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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 67, Number 35

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 23, 2013

The desire to know God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The desire to see and know God is innate in everyone, even nonbelievers, Pope Benedict XVI said.

But it's especially important that people don't just seek God when they need him but make room for him throughout their busy lives,

he said during his weekly general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall Jan. 16.

At the end of the audience, the pope also greeted U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, a Catholic. The brief encounter came during the so-called "baciamento," the

moment when the pope offers a select group of prelates and special guests a brief handshake one-by-one rather than a private audience.

The pope spoke at length with the former CIA director, who was smiling and gently

holding both of the pope's hands, and gave him one of the medallions reserved for special guests.

Panetta said later that the pope told him, "Thank you for helping to protect the world." Panetta said he replied, "Pray for me."

New access completed at Wadhams Hall

The Society of St. Lawrence, the deacons of the Diocese of Ogdensburg recently completed a handicapped access improvement at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

Permanent concrete ramps were constructed by a local contractor and paid for by the deacons.

Access to the first floor and dining area will now be easier for handicapped people.

As reported by St. Lawrence Society President, Deacon Fred Oberst, the work was completed on time and under budget.

Year of Faith Story of Faith

A reflection on the life of Ursuline Sister Mary Hallahan "who would want to be remembered as a Religious who was deeply in live with her God."

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

'IT'S HEARTBREAKING'



PHOTO BY SHAN MOORE

Kathie Fosher, whose family worshipped at St. Joseph's Church in Coopersville for generations, talks to Bishop Terry LaValley about vocations after the final regular Mass at St. Joseph's on Jan. 12. Full coverage of the closing of the Clinton Deanery church begins on page 7.

ON THE MARCH FOR LIFE

Forty years after Roe



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Bishop LaValley took part in the annual March for Life in Plattsburgh Sunday and shares the reflections he gave that day with the readers of the *North Country Catholic*. Other features marking the 40th anniversary of Roe v Wade decision published in this week's *NCC* include information about a novena planned by the US bishops and a reflection by Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the NYS Catholic Conference. Five busloads of pro-lifers will leave the North Country this week to take part in the national March for Life in Washington D.C. Friday. A group from Lake Placid is shown above during the 2012 March.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3, 11, 16

CHRISTIAN UNITY: Ecumenical service in Carthage opens special week.. p. 5

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

After 40 years of prayer, persistence...

We already have a treasured collection of baby pictures of our two little grandchildren – and they aren't even born yet!

We've seen the ears and nose and toes of a little girl who won't make her official debut in the world until March.

And we think her younger cousin looks a bit like his/her dad but won't know for sure until July.

What a thrill it is for expectant parents to see their children as they grow in mommy's womb.

How I wish that this kind of technology was available 30 years ago when I was having my babies.

Maybe if it had been common 40 years ago, we wouldn't have a Roe v Wade decision to fight today.

The medical progress made since 1973, with ultrasounds and inter-uterine surgeries, has gone a long way towards convincing younger people of the value, the humanness of preborn babies.

Kathleen Gallagher, the director of pro-life activities for the New York State Catholic Conference, and a regular *NCB* columnist,

believes that "advances in medical technology" are part of the reason that "we are about to reach a tipping point" in the fight against abortion.



Mary Lou Kilian

"There is no question that ultrasound images of the pre-born child have moved hearts and changed minds," she writes. "How could they not? They reveal the truth. Every day the mainstream media highlights yet another medical miracle. I recently watched the ABC Good Morning America team go giddy over a family photo of a baby girl's hand reaching out of her mother's uterus during a C-section to grasp the surgeon's finger. No, that's not just a clump of cells!"

After four decades of prayer and persistence, Mrs. Gallagher has great hope that change is in the air.

She is particularly impressed by the "passion and intensity of the millennial generation."

"You can feel it," she writes,

"Young adults know the truth. Sure, they've grown up with legal abortion, but they've also grown up with their own ultrasound photos pinned to the refrigerator."

Turn to page 16 to be inspired by her confidence and look over at page 3 to be inspired by the bishop's message for continued pro-life prayer and persistence.

He rightly believes that this *Year of Faith* is the time for each of us, to "re-energize our own relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body, making sure that our pro-life proclamation and witness "never becomes routine and automatic."

Now is not the time for us to become stagnant in our work for life... not when the "tipping point" is so near.

FATHER BILL SAYS

In prayer for the unity of all Christians

Each year in mid-January, the Catholic Church joins together with many other Churches to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

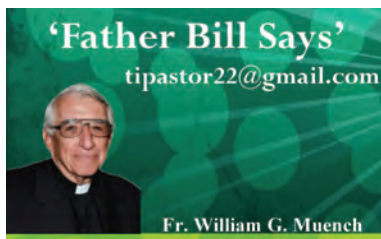
In many communities, there will be a special service – an interfaith service – during which clergy and people from each of the churches in a town take part in an opportunity for all to pray together for Christian Unity.

I am always rather disappointed that only a few people turn out for these services. I wish many more would participate; somehow I think it would be so good for the spirit of a community that even on one day a year, the people of that town would pray together.

Something good will happen.

In my recent study of the Second Vatican Council, I noticed that the Council felt ecumenism to be so important that the Council Fathers dedicated a separate document just to ecumenism.

This document encourage us Catholics to be more ecumenical, always ready to be open to opportunities to make the world a better place by



praying and working together with those of other Churches.

I have noticed in the Church's liturgical year – especially at Christmas time – that there are several feast days that have an ecumenical character.

At Christmas itself, all Christians celebrate faith in the Incarnation of the Lord. Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, chose to become one of us, to accept our humanity, take on our flesh, to be born as an infant just as we all are, to live among us on this earth, to die for us on the cross, to come to resurrection to new life.

Our human race is special and consecrated because Jesus was one of us. This faith in Jesus – his presence among us – unites us all in a very unique way.

On the Sunday after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

As we celebrate the Holy Family, we celebrate that we are family. We pray for our own family and then we are encouraged to remember that we are members of a wider family, the family of all humankind, the family of the People of God. As part of the People of God, our family includes our friends and neighbors of all those other Churches in town, as well as people everywhere in this world of ours.

This challenges us to live as a member of a family, this family of God, all of us united together in faith as a family, as the People of God. Our challenge is to make this a true family – as we live in respect and concern for each other – united in faith and hope.

Then we celebrate the Epiphany – the coming of the magi in search of the newborn, Jesus. Strangers were drawn by a star to find this newborn king yet, they found even more. They found Jesus, the Savior of all.

Their story is our story – the story of a journey, a journey of life in search of happiness and peace that can be found only in our faith in Jesus.

As we walk on this journey – this search – we journey best when we unite together with others, joined as a family, working and praying together as a family.

So, let us join together with all those in our world as they journey together, searching for peace. Along the way we will discover that we find it best as a family – as a People of God – united together in happiness.

So, let us journey together united in peace and unity as we pray together as the People of God in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In next week's NCC

In the Jan. 30 issue:

- A celebration of Catholic Schools Week
- World Day for Consecrated Life
- Farewell to a beloved Missionary of the Sacred Heart
- One more Year of Faith... Story of Faith

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

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FOLLOW ME

On the march for life

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Reflection for Plattsburgh March for Life, Jan. 20

As we gather this Year of Faith to mark that tragic decision of *Roe v Wade* some 40 years ago, it is right that our commitment to the promotion and proclamation of life's value and dignity receive a new shot in the arm.

This *Year of Faith* we are determined to seek God's grace for a renewed relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church. This is an apt occasion to pay particular attention to being credible witnesses of life, reflecting our own personal ongoing conversion. We can never be content with the status quo. We must not get stuck in the past or comfortable with the way we have always done things.

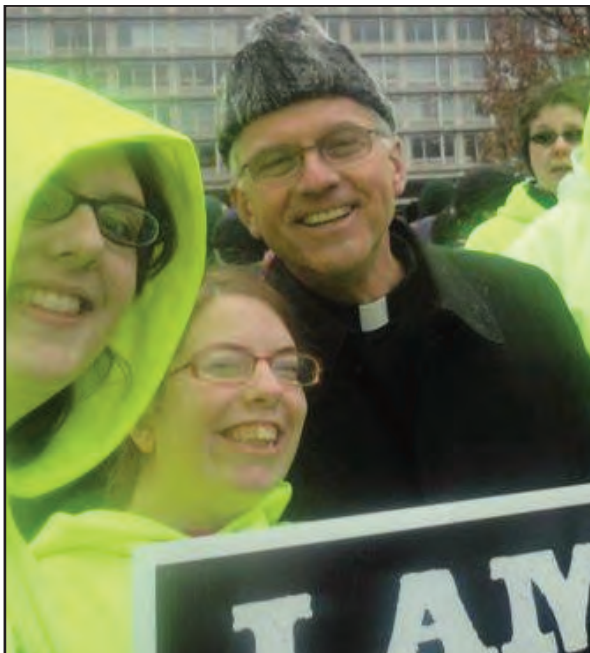
This is especially urgent today because we must be alert to and respond to the changing social context in which we find ourselves. We need to pay closer attention to a world today where some human behavior is so very difficult to understand. It takes greater effort and patience on our part to try to listen and comprehend. As Pope Paul VI noted in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii nuntiandi* (n.20), back in 1975 "there is a rupture between the Gospel and culture."

