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# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

AUG. 1, 2012

## Papal message for marriage

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Going to Mass together and setting aside time each day to talk to each other are two simple practices that can help Catholic couples strengthen their marriage and be examples to others, said a papal message.

Pope Benedict XVI "invites Christian couples to be 'the gentle and smiling face of the

church,' the best and most convincing heralds of love sustained and nourished by faith," said a message to the participants in the international meeting of the Teams of Our Lady.

The group, a movement for Catholic couples started in France in 1938, was meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, July 21-

26.

While pressures on married couples have increased since the movement's founding, the message said, members continue to be committed to proclaiming, "not only in words, but also through their lives, the fundamental truths about human love" and how it is a

reflection of God's love for humanity.

The movement helps couples recognize the grace of the sacrament of marriage and encourages them to attend Mass together. It also gives them "simple and practical ideas to daily live an embodied spirituality for Christian spouses."

## TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

### Celebration of Blessed Kateri



PHOTO BY NATE WHITCHURCH  
Bishop Terry R. LaValley was the celebrant at a July 19 Mass held during at the 73rd Tekakwitha Conference in Albany, N.Y., July 18-21. The annual gathering of Catholic American Indians focused on stories and celebrations of Blessed Kateri, the 17th-century Mohawk-Algonquin woman who will be canonized Oct. 21. Above, Bishop LaValley thanks Alma Ransom from the Akwesasne Mohawk nation for a gift of a sweet grass woven basket.

FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

## Gatherings for family enrichment

The diocesan Family Life Office, along with the Natural Family Planning, Respect Life and Pre-Canva offices, sponsored a family enrichment weekend July 20-21 at the Guggenheim Lodge in Saranac Lake.

John and Kathy Colligan from the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Syracuse were the featured presenters.

A Theology of the Body roundtable was held July 20 and a program for those working in marriage preparation in parishes of the diocese was held July 21.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Summer schedule

The *North Country Catholic* will be published every other week through the middle of August. The next issue of the *NCC* will be dated Aug. 15.

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE WARD

St. Joseph Sister Mary Anne Croitz, a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central Junior/Senior High School, Watertown, has been named the 2012 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. She was honored July 16 during a luncheon hosted by Bishop Terry LaValley at the bishop's residence. Shown with the bishop and Sister Mary Anne are Msgr. Robert Aucoin, vicar for education; Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction; St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of schools; and Lisa Parsons, principal of IHC Junior/Senior High School. See story on page 4.

**RALLY FOR FREEDOM:** Knights will hold prayer rally Aug. 12, pages 5 & 7

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Kateri Country!

While it's safe to say that every Catholic in the dioceses of Ogdensburg, Syracuse and Albany takes pride in the advancement of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha towards sainthood, our feelings surely pale in comparison to our neighbors on the Akwesasne Reservation.

Our Mohawk friends know that Kateri is one of their own; her long awaited canonization is cause for great celebration.

Blessed Kateri, known as "the Lily of the Mohawks," was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father in 1656 along the Hudson River in Auriesville, NY, not far from Albany.

A Jesuit missionary baptized her in nearby Fonda, N.Y., in 1676 when she was 20. A year later she fled to Canada and died there in 1680.

Kateri astounded the Jesuits with her deep spirituality and her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She took a private vow of chastity and devoted herself to prayer and to teaching prayers to the children and helping the sick and elderly.

Last week, nearly 300 Akwesasne Mohawks traveled to Albany for the 73rd annual Tekakwitha Conference. Already, 500 have signed up for trip to Rome for the Oct. 21 canonization.

Our own Bishop LaValley and

Bishop Robert Cunningham were invited to celebrate two of the Masses during the Tekakwitha Conference, along with Archbishop Charles Chaput, the only Native American bishop in the country.

Bishop LaValley pointed out that people of the 21st century have much to learn from this holy woman.

"She teaches us how to love and respect God's creation and how to care for it," he said. "She showed goodness and tenderness to people who were in need. She could do that in the midst of such rejection and persecution because of her deep love for Jesus."

Bishop Cunningham, seconded the idea that Blessed Kateri is an example for all Catholics.

He called to mind the meaning of the soon-to-be-saint's last name -- "who walks groping for her way" -- and said it transcends her impaired vision.

"In some sense, it can apply to us," he said. "At times, the Gospel meets with indifference, misunderstanding or even hostility. We may fumble about us as we try to choose the right place and the right time to live our faith publicly."

That's a challenge that sounds all too familiar, doesn't it?

Thank God that, in less than three months, we can say, "SAINT Kateri, pray for us!"

Mary Lou  
Kilian


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## CHURCH: A FAMILY OF FAITH

## The Hand of God

## 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Aug. 4-5

By Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, SSJ  
Director of Evangelization

It is the hand of God who provides for the needs of His people. He "rained down bread from heaven" each morning and "quail came up and covered the camp" in the evening. God had heard the grumbling of the Israelites. The Israelites, who in their lack of faith, had not fully trusted in a God who would provide for them.

Jesus met the same crisis of faith from the crowds who followed Him. They followed Jesus because He was attentive to their physical needs and performed marvelous works. And yet, they were looking for another sign. They had already been fed to fullness but wanted to be dazzled.

Jesus was trying to lead them to a deeper understanding of who He is and what He intended to do for them, but they were more interested in physical food. They wanted to know what kind of a sign Jesus would work so that they would be persuaded to believe in Him.

The crowds asked, "Perhaps, You could provide us with bread as Moses provided our ancestors with manna in the desert." Jesus set them straight that it was not Moses who took care of them in the desert, but God.

In our prayer, we tend to think we know what we need. We turn to God in our necessity, often with detailed instructions about what we expect Him to do for us, especially when our faith is challenged e.g. the illness or death of a loved one, unemployment or underemployment, a natural disaster, the killing of thousands of people as a result of racial intolerance.

This can also be true of the "good things" in life that bring us comfort. God does provide for us and gives us what we need, but not necessarily what we think we need. How often in your own life have the gifts been far different from and far better than what any of what you dared to ask for? Faith is "work" but "work" that leads to eternal life. Is there a person in your life who most consistently reflects "faith as work"? What is it about this person's approach to life's situations that is most inspiring?

It is the hand of God who always provides for our physical and spiritual needs. The Israelites received food that would nourish their physical bodies. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord, real food that nourishes our spirits.

This is not something magical, but the work of the God. We accomplish the work of God by believing in the person of Jesus Christ, the gift of eternal life. The crowd wanted to see signs.

The only sign necessary is the person of Jesus Christ.

How surprised the crowd must have been when He said, "I myself am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst" (John 6:35).

What is your experience of the Risen Lord as you receive Him Body and Blood into your own being? As Jesus' followers we too are signs of God's abundance and generosity.

How do you feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, or share your abundance of God's generosity? When your parish has an event, how is this a sign of God's abundance and generosity?

How do you invite others to be part of the parish family?

## FOLLOW ME



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

The diocesan Family Life Office, along with the Natural Family Planning, Respect Life and Pre-Cana offices, sponsored a family enrichment weekend July 20-21 at the Guggenheim Lodge in Saranac Lake. John and Kathy Colligan from the Family Life Office of the Diocese of Syracuse were the featured presenters. A Theology of the Body roundtable was held July 20 and a program for those working in marriage preparation in

parishes of the diocese was held July 21. Shown above, left, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrates Mass to conclude Friday's program with Father Kris C. Lauzon, pastor in AuSable Forks and Black Brook, concelebrating. At right, from left are Henry and Dayna Leader of Gouverneur, directors of the diocesan Pre-Cana program, Kathy and John Colligan and Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli of Malone, diocesan NFP directors. Bishop LaValley's homily is printed below.

