baumbach, fill their story with a rich vein of European circus lore, combined with an uplifting message about believing in one's special abilities.

Young children will delight in the silly faces and fast-moving action, while the adults who take them will groan at dated references to the Spice Girls and "Driving Miss Daisy." Astute parents of perceptive older



CNS PHOTO/DREAMWORKS

Vitaly the tiger, voiced by Bryan Cranston, and Alex the lion, voiced by Ben Stiller, are seen in the animated movie "Madagascar 3."

children may have to explain that Edith Piaf's "Non, je ne regrette rien" ("No, I Have No Regrets") as sung by DuBois is not, in fact, the French national anthem, although it is hilariously presented that way.

The film contains intense

action sequences. The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



**"BENEATH THE DETACHED EXTERIOR, MEN OFTEN ARE SUFFERING FROM THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ABORTION, AND NEED TO GRIEVE THE LOSS OF THEIR CHILDREN." -KEVIN BURKE**

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## 38th Annual ST. JAMES FAIR

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June 21, 22 & 23

Thursday and Friday 6:00 -10:00 pm

Saturday Noon - 10:00 pm

### Games of Chance

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\*Big Six Wheel \*Pull Tabs

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\*\*\*\$1 per Ticket • 6 for \$5 • 12 for \$10 • 18 for \$15\*\*\*  
\$\$\$ Drawing Saturday June 23rd \$\$\$

### Ontario Amusement Rides



Saturday - Wristband Day ~ Noon - 4:00

### FOOD

Italian ~ Lebanese ~ American

•Ice Cream •Clams •Salt Potatoes •Fried Bread Dough  
Special Priced Meals for Children Saturday Noon - 4 pm

## CLINTON

## MISSION OF HOPE CONCERT

**Peru** - Towne Meeting, a five member folk and country band will perform their third benefit concert for the North Country Mission of Hope.

**Date:** June 30

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

**Place:** St. Augustine's Church.

**Features:** Proceeds from donations for the concert will be used to support the Mission's efforts to build safe, environmentally friendly, fuel efficient stoves for families in Nicaragua. During the past two years, donations from the band's concerts have provided over 95 stoves for families in the impoverished village of Chiquilistagua, Nicaragua.

**The band:** The band, Towne Meeting, formed in 2006 is known for great vocal harmonies. Their musical roots are in folk but their concerts include many other genres. Songs from their three CD's will be sung including familiar favorites as well as original works highlighting peace and justice themes, the environment, and the beauty of the North Country. More information about the band can be found on their website at [www.townemeeting.com](http://www.townemeeting.com).

## OLD HOME DAYS

**Altona** - Old Home Days Celebration to be held.

**Date:** June 24

**Place:** Holy Angels Church Grounds

**Schedule:** 11 a.m. Parade; Noon to 4 p.m. Chicken Bar BQ; Beginning at Noon - Concessions, 8 Bounce Houses (buy a bracelet and bounce all day), Games and Dunkin Booth. At 6 p.m. Altona's Got Talent; Fireworks will be at dusk sponsored by Altona Fire Department.

**Entertainment:** Bag Pipers, Strawhatters, The Castaways, Jay Walken Band.

## JEFFERSON

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

**Date:** June 28

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

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

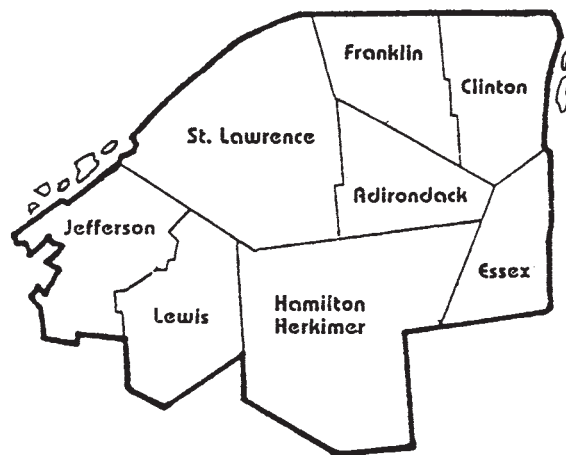
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart, meatballs are \$.75 each

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

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** - Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.