How do we become better, more effective instruments of Jesus' life-giving love to a world that is often deaf to the Good News and, at times, seems hell-bent on embracing a culture of death, constructing and living in a world as if God is a disinterested spectator or a world that believes that God does not exist at all? My own faith must be strong. My soul needs constant tending to. Instead of pointing an accusatory finger, which is so very easy for every one of us to do, bishops included, we must focus on being a sign of holiness, tending to what's going on inside of here (my heart).

As we continue this *Year of Faith*, the Holy Father has asked for a new ardor, a new energy in following Jesus. I see this as applicable to our pro-life efforts, as well. We begin with self-reflection, a daily examine of conscience, regular celebration of the Sacrament of Penance, Holy Eucharist and a forgiving disposition so that our witness to life may be credible and life-affirming.

In his letter on evangelization, Pope Paul VI stated that "The world requires and expects of us simplicity of life, a spirit of prayer, charity towards all and especially towards the little ones and the poor, obedience and humility, self-detachment and sacrifice. Without this sign of holiness, our word will find it difficult to open up the way to the hearts of the people of our time, but will risk being vain and fruitless." (n.76)

However good and valuable the work we do as pro-lifers, a renewed commitment is required which involves the First Person, i.e., ME. The Gospel has the power to open up hardened hearts and bring enthusiasm and power into places where weariness, discouragement, frustration, and confusion insinuate themselves.



Bishop LaValley is shown above with young adults from the Diocese of Ogdensburg during the 2012 March for Life in Washington, DC. On Sunday, he delivered the message on this page to participants of the 2013 March for Life in Plattsburgh.

We must be a people of the Word. "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (*Heb. 4:12*) The Good News is a creative force, challenging people, penetrating our hearts.

All those who receive the Gospel become missionaries so that the joy which has been communicated to us and which has transformed our lives may allow others to encounter the same Source of love and of salvation.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the new President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization observes, "In recent decades Christian values have become oxidized and risk being exposed to a painful wear and tear not due to the passing of the years, but to the corrosion brought about by cultural and legislative phenomena undermining the fabric of society. Having thrown open the doors to presumed individual rights have not led to greater social cohesion and even less to a greater sense of responsibility. What has come about, instead, is a worrying tendency for people to barricade themselves into an individualism which is a dead-end, which sooner or later will suffocate individuals and society." (*Responding to the Challenge of Indifference*, p.38)

With the embrace of a woman's unfettered right to an abortion, compliments of *Roe v Wade*, a culture has emerged whose consequences continue to be absolutely devastating.

We ask ourselves: Is society better off? Has the family become strengthened where respect is taught and lived? Is the vulnerable and weak person respected or regarded as a burden on fu-

ture plans and budgets?

The road of following Jesus is not an easy one. Our baptism has charged us to take up the journey and our Church equips us for the mission. We cannot and do not walk alone. As Christians, we walk alongside one another to offer fellow pilgrims the company and support of our faith. We desire to speak to all, even though we know that not everyone wishes to converse with us. It is only by means of a deep and reciprocal respect, will we be able to travel together fruitfully along a stretch of the road. As our Church leaders have reminded us many times, we do not wish to impose anything, but only to propose.

Our way of life must stimulate others. A renewed commitment on our part to proclaim the dignity of all human life must be done with respect and meekness. Remember what Paul wrote Timothy: "a servant of the Lord is not to engage in quarrels, but has to be kind to everyone, a good teacher, and patient. He or she has to be gentle when correcting people who dispute, never forgetting that God may give them a change of mind so that they may recognize the truth." (*2Tim 2:24-25*) God knows, that isn't always easy. So much is at stake that often we want to respond in kind to get people's attention. Sometimes we want to shout or yell those who seem so deaf. Such an "in your face response," (frankly one that I sometimes am tempted to display) is a "disgraceful response. That's when our own personal relationship with Jesus Christ should guide us.

In a culture in which secularism has created a situation of profound crisis in the faith, with behavior in clear contradiction to the faith, a rediscovery of the foundation of our faith is crucial so that we might become credible instruments of conversion and holiness in others. We cannot give what we do not possess.

It's time for a cultural revolution! Here, during this *Year of Faith*, the Lord is calling you and me to look inward, to re-energize our own relationship with Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church. We cannot allow ourselves to live with the illusion that our language of faith can be understood and accepted to the same extent as it always was and by repeating the same things over and over. It doesn't work. Our pro-life proclamation and witness must never become routine and automatic. It risks becoming stale and ineffective. Again, with a renewed focus on our personal faith and re-commitment to the body of believers of the Church, new creative and life-giving energies can be discovered that can speak the language of the secular society in which we live today and touch hearts with a language that is understandable and potentially life-changing.

Gatherings such as this not only give important public witness to life, but also serve to energize us in our personal commitment to personal holiness. I thank God for your persevering love and participation in this cultural revolution. May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

YEAR OF FAITH...STORY OF FAITH

My remembrance of Sister Mary

By Sr. Betty McAdams, OSU
Contributing Writer

I have known Sister Mary Hallahan for 48 years. I met her in 1964 as a student in her mathematics class at Ursuline Academy, Bethesda, Md. My classmates and I had no idea who this new nun, Mother Charles was.

I think the way Sister Mary would want to be remembered is that she was an Ursuline Religious who was deeply in love with her God.

We soon found out that she was a great teacher. She was strict, demanding, expected us to work.. hard..... and did not put up with foolishness. We also found out that she had a good sense of humor, was a nun who was fun; (there were not too many of those in those days!) and could dish back our pranks and jokes to us.

With that she won us over and we would do anything for her. More than this, she always encouraged us, built up our self esteem (which is very important for teenage girls) with her care and concern and love. We knew she loved us.

Mother Charles was only at Ursuline- Bethesda for that one year, as she was transferred to become the local superior of the convent and school in Wilmington, De. That was no small thing to be appointed to that position.

Despite distance, our friendship continued and grew through my years of college and graduate school through many letters, phone calls and a few visits, eventually leading to my entering the Ursulines.

I think the way Sister Mary would want to be remembered is that she



was an Ursuline Religious who was deeply in love with her God. I saw this deep love of God very early on in the year she taught me. Teenagers are pretty good at spotting fakes and phonies in adults. I knew that she was a real nun in the very depths of her soul.

I would often tell her that she was the finest Ursuline I knew. Of course she did not like me to say that, as she was a humble person and never liked attention drawn to herself.

In my own life she was the person God used to draw me to Religious Life as an Ursuline. She never wanted me to say that either. She would say that my vocation resulted from the prayer of the older nuns in the Bethesda community. While that is true, I would tell her God used her to lead me to the Ursulines, as God used Mary's girlhood friend, Eileen to lead her to the Ursulines.

As you know Sister Mary died the evening of December 31, liturgically



Ursuline Sister Mary Hallahan, who spent many years of ministry in Franklin County died Dec. 31. Her friend, Ursuline Sister Betty McAdams shared memories of Sister Mary's great faith in the eulogy she delivered at Sister Mary's funeral Jan. 11 at Notre Dame Church in Malone.

the Feast of the Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary.

I was with her in that sacred moment of her peaceful death, of her journey to new life. It was a holy moment I will never forget.

As I prayed at Mass the next morning, I was inspired to see in Sister Mary many of the qualities of her name sake, Our Blessed Mother.

Like Our Lady, Sister Mary gave a total "yes" to God in accepting her calling as an Ursuline Religious. She often told me we have to say "yes" to God every day in living out our religious vocations. She lived this "yes" every day of her life. Like Our Blessed Mother, Sister Mary was a zealous apostle leading all she knew to Jesus Christ.

Sister Mary was a woman of deep prayer. She put her fidelity and trust in God. She was so faithful to prayer everyday and this was the secret of her strength and success. I am sure she continues to pray for us.

Like the Blessed Mother, Sister Mary was attentive to the needs of

others, especially those who were poor or in great need. I am sure we can all recall times when Sister Mary was attentive to someone we know or to something we needed.

Finally, as her name sake, Sister Mary was a woman of great love. She loved her God, her vocation, her family, her Ursuline Religious order, her North country, her country, her students, her parishioners and all those with whom she worked. She lived this by her deeds.

I would like to close with some words from Sister Mary, these are from a talk she gave in her home parish of St. Lawrence in North Lawrence. She said....

"During my third year of college a good friend of mine wrote me that she was going to enter the Ursulines; I had been inquiring in various orders in Albany area because each time I saw a nun on a bus or on the street, I felt a tug in my heart. I applied with the Ursulines and was accepted. I think they thought they were getting someone special since I never had nuns; they soon found out how wrong they were but they kept me. My friend had to leave the Ursulines because of her health. God seemed to use her to get me.