# Following God's plan for marriage

Bishop LaValley's homily at the Theology of Body Roundtable at Guggenheim Lodge July 20

There is a whole host of sociological, economic and personal reasons for the fracture of marriage and the family unit today. You know the troubling facts. We need to bring Church and lived faith back to our marriages and to our families. But, is it too late? Never!

My sisters and brothers, we must whet our appetites for doing the will of God in a world that continues to try to distance itself from the Divine, or at least ignore, restrict, or usurp HIS reign.

In today's consumer based society bent on immediate gratification, too often we suffer from an insatiable appetite to get what I want, as much as I want, on my terms, when I want it. Self-discipline, delayed gratification, sacrifice, and unconditional love seem like foreign words to our vocabulary and mode of operating.

That talented crooner, Frank Sinatra captured the spirit well: "I did it my way." You know well the persuasive commercials and alluring ads with their seductively attractive and manipulating power over our decision-making. "Have it

your way." "Just do it." "You deserve a break today."

Beginning on Sunday, National NFP Awareness Week (July 22-28) provides us with the opportunity to celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality. "Faithfully yours," this year's theme, highlights the beauty of how wives and husbands are called to live out their total dedication to and for one another.

The practice of NFP leaves God's sovereignty over marital life intact. The married couple cooperates with God in planning to have or not have children, rather than leaving God out of the picture by using artificial barriers in their becoming one flesh. NFP is about fidelity to God and making Him the center rather than making our plans for this world the center of married life.

When we find ourselves doubting or struggling with a teaching of the Church, we should consider if the struggle exists because 1) I don't fully understand it; 2) or perhaps because outside pressure, stress, or even ridicule from others sours me toward it; 3) or perhaps because it affects my personal pursuit of worldly goods; 4) or because my pride convinces me that the Church has got this wrong. Struggle can be good and healthy, so can obedience to a higher Power.

As a Church, we must be willing to address all of these struggles: We need to be more creative

in educating the faithful about God's plan for the human body and for marriage. We must support one another in tangible ways so that outside forces do not hold sway over our faith response.

Our Church has been somewhat deficient through the years in providing fellowship, occasions where we can regularly share our faith and support one another in our struggles. The excesses of consumerism must be confronted for what it is: selfish materialism. Our desire to give or sacrifice sometimes pales in comparison to our insatiable appetite to receive. It is only by taking the time to reflect on Scripture and on the life of Christ, by praying regularly and celebrating Eucharist, will I gain the humility to allow God to be God and not me.

As Catholics, we owe it to ourselves to understand Church teachings. To help you in your faith journey, I encourage you to learn more about what the Church teaches about marital love by visiting our Natural Family Planning office at our diocesan webpage. We are so fortunate to have Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli as directors as well as all those who help with its instruction in our marriage preparation classes.

Our faith tells us that a heart open to each other and to the Lord God is where our real happiness lies. We pray for such generous hearts. After all, we all want to be happy.

# IHC math teacher honored as 2012 teacher of the year

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ  
Superintendent of Schools

OGDENSBURG – St. Joseph Sister Mary Anne Croitz, a teacher at Immaculate Heart Central Junior/Senior High School, Watertown, has been named the 2012 Outstanding Catholic School Teacher for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Sister Mary Anne has taught at St. Patrick's School in Watertown, Mater Dei College in Ogdensburg, Holy Family High School in Massena and Immaculate Heart Central High School in Watertown.

She was Academic Dean at Mater Dei College from 1979-1984.

Sister Mary Anne currently teaches Math 12, Advanced Placement /EDGE Calculus and Geometry at IHC. The AP Course is integrated within the Jefferson Community College course enabling students to earn AP credit and have the experience of college level instruction on the IHC campus.

She also serves as the Mathematics Department Chair and adjunct professor for JCC. In addition, The Cavalier, the IHC yearbook, exemplifies the mark of her creativity and skill. Sister Mary Anne devotes countless hours of her time to capture and preserve the students' accomplishments and school-wide events.

In nominating Sister Mary Anne, Lisa Parsons, IHC Prin-

cipal, said, "Sister is an excellent math teacher with solid foundation of content and pedagogy for higher level math students. She has continually stayed abreast of the ongoing changes in standards and assessments. Sister has been a leader in our school in this realm."

Sister Mary Anne graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor of arts degree and earned a master of science degree in mathematics education from the University of Dayton in Ohio, where she had a National Science Foundation grant. She holds NYS permanent certification in mathematics (7-12). In addition, Sister Mary Anne took graduate courses in computer science at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa and at SUNY Albany. She is a current member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State.

Sister Mary Anne was honored July 16 during a luncheon hosted by Bishop Terry LaValley at the Bishop's residence. She was joined at the luncheon by Sister Bernadette Marie, major superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Ms. Parsons, Msgr. Robert Aucoin, vicar for education, St. Joseph Sister Shirley Anne Brown, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction and St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, superintendent of schools.



PHOTOS BY SARAH LONG

Bishop Terry R. LaValley visited the Oratory of St. Paul in South Colton June 29 to celebrate the Feast of SS Peter and Paul. He is shown above with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor in Potsdam and Colton.

## Feast of St. Peter & St. Paul

SOUTH COLTON - A faith-filled evening occurred at the Oratory of St. Paul in South Colton, June 29 as Bishop Terry R. LaValley and Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam and St. Patrick's Parish in Colton, concelebrated a Mass celebrating the Feast of SS Peter and Paul.

Peter Mueller, pastoral associate at St. Mary's in Potsdam was master of ceremonies; Nicholas, Rachel, and Mara Vaccaro were altar servers.

Juli Pomainville led the parish choir.

An oratory full of parishioners took part in a procession to the Sacred Heart Shrine at which Bishop LaValley led a prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart.

An ice cream social fol-

lowed with much conversation as Bishop LaValley and Msgr. Aucoin mingled among the parishioners.

This was Bishop LaValley's first visit to St. Paul's since he was a seminarian in the summer of 1984 at St. Patrick's-St. Paul's Parish,

when Father F. James Shurtliff was pastor of the parish.

Photos of the celebration can be found on the parish website [stmarystpatrick.net](http://stmarystpatrick.net) under both Msgr. Aucoin's blog - *The Racquette Catholics*, and in Parish Pictures.



Bishop LaValley celebrated Mass at the Oratory of St. Paul and led a prayer of consecration at the Sacred Heart Shrine. Nicholas Vaccaro, who is an altar server at St. Patrick Church in Colton served at the special Mass at the oratory.

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*August 12 gathering at St. Mary's Cathedral is open to all*

## Knights plan rally to pray for conscience rights

The organizers of the Aug. 12 prayer rally for protection of conscience rights and religious freedoms have provided the following statements to illustrate the importance of the event:

*One night in a vision the Lord said to Paul, 'Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you, for I have many people in this city.'*

**Acts 18:9-10**

The Church's witness, then, is of its nature public: she seeks to convince by proposing rational arguments in the public square.

The legitimate separation of Church and State cannot be taken to mean that the Church must be silent on certain issues, nor that the State may choose not to engage, or be engaged by, the voices of committed believers in determining the values which will shape the future of the nation....

Here once more we see the need for an engaged, articulate and well-formed Catholic laity endowed with a strong critical sense vis-à-vis the dominant culture and with the courage to counter a reductive secularism which would delegitimize the Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society.