**Date:** June 25



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.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

**Speaker:** Sr. Norma Bryant, SSJ, MS in College/Agency Counseling, will lead participants through the use of ritual, as a means of healing one's grief.

## MOUNT CARMEL FEAST

**Watertown** - St. Anthony's Church will celebrate its 96th Annual Mt. Carmel Feast in honor of our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

**Date:** June 29, 30 & July 1

**Features:** A spaghetti supper will be held in the church basement on June 28 at 4:30 p.m. \$8, Adults and \$4.50 for Children. Take-outs available. On the Grounds traditional Italian foods will be served. Entertainment each night. Friday - Les Gates; Saturday - Nick Mulpagano; Sunday - Fred and the Eds. Regular BINGO in the School Gym on Friday at 7 p.m. Rides by Ontario Amusements. Religious Procession at 5 p.m. Sunday followed by Benediction. Fireworks Sunday night at 10 p.m. \$1700 cash raffle after fireworks. Grounds open Friday at 5:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. Days end at 10

**Contact:** St. Anthony's parish, 782-1190.

## 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

## JULY DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

**Houseville** - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of July will be held.

**Date:** July 1

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Hedwig's

**Features:** The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Homily, The Divine Mercy Chaplet (sung), and Benediction.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## WINE TASTING DINNER

**Canton** - St. Mary's School will hold its 2nd Wine Tasting Dinner.

**Date:** June 21

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** French's 1884 House, Potsdam

**Cost:** \$100 a plate with half the proceeds going to St. Mary's School.

**Features:** The dinner will have Italian Theme and consisting of: Soup, Sorbet, Fish Course, Meat Course and Dessert with 3 different wines and a digestive being served with the meal. Seating is limited to 75. Donation receipts will be given for tax purposes.

**Reservations:** Call Brian or Jenny Walker at 268-1844 or stop at restaurant.

## FEAST DAY OF SS PETER &amp; PAUL

**South Colton** - Please join us for the Feast Day of SS Peter & Paul.

**Date:** June 29

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. Paul's Oratory

**Features:** Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Colton and St. Mary Parish in Potsdam, will celebrated Mass and lead a procession to the Sacred Heart Shrine. Ice cream social follows.

## SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

**Canton** - The Surviving Spouse Friendship and Support Group meets the first Thursday of the month.

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Best Western University Inn

**Contact:** Lita Maroney at 379-1650 for more information and for restaurant planning purposes.

## 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.

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## FAMILY ENRICHMENT DAYS

**Saranac Lake** - The offices of Family Life, Natural Family Planning and Pre-Cana are offering two days of enrichment at Guggenheim Lodge

**Friday July 20,** "Theology of the Body Roundtable" - If you would like to continue the discussion started last fall with Christopher West, and explore ways to implement Theology of the Body in our parish programs, this day is for you. Join us for Speakers, Group Forum, Fellowship and Mass with Bishop LaValley.

**Contact:** For information/registration: Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, Diocesan NFP Directors. Email: [apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org). Phone 518-483-0459.

**Saturday, July 21** "Invitation to a Passionate Marriage" is being presented by authors John and Kathleen Colligan as a marriage enrichment and training for those in pre-cana ministry, as well as those who are considering becoming involved in marriage preparation. Join us as we explore and discover this comprehensive, theology of the body based marriage preparation program.

**Contact:** To register contact Dayna Leader [dleader@dioogdensburg.org](mailto:dleader@dioogdensburg.org) 315-287-2874

## FOR ALL CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

**Lyon Mountain** - The annual fall Diocese of Ogdensburg Catholic Daughters of the

Americas Past Regents Chapter Memorial Mass for Deceased Members and luncheon will be held and hosted by CDA Court Our Lady of Snows #1548.

**Date:** Aug. 11

**Cost:** \$15 per person for chicken dinner

**Features:** Mass will be held at St. Bernard's Church and the luncheon will follow at the American Legion. This event is for all CDA Members and Guests, not for past regents only and will be an opportunity to become acquainted with our Seminarians and the Catholic Daughters Organization. It will be an opportunity to learn about our Diocese's St. Joseph's Vocation Society. The chapter will donate half the proceeds of this year's raffle to the St. Joseph's Vocation Society. Following the luncheon/program, a short business meeting will be held for Past Regent members only.