Somewhere in scripture we are asked if Our Lord will find faith when he comes back? I would say "not if there is no one to keep telling his story". What would life be like or how do we face death not knowing we are saved. Christ has conquered death; all we have to do is to turn to Him.

I ask the adults who are here, would you encourage your son or daughter to be a priest, brother or religious sister. I challenge all our young people to think about replacing me or other priests and nuns. They are not getting younger. I will pray for you; please pray for me. God bless each one of you."

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Service in Carthage launches Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25

Christians join in prayer at ecumenical service

By Kevin Mastellon
Staff Writer

CARTHAGE - The bells of the Carthage United Community Church Brass Hand Bell Choir tolled a lovely song, *Good Christian Friends Rejoicing*.

It set the theme for the annual ecumenical service sponsored this year by the Village Ecumenical Ministries of Carthage and the Ecumenical Commission of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Bishop Terry LaValley joined clergy from Carthage and nearby communities at St. James Church in Carthage for this year's Prayer Service for Christian Unity Jan. 13.

The service helped to launch the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25. The theme chosen for 2013 is "What Does God Re-

quire of Us?" (Micah 6: 6-8). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one...that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

Father George Maroun, Pastor of St. James, welcomed about 150 Christians of all denominations to the Church. The Rev. Linda Harris, Pastor of the United Methodist Church Three River Valley Parish, offered a reflection focused on the Gospel reading of the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

In addition to the Hand Bell Choir directed by Megan Cross, a vocal choir composed of St. James' Choir and representatives from other Carthage area Churches enriched the service.

The combined choir was directed by Michael Perfetto,

Jr. from St. James. Kathie Liberatos and Timothy Gilligan were soloists.

In his brief reflection Bishop LaValley encouraged

all people of faith to put aside differences and join together to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Diocesan Ecumenical

Commission is chaired by Father Daniel L. Chapin, pastor in Croghan.

A reception followed at Augustinian Academy.



PHOTO BY KEVIN MASTELLON
Participants at the Jan. 13 ecumenical service held at St. James in Carthage included, from left, Father Daniel Chapin, chairman of the Ecumenical Commission of the Diocese of Ogdensburg and pastor in Croghan; the Rev. Linda Harris, pastor, United Methodist Church, Three River Valley Parish; Bishop Terry LaValley; the Rev. Jane Wagner, United Church of Christ, Carthage and vice president of Village Ecumenical Ministries, Carthage; and Father George Maroun, pastor of St. James.

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 26-27**

Proceeds will be distributed through grants to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize,

honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life

Funeral held for Mercy Sister Rose Curtin, 75

PLATTSBURGH—A Mass of Christian Burial for Mercy Sister Rose (Catherine Rose) Curtin, 75, was held Jan. 14 at St. John's Church.

She died Jan. 11 at CVPH; a spring burial will take place in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Sister Rose was born in Plattsburgh, the daughter of the late James and Loretta (Aubin) Curtin.

She graduated from St. John's Academy in June 1956 and she entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 8, 1956.

Sister Rose studied radiology at Mercy Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; she received a BA in Speech and Hearing from Ithaca College, Ithaca,

N.Y., and a Masters of Audiology and Speech Pathology degree from SUNY, Albany.

Sister Rose's ministry was in health-care at Mercy Hospital, Watertown.

After retirement, she returned to Plattsburgh. Sister Rose was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, and often attended Mass at St. Peter's Catholic

Church and Our Lady of Victory.

She also continued health-care ministry in Plattsburgh, as an audiologist for Dr. Jacques Piche, and also an x-ray technologist for the local orthopedic offices of Drs. Pamela Reinhart, Thomas Kneifel, Howard Black and

Phillip Volk.

Along with her parents, Sister Rose was predeceased by three brothers, Thomas, Gerald, and James and a brother-in-law, Denis Taylor.

She is survived by her sister Mary Curtin Taylor, several nieces and nephews, many great nieces and nephews, along with great-great nieces and nephews. Survivors also include her friends and the Sisters of Mercy of the Mid-Atlantic Community.

Sister Rose will long be remembered for her kindness to and gentle, deep caring for those whom she encountered.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sisters of Mercy Retirement Fund, 515 Montgomery Avenue, Merion, PA 19066.



Sister Rose Curtin, RSM

Rites held in Garrison for Sr. M. Eileen McTiernan, S.A.

GARRISON, NY—A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Mary Eileen McTiernan, 91, a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement from Graymoor, was held Jan. 16 at the Motherhouse chapel at Graymoor.

She died Jan. 12 at the Residence of St. Francis Convent. Burial was in the Sisters' Cemetery at Graymoor.

Sister Mary Eileen was born June 17, 1921 in Liscarroll, Co. Cork, Ireland to Bridie (Kiely) and James McTiernan. She grew up in Co. Sligo, her father's place of birth. She was pre-deceased by her brothers: Finbar, Desmond, Gordon and James (her twin) McTiernan and a

sister, Teresa Yetman. She is survived by her sister, Fredda Lawless of Norwalk, CT and many nieces and nephews.

She joined the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in Rossinver, Ireland on June 21, 1938 and came to Graymoor on May 3, 1939. Sister Mary Eileen professed her first vows June 5, 1941 and her final vows Aug. 24, 1946.

As an Atonement missionary, Sister Mary Eileen served in parish and catechetical ministries in several New York cities: Hogsburg

(1949), Brushton (1949-1953), Stillwater (1964-65), Mechanicville (1965-68) and Garrison (1994-2013), and in Camden, NJ, Philadelphia, PA, Rockland, ME, Burlington, VT and in British Columbia, Canada. For many years, she served in retreat ministry and as sacristan at The Washington Retreat House, Washington, DC (1941-42, 1975-85).

Sister Mary Eileen served as sacristan for many diocesan functions at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

She shared many gifts of teaching with the children and youth at the Central School of Religion in Ogdensburg.

Sister Mary Eileen returned to the Motherhouse in September 1994.



Sr. M. Eileen McTiernan

Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 21-25 - Catholic Leadership Institute Episcopal Ongoing Formation & Support Session in Orlando, Florida

Jan. 27 - 9 a.m., Opening Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Mary's Church in Canton

11 a.m., Mass at Gunnison Chapel at St. Lawrence University in Canton

Jan. 28 - New York State Catholic Conference Board Meeting in New York

Jan. 31 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 403.

Upcoming programs:

Jan. 24 - 7:30 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

Feb. 27 - 3 p.m., St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

March 7 - 4 p.m., St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

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; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

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- Adjusting your refrigerator thermostat to middle setting will keep all food at the right temperature when the door seal is right and save energy.

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Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 23 - Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909

Jan. 24 - Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924

Jan. 25 - Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890

Jan. 26 - Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thamelng, O.F.M. Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon

Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir,

1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002

Jan. 27 - Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009

Jan. 28 - Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004

Jan. 29 - Msgr. James T. Lyng, 1965

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Bishop presides at final Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Coopersville

Parishioners bid farewell to 'Mother Church'

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

COOPERSVILLE — As St. Joseph's Church burned around her, young Ina Fosher carried the Holy Eucharist to safety.

Lightning had struck the steeple that summer day in 1934; nine years later, Ina and her family mourned her brother Amos at his funeral in the old stone church.

He was the first Clinton County man killed in action in World War II.

On Jan. 12, 2013, their niece Kathie Fosher worshiped at the last regular Mass celebrated in the parish that for generations has held a central role in Fosher family history.

"It's heartbreaking," she said. "But God works in mysterious ways."

'No more difficult task'

St. Joseph's will soon become an oratory, where only weddings and funerals will take place.

Its corporation dissolved, the congregation will be absorbed by St. Patrick's in Rouses Point.

St. Joseph's, which already shared Father Clyde Lewis as pastor, was to be dissolved upon the retirement of the pastor of either St. Patrick's or St. Mary's in Champlain, when those two parishes would be merged.



PHOTO/SHAN MOORE

Father Clyde Lewis chats with longtime parishioners after the Jan. 12 Mass that marked an end to regular services at St. Joseph's Church in the Town of Champlain hamlet of Coopersville. From left are Norman Bechard, Robert Lefebvre, Norman Lefebvre and Kitty Bechard.

The change came sooner than expected due to the illness of St. Mary's pastor, Father James Delbel.

Father Lewis filled in for him, along with celebrating the Masses at St. Patrick's, but even with Father Ray Moreau of Sacred Heart in Chazy saying Mass at St. Joseph's, it became apparent the timetable needed to be moved up.

Otherwise, Father Lewis said, "I would be saying five Masses every weekend."

"There is no more difficult task than I have had since being installed as bishop than to make a decision, after much consultation, that a parish church must close," Bishop Terry LaValley said in his homily at the final regular Mass.

"It's a very great sadness," said Diocesan Director of Planning and Chancellor Sister Jennifer Votraw in a phone interview.

And timing is so difficult, she said.

The bishop, she said, "is sensitive to the illness of a pastor but at the same time very anxious that parishioners' needs are met."

Old Mother Church

But designation as oratory does not mean the end for St. Joseph's, Father Lewis said.

A new furnace was just installed; the building remains of value to the diocese, he said.

"It's the Mother Church," he said.