The preparation of committed lay leaders and the presentation of a convincing articulation of the Christian

### About the rally:

**OGDENSBURG** - The Northern Conference Knights of Columbus will hold a Prayer Rally at St. Mary's Cathedral Aug. 12 from 2 p.m. to 4.

The rally, open to the public, will be dedicated to pro-life issues, protection of conscience rights and freedom of religion.

The program will begin with a gathering at the Monument to the Unborn outside the cathedral for prayer and remarks, by Bishop LaValley and others,

The group will move inside the Cathedral and recite mysteries of the Rosary.

At the end of the Rally, all are invited to the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hasbrouck St. for refreshments.

The coordinator for this event is Col. Bill Ose of Adams. Another organizer, Matthew Flynn of Ogdensburg shares reflections about the event in a letter on page 12 of this Week's NCC.

vision of man and society remain a primary task of the Church in your country; as essential components of the new evangelization, these concerns must shape the vision and goals of catechetical programs at every level.

In this regard, I would mention with appreciation your efforts to maintain contacts with Catholics involved in political life and to help them understand their personal responsibility to offer public witness to their faith, especially with regard to the great moral issues of our time: respect for God's gift of life, the protection of human dignity and the promotion of authentic human rights....

There can be no doubt that a more consistent witness on the part of America's Catholics to their deepest convictions would

make a major contribution to the renewal of society as a whole."

**Address of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to the Bishops of the United States of America Jan 19, 2012**

We have made it clear in no uncertain terms to the government that we are not at peace with its invasive attempt to curtail the religious freedom we cherish as Catholics and Americans. We did not ask for this fight, but we will not run from it.....It's about religious freedom, the sacred right of any Church to define its own teaching and ministry.....Brothers, we know so very well that religious freedom is our heritage, our legacy and our firm belief, both as loyal Catholics and Americans. There have been many threats to religious

freedom over the decades and years, but these often came from without. This one sadly comes from within. As our ancestors did with previous threats, we will tirelessly defend the timeless and enduring truth of religious freedom....I renew my thanks to you for your tremendous, fraternal support and your welcome observations in this critical effort to protect our religious freedom."

**Archbishop of New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, March 2, 2012**

"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.

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. I have encouraged all of our pastors in the Diocese of Ogdensburg to join the faithful of our nation in leading the Christian faithful in prayer"

**Bishop Terry LaValley, June 9, 2012**

Today many things may seem to divide us, but our greatness as a nation is in our unity, and that unity has been preserved in large measure because of the rights guaranteed in the First Amendment.

For this reason, this issue should not only be important to every Catholic, but to every freedom loving American"

**In Defense of Conscience and Civility; K of C Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, May 18, 2012**

*our gratitude*



**Sister Mary Rita Kempney SSJ**

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# Diocesan grants aid projects for disabled

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced that two grants of \$5,000 each have been disbursed to Saint Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg and St. Augustine's Church, Peru to assist them with projects to improve accessibility to their facilities for the disabled.

The funds are made available from the annual contributions of the New York State Knights of Columbus to the Diocese of Ogdensburg and are distributed by the Diocese on the recommendation of Catholic Charities and the Department of Education.

In announcing the grants to this year's recipients, Bishop LaValley noted the

generosity of the Knights who "assist our diocesan institutions in their efforts to make Churches, schools and parish centers accessible to all people.

"I am most grateful to the Knights of Columbus for their generosity in this area and in the many ways in which they support the work of the Church in our diocese," he said.

Announcement of the availability of these grants was made last April by Catholic Charities and the Department of Education. The criteria for acceptability of a request cover several factors. Improvement in already existing programs or

facilities is considered as well as program development and the purchase of special equipment.

The grants awarded this year will assist Father Joseph Morgan, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral with the construction of a handicap accessible restroom at the entrance of the Cathedral.

Father Alan Shnob, pastor at Saint Augustine's Church in Peru will use the funds to construct a handicap entrance.

The entrance will facilitate the use of the building for annual parish and civic events and provide access to a soup kitchen which is planned for the future.

# Atonement Sr. Mary Robert Ashley, Potsdam native, dies

GARRISON, NY - Sister Mary Robert Ashley, 90, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, died Friday, July 20, 2012 at the Residence at St. Francis Convent.

Sister Mary Robert was born in Potsdam, New York and was named Florence Arlene by her parents, Mary Alice (Patrick) and Charles S. Ashley.

She was pre deceased by her sister, Lillian Perkins and her brothers, Harry, Bernard and William and survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Sister Mary Robert joined

the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at Garrison on Sept. 7, 1945. She professed her first vows on June 5, 1947 and her final vows on June 28, 1952.

As an Atonement missionary, she served in parish and retreat ministries in Vancouver, BC, Canada; Washington, DC; St. Cecilia's Mission, NYC; Brooklyn, NY; and at St. Francis Convent at Graymoor, Garrison, NY, where she was assistant house superior from 1985-90.

## Bishop LaValley' Schedule

**Aug. 5** – 9:30 a.m., Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Inlet; 11a.m., Mass at St. Bartholomew's Church in Old Forge.

**Aug. 6** – 5 p.m., Clinton Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Augustine's Parish Center in Peru.

**Aug. 7** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg; 5p.m., Adirondack Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at McKenzie's Grille in Saranac Lake.

**Aug. 8** – 11 a.m., Tour with the Ladies of St. Ann's, Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg followed by lunch; 5 p.m., Franklin Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at the Malone Golf Club in Malone.

**Aug. 9** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

**Aug. 10** – 12 p.m., Luncheon followed by the Installation Mass of the Most Reverend Richard J. Malone as the Fourteenth of Bishop of Buffalo at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo.

**Aug. 11** – 11 a.m., Memorial Mass for the Past Regents Chapter of the Catholic Daughters of America at St. Bernard's Church in Lyon Mountain.

**Aug. 12** – 2 p.m., Northern Conference Knights of Columbus Prayer Rally at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

**Aug. 13** – 5 p.m., Lewis Deanery Bishop's Fund Reception at St. Peter's Parish Center in Lowville.

**Aug. 14** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.

**Aug. 15** – 12 p.m., Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Mary's Cathedral

## Rest in Peace

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

**Aug. 2** – Rev. Zephyrin Jutras, 1919

**Aug. 4** – Rev. Alexandre Soulerin, O.M.I., 1892; Rev. Adolphe Saurel, 1925; Rev. Willie Caron, M.S.C., 1972

**Aug. 5** – Rev. M. Calixte Mourier, O.M.I., 1912; Rev. Gerald A. Sharland, 1973

**Aug. 7** – Msgr. Edmund H. Dumas, 2000

**Aug. 8** – Rev. David N. Burke, 1913; Rev. Donald E. Seguin, 1976

**Aug. 9** – Rev. Edward B. May, O.S.A., 1953; Rev. James N. Flattery, 1997

**Aug. 10** – Rev. Walter J. LaRocque, 1936; Rev. Joseph Bolduc, O.M.I., 1956; Rev. Cornelius Vullings, M.S.C., 1971; Msgr. Anthony A. Milia, 2010

**Aug. 11** – Rev. Gilbert Monroe, O.F.M., 1958; Rev. John M. Kennedy, 1979

**Aug. 12** – Rev. Pierre Gagnon, O.M.I., 1901; Rev. John M. Varrily, 1913

**Aug. 13** – Msgr. Bernard F. Kellogg, 1993

**Aug. 14** – Rev. Patrick Foley, 1839; Rev. George Dermody, O.S.A., 1956

## 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. Ongoing monthly training is required for all employees involved in activities with minors. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to continue their training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:

**Sept. 8** - Seton Academy, Plattsburgh, 10 a.m.

**Sept. 11** - Seton Academy, Plattsburgh, 2 p.m.

## To Report Abuse

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

## NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The North Country Catholic summer schedule has begun. The next issue of the NCC will be dated Aug. 15



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# Follow Me

Bishop Terry LaValley

## Protection of Our Conscience Rights and Religious Freedoms Prayer Rally



- Adams Council 7364
- AuSable Council 2301
- Bloomington Council 7803
- Brasher Falls Council 2176
- Brownville/Dexter Council 7598
- Canton Council 1059
- Carthage Council 291
- Champlain Council 3525
- Chateaugay Council 469
- Clayton Council 350
- Constable Council 9991
- Constableville Council 7794
- Croghan Council 2175
- Dannemora Council 2166
- Ellenburg Council 4441
- Gouverneur Council 5810
- Harrisville Council 7733
- Heuvelton Council 12958
- Hogansburg Council 10423
- Indian Lake Council 13102
- Keeseville Council 4689
- Lisbon Council 5969
- Louisville Council 10753
- Lowville Council 781
- Lyon Mountain Council 7215
- Malone Council 308

- Massena Council 1141
- Mooers Council 6136
- Morrisonville Council 6067
- Norfolk Council 11544
- Norwood Council 2309
- Ogdensburg Council 258
- Old Forge Council 3057
- Peru Council 7273
- Philadelphia Council 7471
- Plattsburgh Council 255
- Plattsburgh OLV Council 13127
- Port Henry Council 384
- Potsdam Council 340
- Rosiere Council 2148
- Rouses Point Council 2366
- Sackets Harbor Council 7522
- Saranac Lake Council 599
- St. Regis Council 7321
- Star Lake Council 5718
- Ticonderoga Council 333
- Treadwells Mills Council 7248
- Tupper Lake Council 2177
- Waddington Council 4762
- Watertown Council 259
- Willsboro Council 7461

Prior to the introduction of public education and the construction of hospitals by the Christian Faithful; neither the common person nor the poor could read or receive medical treatment. Today US taxpayers are saved \$19.4 billion dollars by the 7,589 private Catholic Schools in America. 22% of their budget comes directly from Parish Subsidy. 15.5% of all US Hospital admissions are at one of the 615 Catholic hospitals. In fact, after 2,000 years of perfecting the education and health care systems much of the public government system is based on the Catholic created model. Because of the value Catholics place on a human life, no one has been turned away from education, medication or employment because of their religious beliefs.

However there is a dark cloud in Washington that wishes to change all of that. This movement wants to remove the Constitutional guarantee of Freedom of Religion under the guise of creating a better health care system by making laws that will prohibit the free exercise of religion. This is not just a Catholic issue. If this destructive movement is successful, it is only a matter of time before laws are created that will prohibit the freedoms of speech, press, assembly and petition.

If you believe the protection of the guaranteed civil rights in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution is an essential part of the formation of a "more perfect Union;" We are asking you to join the Northern Conference Knights of Columbus in the Prayer Rally for protection of our conscience rights and religious freedoms on Aug 12, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; 415 Hamilton Street; Ogdensburg, NY 13669. The rally will begin outside with remarks from Ogdensburg Diocese Bishop Terry LaValley at 2:00 PM. At the conclusion of remarks by guest speakers, we will process into the Cathedral to pray the Rosary. At the conclusion of the rally, all are invited to the Knights of Columbus Hall on 721 Hasbrouck St. for refreshments with entertainment provided by Jack Kelly & The Little Big Band.

**Please join us**  
**Sunday, August 12th**  
**2:00 PM till 4:00 PM**  
**St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**415 Hamilton Street**  
**Ogdensburg, NY 13669**

*"We did not ask for this fight, but we will not run from it." Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan*



*Native Americans say canonization brings them full circle as Catholics*

# The 73rd annual Tekakwitha Conference

By Angela Cave  
Catholic News Service

AURIESVILLE, N.Y. (CNS) - As the sun set on the 73rd annual Tekakwitha Conference at its namesake's birthplace July 21, dozens of pilgrims joined hands and formed a circle, launching a traditional dance symbolic of friendship.

It also seemed to represent what many attendees described as a feeling of coming full circle as members of the Catholic family.

More than 800 Native American Catholics converged in Albany July 18-22 for four days of workshops, liturgies and pilgrimages to two shrines in other locations in the Albany Diocese - the birth and baptismal places of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the conference's patroness.

She was born and baptized in what is today Auriesville and Fonda, respectively.

This year's gathering was scheduled to take place in "Kateri country," as many natives call upstate New York, years before the Vatican approved the final miracle needed to make Blessed Kateri the first member of a North American tribe to become a saint.

## An answer to prayers

With the long-anticipated canonization set for October in Rome, conference participants shared their joy over the news, their tales of Blessed Kateri's influence on their lives and their hopes for the future of their people -- a tiny portion of the American population that faces problems with poverty, addiction and depression.

They say Blessed Kateri's sainthood is an answer to generations-long prayers and an affirmation of their place in the Church and in the country.

"It's going to do a lot to lift up our people, to lift up our spirits," said Sister Kateri Mitchell, a Sister of St. Ann, who is executive director of



PHOTOS BY NATE WHITCHURCH

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley** was the celebrant at the July 19 Mass at the 73rd annual national Tekakwitha Conference held July 18-21 in Albany. At right, Jerry Thundercloud McDonald, an Akwesasne Indian, leads the procession with a traditional dance.

the Tekakwitha Conference's national office in Great Falls, Mont.

"People are just so energized and high-spirited. We feel we belong now, definitely to a stronger degree, to that sacred circle," she said.

The nation's more than 600,000 Native American Catholics - many of whom participate in about 130 Kateri Circles sponsored by the conference - will grow even stronger in their faith, Sister Kateri said. And those who have fallen away from the church -- an issue that doesn't discriminate -- will seek to return, Sister Kateri said. This may even happen with non-native Catholics.

"More and more people want to know her story and will be able to embody that story," Sister Kateri said.

## From Bishop Cunningham

In a homily on the last day of the conference, Bishop Robert J. Cunningham of Syracuse, seconded the idea that Blessed Kateri is an example for all Catholics.

He called to mind the meaning of the soon-to-be-saint's last name - "who walks groping for her way" - and said it transcends her impaired vision.

"In some sense, it can apply to us," he said. "At times, the Gospel meets with indifference, misunderstanding or even hostility.

"We may fumble about us as we try to choose the right place and the right time to live our faith publicly," Bishop Cunningham said.

## About Blessed Kateri

Blessed Kateri modeled liv-



ing out the Catholic faith despite resistance. She was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a Mohawk Turtle Clan war chief father in 1656.

When she was 4, her parents died from a smallpox epidemic, which left her with vision loss and pockmarks.

She was raised by her anti-Christian uncle and began studying Catholicism in private at the age of 18.

After she was baptized at the age of 20 in Fonda, her family and village ostracized and ridiculed her - she even received death threats.

She fled to a Christian village in Canada in 1677 to lead a life of prayer, intense penitential practices, love for the Eucharist and devotion to chastity.

She taught prayers to chil-

dren, worked with the sick and elderly and attended Mass several times a day.

## Archbishop Chaput preaches

"She has, as much as any human being can, embraced the Gospel," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, who is a member of the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation, in his homily during a July 20 Mass. "That means giving up things."

"It's not enough to receive the gift," he continued. "We have to give it away. We're cowards: We're afraid to preach the Gospel to the Indians among us, aren't we? I think it's hard to imagine that Kateri would keep quiet."