**Reservations:** Contact Ms. Brenda Owen by June 25, 2012 at 518-735-4625, PO Box 144, Lyon Mountain, NY 12952

## NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

## HOLY SHROUD EXHIBIT

**Isla La Motte, VT** - St. Anne's Shrine to host the Holy Shroud Exhibit.

**Date:** June 26

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

**Features:** From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., a dramatic exhibition of three full size photographs of the actual Holy Shroud with accompanying slides and clips from BBC, Discovery, History and EWTN Channels. The presenter, Don Messier, is a sindonologist and has been a student of the Holy Shroud for over 50 years.

**Contact:** Call 802-928-3362

## PRO-LIFE TEEN CAMP

**Utica** - New York State Right to Life in partnership with the Good News Foundation of Central New York and the New York State Ancient Order of Hibernians presents Camp Esther, their fourth pro-life teen leadership weekend.

**Date:** Aug. 17-19

**Place:** Good News Center, Utica NY

**Cost:** Tuition, rooms, meals, speakers, and a t-shirt for weekend is only \$100 (\$150 after June 30).

**Features:** Camp Esther is an intensive weekend-long pro-life "boot camp" that trains students to be effective advocates for Life. With presentations on issues from abortion to euthanasia to stem cell research, games, and opportunities to practice presenting the pro-life message

**Contact:** For more information or to register, contact Natalie at 518-434-1293 or [natalief@nysrighttolife.org](mailto:natalief@nysrighttolife.org).



**The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.**

**The Society for the Propagation of the Faith**  
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
 mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

# A fond farewell to a friend of the Missions

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

The end of this month brings changes to the Diocesan offices. We say goodbye to Msgr. John R. Murphy as the Moderator of the Curia and Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Services. We wish him well as he transitions to a focus primarily on his duties at the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk and St. Raymond's in Raymondville

Msgr. Murphy has always been a source of knowledge, guidance and a great resource for me in his supervisory role when I was working with Formation For Ministry and the Office of Evangelization.

He always listened to plans. He was affirmative in his responses to the suggestions but always added constructive insights which generated fruitful execution of plans.

In recent years, Msgr. Murphy has been a fundamental part of the Mission Office's transition to an incorporated entity for the "Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc."

His business acumen and spiritual guidance have assisted Molly Ryan and me in countless matters. We thank Msgr. Murphy for his generosity of time.

We will miss him, his attention to detail and most of all seeing him in our office.

God bless and continue to hold Msgr. Murphy in the palm of His hand is our prayer.

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)

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**OBITUARIES**

**Cape Vincent** – Alton W. Mason, 98; Funeral Services June 14, 2012 at St. Vincent of Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent of Paul Cemetery.

**Colton** – Ellen A. (Wright) Norman, 82; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at Buck Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Copenhagen** – Patrick McNamara, 55; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Lowville** – John Patrick McGrath, 42; Funeral June 13, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Madrid** – Joseph Norman Rabideau, 81; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at St. John the Baptists Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

**Malone** – Dorothy M. (Revette) Tatro, 88; Funeral Services June 18, 2012 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

**Massena** – Sally M. (Borey) Jacob, 55; Funeral Services June 15, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

**Massena** – Ann M. McGinley, 79; Funeral Services June 13, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Ruth I. (Weber) O'Shaughnessy, 85; Funeral Services June 14, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. James Cemetery, Gouverneur.

**Massena** – Judith L. (Long) Post, 75; Funeral Services June 13, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Roger W. Vice, 70; Funeral Services June 12, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

**Mineville** – Peter Michael Savage, 63; Funeral Services June 8, 2012 at All Sainted

Church; burial in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Morrisonville** – Arthur "Art" H. Maggy, 71; Funeral Services June 12, 2012 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in Assumption of Mary Cemetery, Redford.

**Norwood** – Thomas J. Dickinson, 71; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at Buck Funeral Home.

**Ogdensburg** – Frances E. (Osgood) Downey, 82; Funeral Services June 13, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** – Elizabeth J. "Betty" (Favro) Wilson, 85; Funeral Services June 11, 2012 at Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rouses Point.

**Port Henry** – Gisele Hache Scalzo, 86; Funeral Services June 12, 2012 at Harland Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Potsdam** – Patricia Ann "Patti" Mucenski, 34; Funeral Services June 11, 2012 at St. Mary's Church.