That appellation — the Old Mother Church — was born of the work of early pastors of St. Joseph's to establish missions in communities far flung from Coopersville, the location of the only Catholic church north of Plattsburgh and west to Malone for decades.

Those five missions eventually became parishes in their own right — St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, Sacred Heart in Chazy, St. Ann's in Mooers Forks and St. Louis de France in Sciota.

St. Joseph's first church building was a small structure erected sometime around 1818, according to tradition; it burned on Feb. 19, 1823.

The larger edifice was built in 1845, and while the 1934 fire devastated all but the stone, it was rebuilt, complete with a new steeple.

"The pastors who led this parish are true pioneers of faith," Bishop Terry LaValley said told the congregation.

And the faith of the early Catholics who worshiped in St. Joseph's pews, he said, "was as solid and secure as the rocks that built this structure."

Donated marker

Eddie Bechard, with his wife, Beverly, donated the historic marker on Mason Road across from the church that describes St. Joseph's history; his family has been there for much of it.

Eddie's father, Alderic, was among Coopersville resi-

dents who tried to quench the flames as the church burned, he and his wife, Rose Alma, paid for the stained-glass window that pictures St. Joseph.

As children, Eddie, now 88, and his late brother, Donia, performed a multitude of chores for Father Hermenegilde Brisson.

Their pay, Eddie always recalls with a chuckle, was a promise.

"St. Joseph will reward you," the priest told them.

Eddie, a church trustee, has continued to pitch in to keep up the church property.

Its dismantlement saddens him, he said, "but things change," he added philosophically.

'God's Will'

In 1902, St. Joseph's parishioners were distressed and sorrowful when their pastor, Father N. Wilfred Bergeron, shifted his residence to the rectory of newly created Sacred Heart Parish in Chazy; the Old Mother Church became a mission then.

A decade later, however, Coopersville native Father Walter LaRocque was assigned to St. Joseph's as resident pastor, and the parish flourished once more.

Parishioners at the Jan. 12 Mass expressed little hope of a second resurrection, all too aware of the critical priest shortage.

"It's God's will," said Brenda Jolicoeur, who became one of the St. Joseph's flock when she converted to Catholicism at age 19, with the arrival of Vatican II.

"We knew it was coming, but we didn't think it would be this soon," Pauline Proulx said, leaving the church with her sister, Mary.

Long ago, Mary helped Father Hermenegilde Brisson, pastor from 1937 to 1954, with his correspondence and for many years put elbow grease to work keeping the church clean.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Diocese prepares for future

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

In 2002, early in the process set forth by the Diocese of Ogdensburg to cope with the increasing shortage of priests, the diocese boasted 119 parishes.

By 2011, by dint of mergers and creation of oratories, that number had dropped to 105. It is now 99.

A total 71 active priests (though not all in parish ministry) has dropped to 66 at present, with 38 priests who are retired or

disabled.

The good news, said diocesan Director of Planning and Chancellor Sister Jennifer Votraw, is the number of lay ministers has shown steady growth, now with 813, and a healthy program turns out more every year, part of a coordinated team that ministers to parishioners.

They visit the sick, work with teens, help instruct catechism ...

"And our deaconate is growing," Sister Jennifer said, with 67 permanent deacons in the diocese.

"It's wonderful."

A message from the Diocesan Worship Office

Concerning the Rite of Peace at Mass

by Rev. Douglas J. Lucia
Episcopal Vicar for Worship
and Priestly Formation

Many times the Diocesan Worship Office, especially during flu season, receives inquiries concerning the Sign of Peace. In order to better understand the directives surrounding this action in the Mass, I draw your attention to the following norms which govern this practice in the Eucharistic celebration:

- #82 in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*:

"There follows the Rite of Peace, by which the Church entreats peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family, and the faithful express to each other their ecclesial communion and mutual charity before communicating in the Sacrament.

As for the actual sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by the Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples.

However, it is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of

peace only to those who are nearest."

- #72 of the 2004 *Instruction on the Eucharist (Redemptionis Sacramentum)* from the Congregation for Divine Worship:

"It is appropriate 'that each one give the sign of peace only to those who are nearest and in a sober manner'.

"The Priest may give the sign of peace to the ministers but always remains within the sanctuary, so as not to disturb the celebration. He does likewise if for a just reason he wishes to extend the sign of peace to some few of the faithful'.

'As regards the sign to be exchanged, the manner is to be established by the Conference of Bishops in accordance with the dispositions and customs of the people', and their acts are subject to the recognition of the Apostolic See."

- Concerning this practice, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops through its Secretariat for the Liturgy sees the exchange of peace as normative in the corporate act of Worship.

It writes in a 2010 handout on "The Worshipping Assembly at Mass":

"The celebration of Mass is a corporate act, an act of the whole assembly gathered for worship. All the particular ministries serve this corporate function (GIRM, no. 27).

In the Mass, the Church is joined to the action of Christ, *the high point both of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ and of the worship that the human race offers to the Father, adoring him through Christ, the Son of God, in the Holy Spirit* (no. 16).

We are joined to this divine action through baptism, which incorporates us into the risen Christ. This action, which lies at the center of the whole Christian life (no. 16) is not initiated by us but by God acting in and through the Church as the body of the risen Christ. It becomes our action only to the extent that we give ourselves to this mystery of redemptive worship.

Participation of the faithful

The liturgy is designed to bring about in all those who make up the worshipping assembly *a participation of the faithful both in body and mind, a participation burning with faithful, hope, and*

charity (no. 18). To the extent that we are able to participate in this way, the work of redemption becomes personally effective for each of us.

By such participation, the General Instruction says, we make the actions and prayers of the liturgy our own; we enter more fully into our personal communion with Christ's redeeming act and perfect worship (see no. 54, 55, etc.).

In the celebration of Mass the faithful are a holy people, a chosen people, a royal priesthood: they give thanks to God and offer the Victim not only through the hands of the priest but also together with him and learn to offer themselves.

They should endeavor to make this clear by their deep sense of reverence for God and their charity toward brothers and sisters who share with them in the celebration (no. 95).

They should become one body, whether by hearing the word of God, or joining in prayers and liturgical song, or above all by offering the sacrifice together and sharing together in the Lord's table (no. 96).

Because the whole liturgy is a corporate act of the gathered assembly (GIRM no. 34; Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 1144), there are certain parts of the Mass that are to be done by the whole assembly, the congregation of the faithful and all the ministers, in order to express the corporate nature of this act. Through these actions, the entire congregation of the faithful joins itself to Christ in acknowledging the great things that God has done and in offering the sacrifice (no. 78). These acts include:

- Listening with reverence to the readings of God's word (GIRM no. 29);

- Engaging in the dialogue of prayer through acclamations, greetings, and responses to spoken and sung prayers (no. 34-37) in a tone suitable to the text (no. 38);

- Joining in an action through common postures and gestures (no. 42);

- Participating in communal silence (no. 45);

- Because of their baptismal dignity, letting themselves be included in the offering symbolized by incensation (no. 75);

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE FLU

Bishop LaValley is asking all parishes of the diocese to adopt the following precautionary measures as precautions in church settings against influenza and other communicable diseases.

1. Parishioners should not share the sign of peace or drink from the communion cup if feeling ill (which means for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion that they not assist with Holy Communion when ill).
2. It is recommended that parishioners receive Communion in the hand. Communion on the tongue does present hygienic problems during the flu season. (Please note the proper way of receiving Communion in the hand is to approach the minister of Communion, bow, which may be done as the person in front of you is receiving Communion, place one hand out over the other).
3. Ministers of Communion are to make use of hand sanitizers before and after distributing Communion.
4. Hand sanitizer should be made available in churches for use by the public.
5. Pastors should see to it that on a weekly basis the holy water fonts are cleaned and the water in the fonts changed.

Coopersville

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Calvin Castine filmed the Mass for his public-access programming on Home Town Cable, just as he recorded the 1994 150th-anniversary celebration.

His parents, Carl and Carol were wed at St. Joseph's in 1942.

"My earliest church memories are of that arch up there," he said, packing up his camera.

In French, Latin and English, gold letters on the arch over the sanctuary have spelled out: Allez a Joseph, Ite ad Joseph and Go to Joseph since Father Brisson's

tenure.

And Carl, his son said, attended the 7:30 p.m. Saturday Mass until he was unable to drive anymore.

"Every week, he was here."

'Hard to believe

The bishop greeted parishioners with a warm hand-clasp and smile as they left the church, noting the frequency of the old French surnames long familiar at St. Joseph's: Ashline, Bechard, Laurin, even his own LaValley.

The closure hit close to home for him, too — his late aunt and uncle, Walter and

Helen LaValley, were caretakers of the cemetery and church grounds for many years.

So, too, was Kathie Fosher's father, Chudleigh, until his death in 2009.

"My father loved this church," she said, her gaze taking in the stained-glass windows, stations of the cross, the parishioners leaving the Saturday night anticipated Mass for the very last time.

"It's hard to believe — it came a little too fast."

She brushed away a tear. "But the faith," the bishop consoled her, "continues."