Archbishop Chaput encouraged Catholics to adopt virtues embodied by Blessed Kateri, starting with abstinence from vices such as addiction.

Next up is the need to find time for prayer and listening to God, he said.

"Just show up," he advised. "Because most of us don't even do that."

Archbishop Chaput also advised participants to surround themselves with Catholic friends, like Blessed Kateri did with her mother's old friend, Anastasia, whom she met in Canada.

"She knew she couldn't do well without support," he said.

To many, the Tekakwitha Conference provides such fellowship.

"Sometimes in your life, you don't have that connection with native people," said Sylvia A. Spence, a member of an Ojibwe tribe in Minnesota. "I think it's a real blessing."

This was Spence's 12th time attending the conference.

"Every year, there's something miraculous that gets me here," she said.

"I'm so excited" about Blessed Kateri's canonization, she said. "I think it's amazing."



SCENES FROM THE TEKAKWITHA CONFERENCE

# CELEBRATING BL. KATERI

Nearly 300 Akwesasne Mohawks participate in national gathering held July 18-21 in Albany.



PHOTO BY ANGELA CAVE  
Sister Kateri Mitchell, an Akwesasne native, is the national director of the Tekakwitha Conference based in Great Falls, Mont. She was a chief organizer of the 73rd annual gathering of indigenous Catholics in the United States held July 18-21 in Albany. Sister Kateri will be a special guest of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in November for the diocese's opening celebration of the Year of Faith.



PHOTO BY ANGELA CAVE  
Akwesasne youths lead a procession during Mass at the 73rd Tekakwitha Conference in Albany, N.Y., July 20. The annual gathering of Catholic American Indians focused on stories and celebrations of Blessed Kateri, the 17th-century Mohawk-Algonquin woman who will be canonized Oct. 21. She'll become the first member of a North American tribe to be declared a saint.



PHOTO BY ANGELA CAVE  
The Akwesasne Mohawk choir sings at the Mass celebrated by Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, July 20. The archbishop is a Native American from the Potawatomi tribe.



PHOTO BY ANGELA CAVE  
Alma Ransom, an Akwesasne Mohawk, served as the conference's planning committee chairperson. Her committee raised almost \$80,000 to pay for buses, food, tents and other conference expenses.



PHOTO BY NATE WHITCHURCH  
In his homily at the July 21 liturgy, Bishop LaValley called Blessed Kateri a "model of goodness, courage and holiness for all of us here in the 21st Century."

## VATICAN LETTER

## Spokesman tries to help media get truth... fast!

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Throughout history, the Vatican has dealt with so many accusations and scandals, one would expect the Holy See to have a well-oiled PR machine primed to deal with the constant media onslaught.

Well, better late than never. Recent changes - some official, some done on-the-fly - demonstrate the Vatican is taking seriously its need to face the media clearly and directly both on offense and defense.

The first pivotal indication was the hiring of a seasoned lay journalist at the Vatican Secretariat of State to help "manage" the message.

The Vatican created the new adviser position in June and handpicked St. Louis-born Greg Burke, a member of Opus Dei and longtime Rome correspondent for Fox News.

The idea was to get someone knowledgeable about the church, yet culled from far enough outside the Vatican bubble to be able to see if any train wrecks were coming.

The Regensburg controversy is an example of one derailment that could have been avoided, many journalists have said, including Burke.

A deeply intellectual and nuanced speech citing a controversial 14th-century Byzantine emperor on the evils of a faith disconnected from reason may not present problems in a lecture to a group of theology students, "but in a sound-bite, headline culture, it's a whole different thing," Burke has told CNS.

Someone, in fact, who understood and sated

the media's hunger for quick concise sound bites was Joaquin Navarro-Valls, another Opus Dei member and longtime lay journalist who headed the Vatican press office for 22 years.

Some have said, in fact, that the Vatican's tailspin into the media maelstrom began not long after Navarro's retirement in July 2006 - just two months prior to the pope's speech in Regensburg.

He was replaced by a much more understated and paternal figure - Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, a northern Italian mathematician, who learned to compute the media equation as head of Vatican Radio and the Vatican television station.

Measured, frank and open, Father Lombardi always answers journalists' questions patiently and in a timely way; he also tries to keep up with monitoring the deluge of what gets written about the pope and the Vatican.

One of his jobs, in fact, is to decide when to call out absurd or untrue stories.

He said his style is to hold back and not give added attention to something that doesn't deserve it.

One example was when an Italian scent maker created, on her own initiative, a cologne for Pope Benedict XVI; it morphed into headlines such as "Pope orders his own custom-made cologne."

When the Vatican was asked at the time if it were true, one journalist was met with an arched eyebrow and a shake of a head. Not even "no comment" was uttered.

Father Lombardi said prudence is key because making any kind of comment, including saying a story is false, often is taken as an "official" posi-

tion statement from the Vatican and gives a baseless story even stronger legs to walk on, he told CNS.

He said he has had journalists respond to denials with "See! You are just defending so-and-so!" when the problem was that the claim was unfounded and no one bothered to verify it or back it up.

Part of the problem is media outlets competing to be the first out with the story or the first to repeat it to their own audience, he said. Writers may blindly rely on a shaky source, skip verifying or double-checking the facts "because they're afraid of being behind."

Father Lombardi went on the offense this year in an effort to preempt the preposterous.

He organized a landmark tour for journalists of the Vatican bank, which included a Q&A session and two-hour long presentation by the bank's director, as a way to bust its "secretive" image and help reporters get correct information.

He also had a Vatican judge give a 90-minute briefing on the complex workings of the Vatican court system and explain what could or might happen to the papal butler accused of aggravated theft of confidential documents.

Also on his own initiative, Father Lombardi started holding almost daily briefings. He said they were not part of a new communications strategy as much as a response to the nonsense and inaccuracies being written in the press in the wake of the "VatiLeaks" scandal.

"I wouldn't have had to hold so many briefings, and everyone could have gone on vacation," if so many false and unsubstantiated stories hadn't been coming out every day, he said.

## Bishop lobbies for those with the greatest needs

WASHINGTON (CNS) - The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and

Human Development urged the Senate to retain tax credits that keep low-income Americans from sinking into poverty, saying it would be "unjust and unwise" to let them lapse while addressing tax-cut proposals for higher-income Americans.

"It would be unjust and unwise to fail to renew improvements and extensions of low-income tax credits as the Congress addresses tax cuts for middle-income and wealthy Americans," said

Bishops Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., the committee's chairman, in a July 25 letter addressed to members of the Senate.

"Poor working families and their children may not have the most powerful lobbies, but they have the greatest needs and the most compelling claim," he said.

At issue are extending the earned income tax credit and the refundable child tax credit.

The earned income tax credit was part of a Senate bill, the Middle Class Tax Cut Act, which passed the upper chamber 51-48 July 25. The bill now goes to the House, where its chances for passage are slimmer. A bill introduced July 24 by Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., that would, among other things, extend certain improve-

ments in the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The Census Bureau estimated in 2011 that the earned income tax credit, in place since 1975, lifted 5.4 million Americans out of poverty in 2010.

The credit was found to have cost the federal government more than \$36 billion in 2004. A 2010 federal study found that between 22 and 30 percent who receive the credit do not qualify for it, a cost of \$8 billion-\$10 billion. But 15 to 25 percent who are eligible for it never claim it.

The child tax credit, increased in 2004 to \$1,000 and extended two years ago through 2012, will revert to \$500 next year without con-

gressional action.

"Poverty in this country is historically high and growing. Currently, more than 46 million Americans live in poverty; more than 16 million of them are children. In America today, the younger a person is, the more likely they are to live in poverty," Bishop Blaire said. "Low-income tax credits are pro-work, pro-family, and some of the most effective anti-poverty programs in our nation."