**Redford** – Barbara J. (Collins) Beecher,

75; Funeral Services June 16, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Redford** – Lita A. (Gilmet) Vann, 84; Funeral Services June 15, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Rosiere** – Elizabeth "Betty" A. (Randall) Rehm, 81; Funeral Services June 13, 2012 at St. Vincent De Paul Church; burial in St. Vincent De Paul Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Natalie B. Oddy, 21; Funeral Services June 14, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Watertown** – Dianna "Dingie" (Dona) Cronk, 66; Funeral Services June 11, 2012 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Honeyville Cemetery, Adams.

**Watertown** – Frances S. (Marra) Toper, 92; Funeral Services June 11, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Vickie L. Young, 58; Funeral Services June 14, 2012 at Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

## THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?  
 — PRAYER SUGGESTION —

Eternal Father, we lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Mass  
 Rosary  
 Fasting  
 Day Offering  
 Eucharistic Adoration  
 Offering of Sufferings  
 Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him



Precious Blood

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY      **JULY 2012**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BISHOP 1 TERRY R. LAVALLEY	REV. JOHN M. DEMO 2	REV. J. EVERETT DENESHA 3	MSGR. LAWRENCE M. DENO 4	REV. WILFRED L. DE ROCHE 5	REV. JOHN L. DOWNS 6	MSGR. DENNIS J. DUPREY 7
OUR PASTOR 8	REV. GUY F. EDWARDS 9	REV. JOSEPH W. ELLIOTT 10	REV. ALFRED H. FISH 11	REV. FRANCIS J. FLYNN 12	REV. SCOTT D. FOBARE 13	REV. VINCENT FREEH, MSC 14
POPE BENEDICT 15	REV. J. MICHAEL GAFFNEY 16	REV. GARRY B. GIROUX 17	MSGR. HARRY SNOW 18	REV. JOSEPH W. GIROUX 19	MSGR. JOHN R. MURPHY 20	REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON 21
RETIRED PRIESTS 22	REV. JAMES SEYMOUR 23	REV. ROLLAND A. HART 24	REV. ALBERT J. HAUSER 25	REV. PETER G. HELFRICH 26	REV. JEFFREY HUBBARD SS 27	REV. RICHARD HUBER, MSC 28
DECEASED PRIESTS 29	REV. MICHAEL A. JARECKI 30	REV. VICENTE F. JAZMINES 31	For more copies write to: Diocese of Ogdensburg PO Box 369 Ogdensburg, NY 13669			

For more information visit us online at: [www.mprpapistolate.com](http://www.mprpapistolate.com)  
 A donation to help support THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS will be appreciated.  
[www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net)  
 The Monthly Prayer Request for Priests is graciously underwritten by: 

**Holy Spirit**  
 Holy Spirit, you who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive the wrong that is done to me and you who are in all instances of my life with me. I in this short dialogue thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory, Amen. Thank you for your love toward me and my love ones.

EM

## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICE

# For the little people: a tribute

By Mary Catherine Pietropaoli  
Contributing Writer

Time and again students have written of the dramatic effect that teachers have had on their lives, how Mr. Smith or Ms. Jones changed the course of their earthly journeys. These stories are both heart-warming and inspiring—especially for those of us who teach! However, I would like to present something rather different in this little piece; I would like to thank my students for the many joys and gifts they have brought into my life this past year, for the endless laughter, for the silliness, for the innocence—in essence, for being exactly as they are: children.

Please allow a quick flashback to May, 2011. I was a new college graduate with a BA in English from Providence College, and I did not have a job or a plan beyond summer employment at an Adirondack great camp. I did have some vague inkling that I wanted to teach, a thought that had occurred to me before, but had caused such internal anger that I quickly cast it aside. You must understand: I come from a family of teachers. No, it is not just my mother and father who entered this vocation before me. Seven of the nine children in my mother's family are or have been teachers, as is my father's sister. Add to that two of my four siblings (with a third pursuing a PhD to...you guessed it, teach), and several cousins, and you have an overwhelming number of teachers, making my contrary nature balk at the very thought of entering

the educational field. But I finally concluded that, for some reason far beyond my comprehension, this was what God wanted, and I set about finding a teaching position. Given my education, my thought was that I would be well suited to teach high school literature, and I sent out numerous applications. And as usual, when I finally got around to setting my mind to something, God sent that plan spinning into oblivion. I did not hear back from a single high school. In fact, the only school I heard back from was a small, classical school near Rochester, New York which I had applied to simply because a dear college friend had offered to let me live with her in that area. Of course, I deemed myself too much, too educated, too "intellectual", to teach in a mere primary school...But, thankfully for me, Providence had other plans, plans far more beautiful and fulfilling than anything I could spin in my little mind. As I recently told my students, thank God He knew what I wanted far better than I did.