Rite of peace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

- Participating in the greeting of peace as a sign of ecclesial communion and love for each other (no. 82);

- Participating in specific spoken prayers and other texts, namely: the formula of general confession during the penitential rite (no. 51); the profession of faith (no. 67-68);

Also, the general intercessions (no. 69); the Lord's Prayer (no. 81); the prayer of humility before sacramental communion (no. 84);

- Participating in the offering during the Eucharistic Prayer, which is spoken or chanted by the priest, but in which all should join as the Church to offer the "spotless Victim to the Father in the Holy Spirit" and "offer themselves and so day by day to surrender themselves, through Christ the Mediator, to an ever more complete union with God and with each other, so that at last God may be all in all" (no. 79f);

- Participating in liturgical song, because singing is a way of expressing both the corporate nature of the act of worship and the intense union to be achieved between God and the Church in Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is a union so intense and total that it is described as a union between lovers whose nature is best expressed vocally in song (no. 39).

Singing is also an act which unifies and focuses the individual (no. 39), thus encouraging that "participation in body and spirit that is conscious, active, full, and motivated by faith, hope, and charity" (no. 18)

- For those who are properly disposed (no. 80), full, active, and conscious participation is expressed in partaking in the Holy Communion of the Lord, receiving in the one bread consecrated at this Mass the Lord's body and blood, in the same way that the apostles received them from Christ's own hands (no. 72.3).



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Priests exchange the sign of peace during a Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification of Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 2, 2011.

In response to flu virus

Lastly in response to inquiries when the H1N1 Flu Virus appeared in 2009, the USCCB counseled the following:

"In those localities where the outbreak of the disease has been the most significant, bishops have introduced several liturgical adaptations in regard to such practices as the distribution of Holy Communion and the exchange of the Sign of Peace in order to limit the spread of contagion... Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be especially reminded of the need to practice good hygiene. Ministers of Holy Communion should always wash their hands before Mass begins; a further precaution suggests using an alcohol-based anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Holy Communion. The faithful should be instructed not to receive from the cup if they feel ill..."

"The Diocesan Bishop should always be consulted regarding any changes or re-

striction of options in the celebration of Roman Catholic Liturgy. However, the need for the introduction of widespread liturgical adaptations for the prevention of the transmission of influenza in the dioceses of the United States of America is not evident at this time."

Permanent structure

As can be seen, the Rite of Peace is a permanent structure within the Mass and has been since the earliest celebrations of the Eucharist. However, its performance can be governed on occasion by circumstances, such as, a wedding or funeral liturgy or as noted here in this article, by localities facing an outbreak of disease.

It is such a provision that is invoked in time of need, but the norm "to give the sign of peace" remains the standard for the worshipping assembly.

In *Sacramentum Caritatis (Sacrament of Charity)*, #49, Pope Benedict XVI instructs, "By its nature the Eucharist is the sacrament of peace. At Mass this dimension of the Eucharistic mystery finds specific expression in the sign of peace. Certainly this sign has great value (cf. Jn 14:27).

In our times, fraught with fear and conflict, this gesture has become particularly eloquent, as the Church has become increasingly conscious of her responsibility to pray insistently for the gift of peace and unity for herself and for the whole human family. Certainly there is an irrepressible desire for peace present in every heart.

The Church gives voice to the hope for peace and reconciliation rising up from every man and woman of good will, directing it towards the one who 'is our peace' (Eph 2:14) and who can bring peace to individuals and peoples when all human efforts fail."

"The peace of the Lord be with you always. And with your spirit. Let us offer each other a sign of peace."

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VATICAN LETTER

When the pope administers sacraments

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - As the chief shepherd of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI plays many roles, among them minister of the sacraments.

Along with his daily celebrations of the Eucharist, the pope's 2013 agenda opened with the ordination of new bishops Jan. 6. Just a week later, he was scheduled to mark the Jan. 13 feast of the Baptism of the Lord by baptizing 22 infants in the Sistine Chapel.

For most Catholics, receiving any sacrament from the pope would be a special event, yet such opportunities are necessarily rare. On what occasions does the pope personally administer the sacraments and to whom?

Baptism:

The babies whom the pope baptizes in the annual January rite usually are the children of Vatican employees. The pope also traditionally administers the sacraments of Christian ini-



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI gives Communion to a nun during Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this Dec. 24, 2012, file photo. The pope has publicly administered six of the seven sacraments as chief shepherd of the church.

tiation - baptism, confirmation and first Communion - to a group of adult converts in St. Peter's Basilica on Holy Saturday every year. This event became the focus of controversy in 2008 after one of the baptized, Egyptian-born journalist Magdi Allam, publicly and emphatically repudiated his former Islamic faith. Pope Benedict has not continued Blessed John Paul II's practice of baptizing adults during foreign trips, occasions that the late pope used to initiate hundreds into the church.

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

Communion:

Who receives Communion from Pope Benedict at papal Masses in Rome and elsewhere is up to the pope's master of liturgical ceremonies, Msgr. Guido Marini. During papal trips, prominent or highly active members of the local churches are usually among those chosen. Though parents around the world have asked, Pope Benedict has never celebrated a Mass specifically for a group of children receiving their first Communion, but a few children have received their first Communion from him at Mass during papal trips. The pope gives Communion at the Mass he celebrates every morning in his private chapel. During the pontifi-

cate of Blessed John Paul, those Masses were often attended by dozens of outside guests, but Pope Benedict has typically limited attendance to members of the papal household.

Confession:

Pope Benedict heard the individual confessions of young people in St. Peter's during Lent in 2007 and 2008, then again at World Youth Day in Madrid in August 2011. He has not continued Blessed John Paul's practice of administering the sacrament in St. Peter's every year on Good Friday morning.

Confirmation:

Pope Benedict confirmed a group of young people attending World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008 and will confirm another group in

Rome on April 28 of this year, one of the events organized for the 2012-13 Year of Faith.

Matrimony:

While this sacrament is actually administered by the spouses themselves, the church normally requires Catholics to marry in the presence of a priest or deacon. Pope Benedict has not celebrated a marriage ceremony as pope, but given his increasing emphasis on the need to defend traditional marriage, it would not be surprising if he were to do so soon. At a Mass marking the Jubilee for Families in October 2000, Blessed John Paul celebrated the weddings of eight couples, using his homily to affirm the family as a life-long union of husband and wife with naturally conceived children. (The late pope also married a young couple from Rome in 1979. Blessed John Paul had been visiting a sanitation center there when the bride, the daughter of a street cleaner, asked him to celebrate her wedding, which he did in the Vatican's Pauline Chapel.)

Holy Orders:

Pope Benedict ordains priests in St. Peter's Basilica every year on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Good Shepherd Sunday, which will be April 21 this year. Since his election as pope, he has also ordained 22 bishops, most recently Jan. 6, when he ordained four new prelates including Archbishop Georg Ganswein, his longtime personal secretary who is now also prefect of the papal household.

Anointing of the Sick:

The pope has administered this sacrament in public only once since his election, to 10 sick pilgrims at the shrine of Lourdes in southwestern France in 2008.

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Saint 'a guiding star' who brought Christ's healing to those in despair

KALAUPAPA, Molokai (CNS) -- Hawaii held its final major event celebrating the canonization of St. Marianne Cope in the same place she practiced her inexhaustible charity, mostly unseen, for three decades. On Jan. 12 in Kalaupapa at Bishop Home, the former destination of scores of women and girls with Hansen's disease and Mother Marianne's home from 1888 to 1918, hundreds of people gathered to celebrate Molokai's second saint with a Mass, music, a luau, a play and an abundance of camaraderie. A member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Mother Marianne succeeded St. Damien de Veuster in ministering to leprosy patients. The Belgian priest, who died in 1889, was Kalaupapa's first saint. He was canonized in 2009. At the celebration, special guests of Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva included Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Bishop Robert J. Cunningham of Syracuse, N.Y., where St. Marianne lived the first half of her life. All three bishops had attended the canonization of Mother Marianne Cope by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome Oct. 21. None of them had ever before been to Hawaii. Also present was Bishop Peter Yelesuome Angkyier of Damongo, Ghana. The week of rain and gusty winds that preceded the event ended early on the morning of the celebration, leaving the Kalaupapa settlement uncommonly green, wet, refreshed and still. Small planes made 17 flights delivering outside guests, mostly from Honolulu, nine passengers at a time, to the tiny airport over a span of three hours. At the airport terminal, a large hand-painted banner displayed the words "Celebrate St. Marianne

Faith groups begin to muster support of gun controls

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- If Vincent DeMarco is right -- and he's got a whole bunch of faith leaders and their organizations lined up to work with him -- ending easy access to the kinds of high-power guns used in mass shootings can be accomplished with a tried-and-true strategy. DeMarco, national coordinator of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, believes the financial and political clout of the gun lobby in opposing any gun restrictions can be defeated by the same kind of grass-roots, faith-based strategy that he believes broke through the tobacco lobby's power, enabling the enactment of government controls on tobacco marketing, and new cigarette taxes to fund children's health care. Polls show the vast majority of Americans, including the majority of gun owners, support some restrictions, such as more thorough background checks for gun purchasers and bans on semiautomatic assault weapons, DeMarco said. "But there are people in Congress who don't believe that," he said. "We're going to make sure they know. We're going to succeed because our faith leaders are going to make sure they hear" that their constituents support some controls, he added. Just such an effort that DeMarco headed, Faith United Against Tobacco, is credited with lobbying for steeper cigarette taxes and other government controls on the tobacco industry.