Bishop Blaire cited the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church in his argument for keeping the tax credits.

He said it "clearly states the importance of ensuring that workers make a family wage, 'a wage sufficient to maintain a family and allow it to live decently.'"

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Former secretary for clergy sentenced to three to six years in prison

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) -- Common Pleas Court Judge Teresa Sarmina closed the latest chapter in the clergy sexual abuse scandal in Philadelphia by sentencing Msgr. William Lynn to three to six years in state prison. During the sentencing hearing July 24, after more than two hours of arguments and letters presented from victims and Msgr. Lynn's defense, Sarmina handed down a sentence just shy of the maximum seven years. The former secretary for clergy, who recommended priest assignments to the archbishop of Philadelphia and investigated claims of sexual abuse of minors by clergy, was found guilty of one felony charge of endangering the welfare of a child June 22. He became the first official of the U.S. Catholic Church to be convicted of a felony not for abusing a child, or even witnessing it, but for his responsibilities in managing priests, some of whom abused children. District Attorney Seth Williams said the fact that Msgr. Lynn, 61, was convicted not for abuse made this "a very different case," one that is "unprecedented in American jurisprudence. We held responsible a man who did not abuse children himself, but who did not do enough to protect children," Williams said outside the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia. The priest's defense lawyer, Thomas Bergstrom, incredulously referred to the sentence as "grossly unfair" and "unbelievable." Fellow defense lawyer Jeffrey Lindy told reporters that Msgr. Lynn must now report to the State Correctional Institution Graterford, Montgomery County for processing, then to another prison in Camp Hill, Pa.

## New profession of faith seen as 'public way of witnessing' to beliefs

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) -- In a move that will go into effect Sept. 16, Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde has directed that a "profession of faith" declaring assent to all church teachings be made by all teachers of the faith, including catechists, youth ministers and religion teachers in the diocese. The policy, announced in a letter to pastors and parochial administrators from Bishop Loverde dated May 10, stressed "the pressing need to hand on our Faith in an integral, comprehensive and clear way" and "the need to assure sound teaching in our catechetical programs" so that Catholic youths "truly be formed as authentic disciples of the Lord Jesus." The profession contains the Nicene Creed; a declaration of belief in "everything contained in the word of God," whether written or handed down in church tradition; an affirmation to "accept and hold" what the church definitively teaches on faith and morals; and an affirmation to "adhere with religious submission of will and intellect" to the authoritative teachings of the pope and the bishops. The last phrase, especially, sparked a response by a handful of local catechists in a story for The Washington Post July 11 -- as well as a commentary by Michael Sean Winters in the National Catholic Reporter -- who took umbrage with what they called the "fidelity oath." But Father Paul deLadurantaye, Arlington's diocesan secretary for religious education and sacred liturgy, said the profession wasn't an oath at all, but "simply the profession of our faith, which all Catholics are called to do in different circumstances in life.

# Death and evil will not have last word, Denver archbishop says

By Nissa LaPoint  
Catholic News Service

AURORA, COLO. (CNS) - The confusion and carnage that unfolded in the dark Aurora theater July 20 was surreal for Emily Stetson.

The loud pops she heard and irritating smoke she inhaled eventually forced her and the midnight moviegoers out of the packed theaters inside Century Aurora 16. In the lobby, she witnessed a police officer cradle a child with blood-stained clothes and hurry outside.

She watched the massacre and wondered about the presence of Christ, she said.

"It's hard to see God in something so sad," said 21-year-old Stetson, a parishioner at Queen of Peace Church in Aurora. "But how else can you hope to move on if this is all that life is? There's got to be something better."

It was at an evening Mass the day of the shooting that Stetson found supportive friends and sympathetic words. She joined a large gathering of faithful who sought healing and answers to the questions in their hearts.

Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila was the main celebrant of the Mass -- joined by 25 deacons and concelebrating priests -- at Queen of Peace for victims and families impacted by the massacre, which claimed lives and wounded dozens.

In his homily, Archbishop Aquila asked the faithful to bring their sorrow to the Lord and open their hearts so that he may give comfort.

"As we present it to our Lord, though it may not be removed immediately, we know that the Lord is with us in the midst of the suffering," he said. "Certainly, the love

of the father is stronger than the bullets that killed 12 people and wounded (dozens more). And the risen Christ points to that truth."

## At Mass on the day after movie theater massacre in Aurora, Colo.

Death and evil, he added, will not have the last word.

"We recognize in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that he encountered victory over death," Archbishop Aquila said. "The Father does not leave his Son dead or his beloved children dead, but rather he calls them home to live with him and he gives to us the promise of eternal life and resurrection."

With many prayers, the Denver Archdiocese responded to the early morning rampage July 20 that ranks among the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

A gunman killed 12 people and wounded 58 at a midnight showing of the latest Batman movie, "The Dark Knight Rises."

Police arrested 24-year-old James Holmes as the suspected shooter.

He was in court July 23 for an advisement hearing. A judge ordered he be held without bond at the Arapahoe County Justice Center to await his arraignment.

One of the wounded is a friend of Jo Ann Younger, 15, of Queen of Peace. She and her mother, Juliet, spent hours visiting her 14-year-old friend before the Mass. She said he remains in critical condition at University of Colorado Hospital after suffering wounds to the chest.

"We got to see him, but he could not respond," Younger told the Denver Catholic Register after the Mass.

They said they went to the Mass to find peace and un-

derstanding.

Once the community learned of the shooting, priests at Aurora parishes responded to requests for help. Father Terry Kissell of St. Michael the Archangel Parish talked to concerned and upset youths who learned some friends were at the Aurora movie theater. Father Mauricio Bermudez of Queen of Peace talked to a distraught 6-year-old child who learned her cousin had died in the theater.

The Denver Archdiocese is offering support for all survivors and family members of victims with counseling and spiritual direction from counselors and priests.

In an invocation at a July 22 prayer service at the Aurora Municipal Center that drew thousands, Auxiliary Bishop James D. Conley the "senseless and evil act of violence" at the theater has left many wondering how and why such a tragedy could have happened.

"Questions arise when the everyday securities and certainties of life -- the trust we carry in our fellow human beings, that we can safely go to work each day, or to school, or to the movies, are shaken," Bishop Conley said at the prayer service. "It's natural for us to wonder why does this kind of suffering happen and what does it really mean?"

"Let us trust God with our doubts and let us turn to him with our fears. Let us ask him for the hope we need to see in the midst of this darkness," he added.

He urged all to mourn "for those who have perished" and "grieve with their loved ones" and "acknowledge the real evil which has wounded our community," but also reminded them that God is "the great comforter" and is "truly present to us."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Finding nourishment from the Bread of Life

The famous Roman poet and satirist, Juvenal, once wrote that common people are not really interested in freedom, but only in "bread and circuses", i.e., food and entertainment. That was true in second-century Rome, as well as of people today.

It was certainly true of the Israelites whom Moses led from slavery in Egypt into the desert, God had promised them freedom, but they were more interested in food.

So God heard their grumbling,

In today's first reading, the Israelites were always running after the manna which God sent from heaven.

They were happy only when they had full stomachs!

The same is true in today's Gospel. Crowds pursued Jesus all the way across the lake, looking for more of that delicious bread he had provided the day before.

Jesus chided them for longing only to feed their stomachs, when He had much more to give them of the spiritual bread of eternal life.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

When they asked him what they could do to accomplish the works of God, he told them bluntly, "This is the work of God: that you believe in the one He sent".