After whirlwind interviews, I was hired, in the first week of August, as the fourth grade teacher at St. John Bosco Schools. August remains something of a blur, including a wedding of college friends in Pennsylvania, finishing my summer job, a teacher training week, buying a car, and somehow managing to actually move to Rochester and set up my classroom. Somehow, September 7th 2011 arrived... and I think I was more nervous than I have ever been in my life. The principal at my school had been wonderful



Mary Catherine Pietropaoli

in her support and help, but I found myself alone in a room with a bunch of fourth grade students. I distinctly remember doing exactly what I should NOT have, and looking to the students for cues about what to do next. At some point, I asked a silly question about what they wanted to do next, and one of the girls in the front row looked right at me and said "You're the teacher; you tell US". It is rather sad that it took a nine year old to get me into gear, but needless to say, that was the kick I needed. Although the reality that I, at 22 and with NO experience, was in charge terrified me, I realized that, for better or worse, this was my room for the year, and I had to step up to the challenge or I would lose that group of kids forever. Of course, I would love to say that I instantaneously morphed into Robin Williams from "Dead Poets Society" or Anne Shirley from Avonlea. The truth is somewhat less flattering, but far more believable and human.

I muddled my way through those first weeks, learning as I went...and

learning mainly what NOT to do. Fresh from classes on Milton, Chaucer, Dante, Modern American Fiction, and a seminar on friendship and love in Medieval and Renaissance literature, I was a bit slow to catch onto the fact that the little people in front of me were just that; they were little people, not college English students. Thanks to concerned parents, I quickly learned that a fourth grader cannot rationally be expected to learn a poem in a week, nor to read an un-abridged version of Robin Hood on his or her own. Of course, the parents were absolutely right, and I had been wrong. Although I quickly made modifications, I was, and am a work in progress. And I am extremely grateful to the parents who stood by supportively as I read their children "Beowulf", assigned the memorization of Shakespearean sonnets and Aquinas' Pange Lingua, directed an adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream", and orchestrated a Reformation debate between the Protestants and the Jesuits, and most recently a hands-on Nerf Gun demonstration of the effects of WWI guns on modern warfare.

Charles Dickens wrote "I love these little people; and it is not a slight thing when they, who are so fresh from God, love us." I have had much time to reflect upon these words, as they are, thanks to my sister, beautifully embroidered, framed, and now adorning my classroom. Being Irish, I generally assume those around me are happy or good despite my presence. And while I can hardly take full credit for the wonders of

my fourth grade class, I know that, through the grace of God, I have brought some beauty into their lives this year—hopefully at least a pittance of what they have brought to mine. To my students: Thank you for unwittingly helping me pull myself together into some semblance of a teacher, merely by your existence. Thank you for bringing so much joy into my life, and for the first time helping me to know that I am exactly where I am meant to be—I am where God has put me. Thank you for innumerable hand drawn pictures, cards, and little gifts. Thank you for lighting up when you see me—and please know that the feeling is mutual, even if I am less able to express it. Thank you for teaching me that Math really does matter, and that it is as important to nurture the emerging engineer or mathematician as it is the budding literati and historians. Thank you for a wonderful surprise birthday party, the thought of which still brings a smile to my face. Thank you for the gift of seeing your beautiful faces nearly every day for the past ten months, and for giving me your wonderful minds to help along this pilgrimage of life.

Thank you, for these and a million more memories. I am forever grateful for the joy and laughter you have brought into my life, and I pray that your love for life and delight in the truth will only grow with the coming years, and that you may each someday see the wonderful reflection of God's face in your own lives as I am blessed to see it today in you.

The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
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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!"*