Youth-friendly' novena part of 'Nine Days' event to mark Roe v. Wade decision

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Catholic bishops have launched "Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage" to take place Jan. 19-27 as part of events marking the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand in the U.S.

Jan. 22 is the actual anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision, but because this year it is the day after public ceremonies for the presidential inauguration, the annual March for Life in Washington will take place Jan. 25.

Materials about the "Nine Days" program posted on the website of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops suggests prayers, activities and other ways U.S. Catholics can mark the Roe anniversary, whether they planned to come to Washington or to attend local or regional pro-life rallies, events and liturgies.

A signature event of the program is a novena, which participants can receive via a daily email by signing up at www.usccb.org/9days or by texting "9days" to 99000 to receive a daily text message. Described as "youth-friendly," the daily message will include: an intercession; simple prayers; a brief reflection on the saint of the day or a lesson from the daily readings; suggestions for concrete acts of prayer, penance and charity; and "a powerful myth/reality comment related to abortion."

The novena of prayer and fasting will "spark a renewal of love and commitment to the true good of others," Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston said in a statement Jan. 18.

He urged all Catholics to participate.

"Only a love that seeks to serve those most in need ... is strong enough to overcome a culture of death," he said.

The daily prayer intentions are for the "healing and conversion of our nation, for elected officials who support abortion and for all people whose lives have forever been changed by an abortion," he said. The cardinal noted that in the 40 years since Roe and its companion decision, Doe v. Bolton, "55 million children have never had the chance to be born.

"The scope of this loss is staggering, yet the court and many in our society relegate it to a matter of personal choice," Cardinal O'Malley said.

Jesus offers healing, he said, and "came not to condemn us, but to free us from the burden of the wrongs we have done so that all might be saved."

In other "Nine Days" suggestions:

- On the weekend of Jan. 19-20, diocesan pro-life and youth ministry directors are invited to assemble local students/pilgrims who will be making a pilgrimage to Masses, rallies, marches and other events marking the Roe anniversary. Bishops are encouraged to preside at Mass or a holy hour for the pilgrims, and to formally bless them before their journey.

- Parishes are encouraged to hold a "40 Hours Devotion," or a holy hour for Life, including a "Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing."

- Pro-life and youth ministry directors are encouraged to sponsor a video contest for high school-age pilgrims, with 30- to 60-second video footage to be shot at pro-life events that take place during the "Nine Days" observance. For example, the videos could illustrate what it means personally to take part in a pro-life pilgrimage or in the pro-life movement generally.

- A blessing of pilgrims may also be offered on their

return from various events.

- To conclude "Nine Days," parishes are asked to offer a holy hour for Reparation and Healing Jan. 27 for all those impacted by abortion.

"May we respond to 40 years of the culture of death with great confidence and hope," Tom Grenchik, executive director of the U.S. bishops' pro-life secretariat, said in a Jan. 4 statement. "In addition to our current everyday pro-life efforts, a nationwide commitment to prayer and penance is essential to ushering in a culture of life."

In addition to the March for Life, Roe anniversary events planned in Washington include the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which opens with an evening Mass Jan. 24; Cardinal O'Malley will be the main celebrant. The vigil closes with early morning Mass Jan. 25. The March for Life begins at noon on the National Mall.

According to the USCCB, the "Nine Days" program is part of a pastoral strategy the U.S. bishops approved during their fall general assembly in Baltimore to address life, marriage and religious liberty concerns.

Components include monthly eucharistic holy hours in cathedrals and parishes, daily family rosary, special Prayers of the Faithful at all Masses, and fasting and abstinence on Fridays. A second "Fortnight for Freedom" event is planned for 2013 to raise concern about infringements to religious freedom.

In 2012, the first "Fortnight" was held June 21 to July 4, and Catholics around the country responded by participating in Masses, devotions, holy hours, educational presentations and rallies.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A treasure of hope for the new year just begun

Although we are well into a new year, we find that most of the problems and crises of 2012 are still with us in 2013, whether they are economic or political or social within our own country, or international problems of terrorism that shatter our dreams for a world at peace.

Fortunately, there's a treasure of hope in this Sunday's readings, beginning with Nehemiah, appointed by King Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, which lay in ruins following the exile.

The spirits of the people also needed rebuilding, so

Ezra, the priest, dusts off the neglected scrolls of the law, and calls all the people together, even children who are old enough to understand.

From morning to night, Ezra reads to them the Law. Most had neglected its precepts for years. As they hear it read and explained by Ezra, they begin to weep tears of joy and of sorrow.

After recommitting their lives to the Lord, they express their joy with days of feasting.

Today's Gospel describes an even greater "reading".

As Jesus formally begins his mission on earth, he starts with his hometown of

Nazareth. There, in the synagogue on a Sabbath, he reads to the people from the passage in Isaiah which proclaims the coming messianic age.

In a voice filled with the fire of the Spirit, he announces to them Isaiah's prophecy of a time of good news to the poor, liberty for captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed.

Then, handing the scroll to an attendant, he proclaims to all present, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing".

These words are the core of Jesus' message to both the people of His day and of our times!

Talk about a reason to hope!

In today's second reading



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

JAN. 27

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

from St. Paul to the Corinthians, we find a blueprint for acting on the two readings we have heard.

Some reflection points out the inspiration of the Holy Spirit on Nehemiah and Ezra, and on Jesus.

St. Luke tells us in the Gospel that Jesus came from the desert to Nazareth "in the power of the Spirit".

It is the Spirit, too, that came upon us in our Baptism and Confirmation to

make of us part of the Body of Christ.

The Church is one body, but made up of many members. How very different we are!

St. Paul tells us that there are "important" members and "not-so-important" members. However, we are all needed, and must respect and support one another in charity.

Why?

So that this new messianic age may one day be realized.

To connect all this with our Christmas season so recently ended, the readings are all about the light of Christ come into the world. "In His light, we see light is still the reason for our hope and our action in the new year just begun.

OUR READERS WRITE

Thanks from Catholic Charities

The Holiday Season is over and everyone is sorting through their gifts and trying to make room for the new and making those life-changing resolutions to lose those extra pounds. 2012 was a busy year for Catholic Charities and the past few months in preparation for the Christmas season were especially eventful.

Catholic Charities is so grateful for the generosity of this community and the willingness of so many to give of their time, talent and treasure to brighten the season for others. Many individual thank yous have been sent but please know that no good deed went unnoticed.

The season started with a Scouting for Food Drive organized and sponsored by area scouting groups under the leadership of Pat and David Sauther. The food drive held in mid November was a huge success with 2350 food items collected for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. This year's food collection exceeded previous years. We are always so thankful for the Scouts and their leaders and the great community service they provide- what a beautiful lesson to instill in the young the importance of feeding the hungry. Food items collected went into the Christmas Baskets in December with remaining items to restock the pantry shelves.

Late November, NCCC along the Art Department Coordinator, Tina LaMour and her art students, hosted "Art from the Heart" for its fourth year. The Art Club raised money by selling canvas bags throughout the community with the proceeds generated from the sale of the bags enabling students to continue bringing art and artists to the campus. Once purchased by community members, the bags were to be decorated, filled with non-perishable food items and returned for a silent auction that took place on November 30th.

The artwork (decorated canvas bags) was created by faculty and staff of the college, students, a local Boy Scout troop and members of the community. All non-perishable food items were then donated to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, housed at Catholic Charities. There

were over 600 food items donated and much of the food collected went into the Christmas food baskets. NCCC also provided gift cards for the purchase of needed food items. A giant thank you to our college partners.

Students at Holy Family School also got in on the community service and they coordinated a very successful food drive throughout the school and among their families and friends with food items given to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. Kinney's Drugs provided support with a food collection box in their store.

Ellis Automotive with the endorsement of GM spearheaded a food drive when they received word that we were in need of 300 boxes of cereal and juice to fill our Christmas baskets. Ellis Automotive joining forces with the Malone Minor Hockey and the men's Sunday and Wednesday night leagues began a media network campaign for food collection points and within days collection boxes were filling and financial donations were coming in.

Through the combined efforts of so many, Catholic Charities and the Good Samaritan Food Pantry provided 300 Christmas Baskets to over 700 people this season. This amazing undertaking for our community would not have been possible without the support and dedication of numerous individuals, organizations, and the various church groups. The outpouring of support and the generosity of so many, many who wish to be anonymous, are a true reflection of the strength and power of a small community.

Neighbor helping neighbor – not just words but words in action.