The entire sixth chapter of St. John's Gospel is concerned about Jesus' teaching that He himself is the Bread of life, and is far superior to the bread for our stomachs that satisfies only for a short time.

He affirms that this precious gift from the Father is of no avail unless we have faith, and truly believe.

We must get rid of any indifference, doubt, or skepticism about the words of Jesus, and just abandon our minds and hearts to unequal-

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READINGS

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

John 6:24-35

ified acceptance.

God the Father has sent us Jesus from heaven to be our food, our strength, our hope, and our joy in living. Nothing else in life can surpass this Bread of Life.

The Israelites died after eating delicious manna and quail from the skies, and so will we die after acquiring all earthly food, including knowledge, money, success,

and other earthly treasure.

God's life-giving Bread has in it the power of eternal life, but it will nourish only those who truly believe,

Before we approach the altar at Mass again to receive this precious gift, let us stir up in our hearts full assent to what we proclaim at the Creed, "We believe!".

Without faith, we may receive into our bodies the true Body and Blood of the Son of God, but we will never know the full transforming effects we should desire so earnestly.

The pleasure of "bread and circuses" fades away overnight; the joy and strength of the Eucharist will last into Eternity.

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## OUR READERS WRITE

### Protection of Our Conscience Rights and Religious Freedoms Prayer Rally

When reflecting on the Passion of Christ, it always seems out of place when Jesus finds the Apostles asleep. "And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow" Luke 22:45.

Having the advantage of knowing the whole story, we like to tell ourselves that Jesus would not find us asleep at such a critical time.

However history has shown us time and time again, without the foresight of knowing the past, we hear the same warning given to those at watch in the garden: "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 14:38.

It is easy to imagine them asleep in a physical sense; however, it emphasizes that they were "sleeping for sorrow." The best explanation I have heard of this was by Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate Fr. Ronald Rolheiser.

In his 2008 article, *Understanding the Passion of Jesus*, he explained that sometimes things are so depressing that we are mentally asleep because the situation is too depressing for us to wrap our brain around.

Without knowing the future, isn't it easy to be in disbelief that as Americans we are losing the Constitutional guarantee of Freedom of Religion?

This disbelief of the reality we face makes it difficult to fully engage both spiritually and physically. In other words, it puts us to sleep with the reassuring lullaby, "That can't happen to me!"

At this web link [KofC258.com](http://KofC258.com), you will find the "Why Should I Attend the August 12, 2012 Prayer Rally" that quotes His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Bishop Terry LaValley, and K of C Supreme Knight Carl Anderson

all emphasizing that this is the hour we need to be praying and mentally awake.

Therefore, I request that you ask yourself; When Jesus joins us Aug 12 in prayer for the protection of our conscience rights and religious freedoms, will He find you vigilant or sleeping?

The public is encouraged to join us Sunday, August 12th from 2:00 PM till 4:00 PM at St. Mary's Cathedral; 415 Hamilton Street; Ogdensburg, NY 13669

MATTHEW FLYNN  
OGDENBURG

### Thanks to the NCC

In this day and age, with all the modern technology that there is at our finger tips, sometimes the mail is the best. On this occasion, I have to differ. Oh, it is nice to get a letter, invitation, or a thinking of you card, but then there are those bills that seem to find their way into our mailboxes. You are probably wondering where this is going.

Well, on July 17 I expected to receive my copy of the *North Country Catholic*. There have been occasions that I would get it on Wednesday, but very rare. By Thursday, July 19, I had not received my copy. I e-mailed Mary Lou, and she immediately sent me a copy by the internet.

Now talk about service.

Well, today is Friday, June 20 and when I went to my mailbox, low and behold, not ONE copy of the *NCC*, but TWO. One being my subscription copy, but another from the NCC office. Mary Lou didn't have to send the extra copy through the mail. The one I received through the internet was plenty.

My hats off to the Mary Lou and staff going beyond the call of duty.

May God bless you in the wonderful ministry.

PEACE,  
MARY ENSLOW  
POTSDAM

## AT THE MOVIES

# THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

By Adam Shaw  
Catholic News Service

Paradoxically, sometimes success at the box office can turn out to be a burden for a movie director. Having created one popular picture, Hollywood helmers can find themselves faced with impossible expectations for the sequel.

That problem is especially acute in the case of Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy, of which "The Dark Knight Rises" (Warner Bros.) is the final installment.

Given that the feature stands in the shadow of 2005's successful reboot of the franchise, "Batman Begins," as well as 2008's "The Dark Knight" - a film described by some critics as one of the greatest movies of all time - the question arises: Can the director and co-writer (with his brother, Jonathan Nolan) make lightning strike thrice?

The answer is neither a conclusive yea nor a definitive nay. While this lavish closing chapter will certainly delight the Caped Crusader's dedicated fans,

more casual viewers may find its 164-minute running time bloated and unwieldy.

Set eight years after "The Dark Knight," the latest adventure finds Batman's alter ego - billionaire playboy Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) -- injured, exiled and grief-stricken. The events of the previous film have not only deprived him of the company of his childhood friend and love interest, Rachel Dawes, they've also made him an enemy in the eyes of the police and the public at large.

Yet, inevitably, Wayne and his chiropteran persona find themselves pulled out of retirement. Initially, that's due to the arrival on the scene of slippery cat burglar Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) -- a morally ambiguous character out to pilfer Wayne's jewels and flirt with him at the same time.

But it's the aptly named terrorist mastermind Bane (Tom Hardy) who really forces Batman to don the cowl once more.

In the face of his criminal onslaught, the cops - led by jaded commissioner James Gordon (Gary Oldman) - fall to pieces, despite the dedi-

cated efforts of idealistic officer John Blake (Joseph Gordon-Levitt).

Hardy's Bane, a worthy successor to Heath Ledger's show-stealing Joker in the previous movie, seeks to claim the city of Gotham on behalf of "the people," thus providing a violent fictional twist on the real-life Occupy Wall Street movement.

Although Nolan's visual style favors the bombastic set piece, his screenplay evinces a surprising amount of humanity and emotion. Especially so as it shows us the protagonist's touching relationship with long-serving butler Alfred (Michael Caine) who acted as a father figure to the young lad after Wayne's parents were murdered.

These personal touches accompany a message about self-sacrifice that makes more explicit than ever the altruism that has always characterized Bob Kane and Bill Finger's comic-book creation - who made his debut on the printed page in 1939.

Batman's rejection of anger and revenge - as well as his refusal to employ unnecessary violence in fighting crime - are also



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Christian Bale stars as Bruce Wayne in a scene from the movie "The Dark Knight Rises."

emphasized.

So too, of course, is his desire to do good.

Nonetheless, the bone-breaking nature of the mayhem on display excludes the youngest batfans, who would also likely find their attention spans taxed by the lengthy proceedings. Some parents may, however, deem "The Dark Knight Rises" acceptable fare for older adolescents.

The film contains fre-

quent and intense action violence, including gunplay, an implied nonmarital encounter, a few uses of profanity and some crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults.

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

## ALSO PLAYING



CNS/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Manny, Diego and Sid star in a scene from the animated movie "Ice Age: Continental Drift." 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.

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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@dioogdensburg.org

# Thank you from the Mission Office

Once again the grateful recipients of the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal will say, "Ogdensburg is so good to us." They say a special thank you to the parishioners in St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis Deaneries who contributed so generously to last week's collection for the Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO).

Heartfelt gratitude to everyone in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Adirondack and Hamilton/Herkimer Deaneries who have supported mission work through the Missionary Cooperation Plan of 2012. This year we had/have roughly 20 Mission Aid Societies paying a visit to our Diocese.

Perhaps we sometimes take our faith for granted. Most of us may have no experience of being "persecuted" for our belief in Jesus Christ. But for many in the Missions, sharing Christ with others can lead to rejection and persecution. Yet, we all share the comfort that comes from knowing we are "blessed" in these circumstances, because Jesus is always with us as we carry out His mission, walking with us, protecting us.

Through your prayers and your support of the Pontifical Mission Societies, you too are with those who bring the light and the hope of Christ to the poor and the persecuted of the Missions. May Jesus continue to bless you for your generous missionary spirit!

Thank you also to all the people throughout the diocese who make regular contributions to the missionary ministry. Your prayers and donations are always welcomed and greatly needed throughout the year.

Please remember "The Pontifical Mission Societies"

when writing or changing your Will.

[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

## Pope Benedict XVI says he hopes greatest sports event in world will bring global peace

CASTEL GANDOLFO, ITALY (CNS) - Pope Benedict XVI expressed his hope that the Summer Olympics would help bring peace and reconciliation throughout the world.

The Olympic Games, held this year in London, are "the greatest sports event in the world," drawing athletes from the myriad nations of the world to one city, the pope told visitors gathered to pray the Angelus with him July 22 at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo.

The games have "important symbolic value," and for that reason the Catholic Church looks to them "with special fondness and attention," he said. "I send greetings to the organizers, athletes and spectators

The Olympic truce tradition, originating in 8th-century B.C. Greece, asked that all wars and conflict be suspended before and during the games as a way make sure participants could travel to and from the venue safely.

## OBITUARIES

**Alexandria Bay** — Hillary "Bumper" Stephen Wagoner, 59; Funeral Services July 18, 2012 at St. Cyril's Church.

**AuSable Forks** — Lori A. Rushia, 51; Funeral Services July 23, 2012 at Holy Name Church.

**Brushton** — Caitlyn O. Dana, 14; Funeral Services July 24, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Brushton** — Janet P. (Noreault) Dana, 69; Funeral July 24, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Brushton** — Laurie A. (McCarthy) Dana, 42; Funeral July 24, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Brushton** — Lauryn E. Dana, 11; Funeral Services July 24, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Brushton** — Shannon M. Planty, 14; Funeral Services July 25, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Cadyville** — Shirley A. (Ferguson) Messier, 83; Funeral Services July 21, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

**Canton** — John B. Ames, 89; Funeral Services July 16, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Hermon Cemetery.

**Canton** — Gail I. Green, 61; Funeral Services July 21, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Hermon Cemetery.

**Carthage** — Jane Marie (Holliday) Strife, 80; Funeral Services July 27, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in the New St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** — Gerald A. Stalter, 44; Funeral July 17, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Colton** — Edward Morgan Lenney, 93; Funeral July 26, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Dannemora** — Marie E. (Douglas) O'Connor, 88; Funeral Services July 18, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Plattsburgh.

**Glenfield** — "Ledwin" Therese (Mangan) Salmon, 83; Funeral at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, Greig.

**Gouverneur** — Michael Lawler, 55; Funeral July 21, 2012 at St. James Church.

**Keeseville** — Ruth A. (Passino) Busha, 86; Funeral July 21, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Lake Clear** — Carl R. Puccini, 88; Funeral Services July 14, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

**Lake Placid** — Grace Abigail (McLean) DeMacy, 90; Funeral Services July 18, 2012 at M.B. Clark Inc. Funeral Home; burial in Haselton Cemetery, Wilmington.

**Lowville** — Stella "Elza" (Maciejko) Aldino, 87; Funeral Services July 25, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lyon Mountain** — Marilyn G. (Morse) Owen, 83; Funeral Services July 20, 2012 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Lyons Falls** — Joyce M. (Thomas) Foley, 77; Funeral Services July 21, 2012 at St. John's Church.

**Massena** — Joseph A. Guilbert, 70; Funeral July 14, 2012 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Moria** — Geraldine R. (Rushford) Mussaw, 89; Funeral Services July 20, 2012 at Flint Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

**Norwood** — Harold F. Ling, 69; Funeral Services July 25, 2012 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Hale Cemetery

**Ogdensburg** — Dr. Thomas W. Duda, 68; Funeral Services July 18, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** — Diane Harriett Regan Fry, 75; Memorial Services July 26, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Ogdensburg** — John Egan "Jack" McNamara, Sr., 85; Funeral Services July 18, 2012 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Florence M. (Corron) Botten, 100; Funeral Services July 16, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Lillian M. (Trombly) DeCelle, 86; Funeral Services July 13, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Anna M. "Dolly" (Papa) Gaito, 90; Funeral Services July 21, 2012

at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Clara Eva (Farrar) Mitchell, 95; Funeral Services July 17, 2012 at Blessed John XXIII Newman Center; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Mary S. (Santor) Mooney, 89; Funeral Services July 21, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Immaculate Conception Church Cemetery, Keeseville.

**Plattsburgh** — Major Victor A. Pawlewicz, 83; Funeral Services July 17, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Syracuse.

**Plattsburgh** — Barbara E. (Morris) Riley, 82; Funeral Services July 23, 2012 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Plattsburgh

**Port Henry** — Julie "Tweetybird" (Vermette) McEvady, 87; Funeral Services July 13, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery, Moriah.

**Port Henry** — Rosalie "Rose" (Bezon) Rotella, 56; Funeral Services July 14, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Redford** — Phyllis (Graves) Liberty, 82; Funeral July 23, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** — Edna Ann (Gurley) Schultz, 60; Funeral Services July 17, 2012 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home.

**Tupper Lake** — Irene Delores (Rybacki) Rothgeb, 84; Funeral Services Aug. 13, 2012 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** — Joseph John DeYear, 26; Funeral Services July 19, 2012 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** — James F. Greene, 78; Funeral Services July 25, 2012 at Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Chazy** — Alice R. (Ebere) Corron, 80; Funeral Services July 13, 2012 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**West Leyden** — Phyllis A. (Bush) Hicks, 77; Funeral Services July 25, 2012 at St. Mary's Nativity Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

SUMMER SCENES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY CHURCH

# FACES OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas from Dannemora pose for a photo at the National Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha on her feast day July 14 in Fonda, N.Y. Blessed Kateri will become the first member of a North American tribe to be declared a saint when she is canonized Oct. 21. The Fonda shrine dedicated to her is located near the 17th-century Mohawk settlement where she was raised and baptized.



The New York State Council Knights of Columbus State Deputy Salvatore Restivo Bishop Terry R. LaValley with a check for \$10,000 to be used for charitable programs in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, June 30. Over the past year, the New York State Council's Charitable and Benevolent Program (C&B) has contributed over \$179,000 to the state's eight dioceses, New York Special Olympics, children's hospitals, scholarships, seminarians and youth sports programs. Some \$52,000 was distributed to flood victims in the Champlain and Hudson Valleys.



The 2012 graduates from Catholic Community of Constable, Westville, and Trout River were recognized at Mass June 17 and each given a crucifix. Front, from left are Ross Barber, Father Francis Flynn, pastor at the time; and Ryan Spinner; back, Lindsey La-Page, Victoria Tai, and Katie Tatro; missing, Neil Fleury.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley recently dedicated the new cemetery vault, columbarium and Statue at St. Joseph's Cemetery in West Chazy. Above, he is joined by Father J. Roger McGuinness, pastor. At right are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marcil, who donated the statue in memory of their son, Patrick; and the children of Alma Giroux in whose memory the vault is dedicated.