JOELLE LAMICA, DIRECTOR
AND STAFF OF MALONE CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Death for Dollars

With all the recent news about flu virus spreading in epidemic proportions, it was more exciting and interesting learning about Planned Parenthood's accomplishments during 2012. It seems they were able

to cure nearly 334,000 women from a dangerous and more terrible malady than the flu. But, this curious disease was neither viral nor bacterial in nature. It wasn't even debilitating or contagious to other potential sufferers. Mysterious indeed.

Planned Parenthood's valiant effort to overcome this deadly crisis was accomplished mainly by tax-payer contributions of more than half-a-billion dollars, which equals nearly half their annual budget. They were even subsidized an additional \$60 million by our own bankrupt government.

Thus, Planned Parenthood was able to identify this most inexplicable mystery disease – as pregnancy!

Yes, your taxpayer dollar proudly helps PP in killing more than 900 babies a day in their own facilities. And in 2013, every Planned Parenthood affiliate must provide a "clinic" to perform abortions-on-demand. That makes them the largest abortion provider in the nation at taxpayer expense. And with Obamacare, the floodgates will simply overwhelm the system.

Forty years of Roe v. Wade (January 22, 2013) has now produced over 56 million surgical abortions in our country. The value of human life has all but disappeared. And how pleased Margaret Sanger would be today, knowing her legacy is flourishing beyond her wildest fantasies.

While only forty-one percent of all Americans now consider themselves as "pro-choice," Planned Parenthood has decided to abandon that terminology. And like Margaret Sanger, they are looking for a new moniker to keep the dollars flowing.

What's wrong with America today? We are entrenched in "bondage." Bondage, that eighth and final step to the complete demise of a nation, according to Professor Alexander Tyler, University of Edinburgh, 1787. We have arrived!

DONNA & MICHAEL MAREK
OGDENSBURG

AT THE MOVIES

PROMISED LAND

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

"Promised Land" (Focus) is a reasonably entertaining message movie about the environmental dangers of drilling for natural gas using a method called hydraulic fracturing - or fracking for short.

To some, fracking represents an easy path to energy independence for the United States - and to vast wealth for those landowners lucky enough to have the proper deposits lurking below their soil.

To others, it threatens the ruin of whole swaths of previously healthy countryside through the inevitable contamination of water sources.

On screen, the cards are indisputably stacked in favor of the latter view.

Steve Butler (Matt Damon) and Sue Thomason (Frances McDormand) are a duo of energy company executives

out to convince down-on-their-luck farmers in a rural Midwestern town to sell their land to the corporation. Their offer includes a percentage of future profits they glibly promise will transform the townsfolk's lives.

When the pair encounters opposition from Frank Yates (Hal Holbrook), a retired science professor, and from personable environmentalist Dustin Noble (John Krasinski), who launches a fervent campaign to thwart them, Steve begins to have second thoughts.

His change of heart is also driven by his attraction to Alice (Rosemarie DeWitt), a local teacher whose regard Steve comes to value.

A gifted cast and smooth direction by Gus Van Sant help to disguise some obvious flaws. These include the homespun, all-too-pat wisdom spouted by Frank - though consummate pro Holbrook, to give him

credit, almost pulls these moments off - as well as a late-reel plot twist that's nothing short of paranoid.

Fundamentally, though, there's no escaping the simplistic perspective and unmistakable anti-business bias underlying Damon and Krasinski's script.

Moviegoers committed to scriptural values will, of course, appreciate the prioritizing of stewardship over greed.

But the proper balance between the two may appear quite different when viewed from a failing Iowa homestead rather than a Malibu beach house.

The film contains about a dozen uses of profanity and much rough and crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



CNS PHOTO/FOCUS FEATURES
Rosemarie DeWitt and Matt Damon star in a scene from the movie "Promised Land."

WINTER ADVENTURE



Students and faculty of Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh participated in an excursion of Seton's Outdoor Experience Program, a cross country ski adventure at Pok-O-MacCready Camps in Willsboro. Pictured are Alyse Clark, Kelli Ryan, Joe Zalis, Ben Thomas, Hayley Moore, Samantha Bashaw, Olivia Nachbauer, Shannon Goldfeder, Joe Templin and Jon Templin.

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!

ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE

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

Enter for your chance to win a **2013 Toyota Corolla or \$12,000 CASH!!!**
(Winner pays NYS sales tax) Drawing will be held March 31, 2013.
All proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Church in Canton and its ministries.
Call the parish office at 315-386-2543 or fill out the form below for tickets.

St. Mary's Church
68 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Telephone _____

Number of Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____
\$20 EACH or 6 for \$100

NCC

CLINTON

HEALING MASS

Plattsburgh – Oblate Father Richard McAlear, will be at St. Peter's Church for a special Healing Mass and a Healing and forgiveness Workshop/Holy Hour.
Date: Mass Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.; Workshop/Holy Hour Feb. 9, 1 p.m. to 2:30
Speaker: Father McAlear's schedule and other ministry info can be found on his website at www.FrMac.org. He can be reached at frmac2693@aol.com
Contact: Eve McGill, Living Waters Healing Ministry: evemcgill@charter.net or 518-563-0001 for more information.
Cost: There is no fee to attend either event, however, a collection will be taken up at the Healing Mass.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

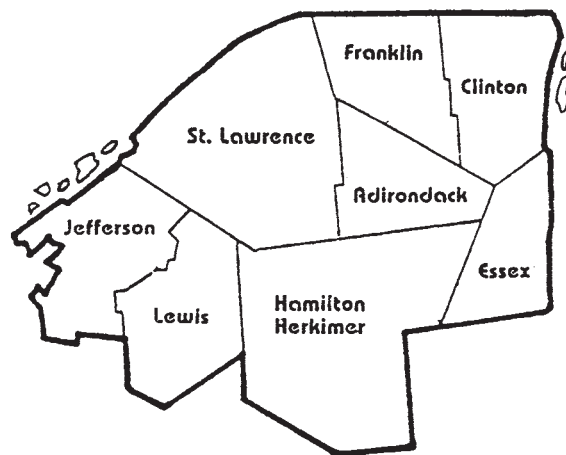
Plattsburgh – A series of Natural Family Planning classes will be offered.
Date: Jan. 26
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: St. John's Church, lower level
Program: Three-part learner-centered format educates couples to observe and interpret the physical signs of fertility. This knowledge can be used to achieve, as well as to postpone, conception.
Cost: Fee of \$50 includes all materials; may be adjusted as needed.
Contact: To register, or to learn more, call Diocesan NFP Directors, Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli, at 518-483-0459 or email apietropaoli@dioogdensburg.org.

LENTE BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a Lenten Bible Study Program.
Dates: Feb. 9 & 16; March 9 & 16; April 6
Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Features: Rita Breen will be reflecting on themes of Lent Light lunch provided. Donations appreciated.
Contact: RSVP 518-594-3253 or toolaprayrhouse@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF HEALING PRAYER

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be offering Christian Healing Ministries School of Healing Prayer Level I Training.
Date: Feb. 21-24
Information: Course provides a foundational, practical approach to developing a prayer ministry and offers a scriptural basis for God's gift of healing prayer. Overnight accommodations available. Level II given in March, Level III in April.
Contact: To register or for questions email Pat at olaprayrhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253. Course limited to 6.



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:
North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
 Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
 e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

LENTE RETREAT

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a Lenten Retreat.
Date: March 2
Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Speaker: Fr. Bill Edwards.
Features: The day will conclude with Mass. Lunch provided.
Contact: Email call 518-594-3253 or olaprayrhouse@gmail.com to register. Donations for the day appreciated.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

FRANKLIN

ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Malone – Join members of the Malone Catholic Parishes each Thursday evening for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
Time: 7 p.m. to 8
Place: Notre Dame Church

JEFFERSON

RESPECT LIFE PRAYER VIGIL

Watertown – Liferight will be sponsoring a Respect Life Candlelight Prayer Vigil.
Date: Jan. 28
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Municipal Building

Features: Join us as we pray for renewed respect for all human life, particularly those most vulnerable. Refreshments to follow at First Presbyterian Church.

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Watertown – DVD "Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith" to be shown.
Dates: Feb. 11, 18; March 4, 11, 18, 25
Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30
Place: Hearthside Center at the Motherhouse SSJ
Cost: No charge
Contact: Holy Family Church at 315-782-2468 for more information

PRAYER FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown – A prayer service for an end to Human Trafficking and a speaker, Sabel Bong, to be held.
Date: Jan. 27
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Lounge.
Features: Presentation on "Human Trafficking, a Modern Day Form of Slavery" followed by a "Prayer Service for an End to Human Trafficking". Event is free and open to the Public. Presenter Sabel Bong, will share ways that one can take action to help to stop human trafficking.

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting will be held.
Date: Jan. 28
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthside Hospitality Center of the Motherhouse

Speaker: Debra Doss, LCSW-R who is a grief therapist. Her topic will be "The Tasks of Mourning".

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Church will be having Spaghetti Supper.
Date: Jan. 31
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, \$.75
Features: Take-out orders begin at 4 p.m. Please bring your own containers for takeouts.

DINNER FOR TWO

Watertown – a Dinner for Two to be held at Holy Family Church.
Date: Feb. 16
Time: 5:15 p.m. liturgy; 6:15 social followed by dinner
Cost: FREE

Theme: For married and engaged couples to enrich their vocation of marriage and family life

Reserve by January 30; call Kathy Allan 315-785-8576

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.
Time: 4 p.m.
Place: 312 Sherman St.
Features: The office has videos, books and educational materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.
Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of February to be held.
Date: Feb. 3
Time: 3 p.m.
Place: St. Hedwig's Church
Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer). Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All are welcome.
Contact: 348-6260

ST. LAWRENCE

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Massena – The Catholic Community of Massena/Louisville will be using Fr. Robert Barron's video series "Catholicism" during this year of faith.
Dates: Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6; April 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall
Cost: No cost, but workbooks can be purchased for \$25
Contact: Sacred Heart Church at 315-769-2469 or St. Mary's Parish 315-764-0239

K OF C BRUNCH

Brasher – A Buffet Brunch will be held.
Date: Feb. 10
Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Place: K of C Hall
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

FEB. 10 BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.
Date: Feb. 10
Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Place: Visitation Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Colton – Colton Annual Winterfest Celebration sponsored by St. Patrick's – St. Paul's Altar Rosary Society.
Date: Jan. 27
Time: 8 a.m. to Noon
Place: CPCS
Cost: Adults, \$5; Children 5-12, \$3; under 5 Free

BINGO NEW NIGHT

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Bingo is now on Thursday nights.
Features: Early Bird starts at 7 p.m. There will also be pull tabs, 50/50 & concession available.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral holds a monthly Holy Hour to pray for Vocations.
Date: Thursday before the First Friday
Time: 8 p.m. to 9
Place: Deacon Winter Chapel
Features: Nocturnal Adoration continues through the night

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's will have a Benediction and Adoration every Friday.
Time: 9 a.m. to Noon
Place: St. Mary's Family Room

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg – Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel
Date: Tuesday evenings
Time: 6:30 p.m.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSU, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NYE 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

Mbytes@disadventure.org

Delivery room of the Church

A message from the national director
Pontifical Mission Societies

How privileged we are, through the Pontifical Mission Societies, to be witnesses of the Lord's grace giving forth great fruits in the young mission churches: schools opening fresh, a new diocese coming to be, a wing added to the seminary. In our world of often not-so-good news, we can forget the great works being done in our midst every day.

Respect life

As the Body of Christ, we are connected to those works through a spiritual union, the real union that is the Church.

And through our support, we help out in a very practical way the mission Church — places where there is great zeal and enthusiasm for the faith, but where the schools can't pay the salaries, the parish halls can't keep the lights on, and the priests and Sisters can't put gas in the tank.

World Mission Sunday gives us the opportunity to remind the faithful here at home of this great growth and these great needs — and of the fact that, by our Baptism, we are called to be "missionaries of faith," supporting that work of the Church in 1,150 mission dioceses.

We pray for the Church's missionary efforts, and we give generously to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

As Christ's body, connected as "one family in mission," we reach out then to support the growth, the new life in the Missions — and help priests, religious and lay catechists bring hope to those in need.

Very Reverend Andrew Small, OMIT, STD
National Director

www.disadventure.org/missionarizes

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay — Lee D. Fitch, 62; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2013 at St. Cyril's Church; burial in Barnes Settlement Cemetery.

Bombay — James D. Durant, 67; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Brushton — Leo E. Lucey, 97; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage — Bessie M. (Sterin) Delle, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2013 at the Lundy Funeral Home & Cremation Service Inc.; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

Carthage — G. Diane Frizzy, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2013 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Chateaugay — Robert J. Harragan, 64; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church.

Clayton — Frances E. (Freely) Ferguson, 99; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in old St. Mary's Cemetery.

Croghan — Carole K. (Kuhn) Winnick, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery.

Harrisville — Marion J. (McIntosh) Lang, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2013 at the Adirondack Funeral Home; burial in Garrison Cemetery.

Henderson — Murray Ballou Scott, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2013 at Queen of Heaven Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

Hogansburg — Michael H. Wilson, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ft. Covington — John G. "Jack" Furnia, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2013 at St.

Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Chateaugay.

Keeseville — Richard A. "Bud" Smith, 49; Funeral Services April 26, 2013 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Malone — Lynn A. Dufort, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone — John R. Lamitie, 72; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone — Orin K. Randall, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John Bosco's Cemetery.

Massena — Lisa S. O'Brien, 49; Funeral Jan. 12, 2013 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Rose C. (Sabrey) Rush, 78; Funeral Jan. 14, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Constance Cappione Wing, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville — Bernard "Smock" J. Podres, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2013 at All Saints Church.

Mooers — Evelyn L. (Parrotte) LaJammier, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg Center.

Morrisonville — Eileen Rice Walker, 63; Memorial Services Jan. 19, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg — Mary Jane (Bromley) LaFlair, 79; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2013 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Peru — Gertrude S. (Sweet) Adams, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2013 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Stella H. (Myers) Paul, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2013 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Redford — Betty (Lashway) King, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2013 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery, Lyon Mountain.

Redford — Virginia R. (Rowe) Weir, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2013 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Saranac Lake — John L. Reilly, 68; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2013 at the AMC-Uihlein Living Center Chapel; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Eleanor A. Woods, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2013 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

Tupper Lake — Joanne Boushie-Lanthier, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2013 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Watertown — Evelyn S. (LaMora) Chase, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in North Watertown Cemetery.

Watertown — Eleanor R. Gardner, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2013 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Watertown — David A. Sovie Sr., 70; Funeral Services Jan. 18, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown — Roland M. Weaver Sr., 83; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

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RESPECT LIFE

At the tipping point

After forty years of legalized abortion in this country, I believe we are close to the tipping point.

After 40 years of legalized abortion

The January 14 edition of Time magazine methodically analyzes the increasing tilt of public opinion and state public policies toward the pro-life position. It concludes: "the pro-choice cause is in crisis."

Indeed it is. It's a tipping point for pro-life Americans.

Malcolm Gladwell's book "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference" was a bestseller and one of my favorite

reads about a dozen years ago. In it, Gladwell demonstrates how social epidemics are created, how ideas and behaviors are spread and made to "stick."

Ultimately, he argues, they cross a threshold and "tip," causing a fast and sweeping change. He uses examples from marketing (sales of Hush Puppies shoes), entertainment (the popularity of television's Sesame Street), and social sciences (the falling crime rate in New York City) to validate the phenomenon.

For pro-life Americans, it's been four decades of patient and determined education, spreading the message in classrooms, at clinics, and

now, on Facebook. Four decades of compassion, love and assistance for pregnant moms.

Four decades of advocacy and legislative achievements in statehouses across the country. Four decades of prayer and persistence. And now we're about to reach a tipping point. Here are three reasons I believe this is so:

1. Advances in medical technology. There is no question that ultrasound images of the pre-born child have moved hearts and changed minds. How could they not? They reveal the truth. Every day the mainstream media highlights yet another medical miracle. I recently watched the ABC Good Morning America team go giddy over a family photo of a baby girl's hand reaching out of her mother's uterus during a C-section to grasp the surgeon's finger. No, that's not just a clump of cells!

2. The culture of violence all around us. The outpouring of public emotion and support we have seen following the horrific shooting tragedies in Newtown and Aurora reveals a strong and instinctive respect for inno-

cent human life. People are making connections. Life is precious. People don't want a culture of death and destruction; they want a culture of life and love.

3. The passion and intensity of the millennial generation. You can feel it. Young adults know the truth. Sure, they've grown up with legal abortion, but they've also grown up with their own ultrasound photos pinned to the refrigerator.

I remember when my now-22 year-old son was three, and he saw the first video images of his baby brother in the womb. He ran to touch the TV screen and shouted "Baby!" Young people have known from the beginning, and it's "stuck."

The former leader of Naral, the largest abortion advocacy group in the country, recently acknowledged that there is less intensity and commitment in pro-choice young people than there is in pro-life young people. Amen to that!

Even here in New York, the abortion capital of the nation, you can feel the tilt. That's why Governor Andrew Cuomo was forced to re-package his radical abor-

tion expansion into a broader bill, and add a "ten-point women's agenda," chock-full of laudable objectives like helping victims of domestic violence and ending pregnancy discrimination in the workplace.

There's no way he could sell his abortion bill on its own. Because, like the rest of the nation, New Yorkers don't want or need more abortion.

In "The Tipping Point," the author argues that a successful social epidemic is dependent upon certain types of gifted people, people he calls "connectors," "mavens" and "salespeople," people who can network, inform, and persuade. That's who we are. We have been given those gifts by the Heavenly Father. He wants us to keep using them, slowly and steadily building the pro-life trend.

As we have been doing for forty years, we will continue to influence one person at a time...at the beauty salon and at the office, on the bus and on the ball field, in a tweet or instant message. Tip, tip, tip...

We have tilted. We are at the tipping point.

Kathleen M. Gallagher is the director of Pro-Life Activities for the New York State Catholic Conference.



Kathleen Gallagher

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