

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope | PAGE 7

Catholic response to human trafficking | PAGE 8

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 9, 2013

A reminder of God's power

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The annual celebration of Christ's birth fills Christians with hope and joy because it is a reminder that the power of God is always at work, and he does great things even through the weak and the small, Pope Benedict XVI said.

With an estimated 7,000 visitors and pilgrims filling

the Vatican audience hall, the pope said Christmas naturally raises the question, "How could that little and weak baby have brought something so radically new that it changed the course of history?"

The answer, the pope said, is that the baby Jesus is God incarnate and savior of the

world. "This proclamation, which continually resounds as something new, gives rise to hope and joy in our hearts because it gives us the certainty that, even if we often feel weak, poor and incapable in the face of the difficulties and evil of the world, God's power is always active and he works marvels pre-

cisely through weakness," the pope said.

With a Christmas tree and Nativity scene still dominating the stage in the audience hall, the pope said awe is the most appropriate response to the great mystery of God becoming human and being born in a manger.

WELCOMING NEW YEAR

With message of peace



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING
Pope Benedict XVI consecrates the Eucharist during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1, which the church marks as the feast of Mary, Mother of God and as World Peace Day. Welcoming in the new year, the pope said that despite the injustice and violence in the world, every human being yearns for and is made for peace. "Man is made for peace, which is a gift of God," but also something individuals must work tirelessly to build, he said.

Protecting God's creation

In his Follow Me column this week, Bishop LaValley writes about Catholics' responsibility to care for the environment. "Particularly during this Year of Faith, we continue to explore new avenues of becoming more faithful disciples of Jesus, and, in the process, creating a better world in which to live," he said. "As this New Year begins, I invite us all to reflect on how our personal lifestyle and habits affect our environment."

Suggestions will appear weekly in the NCC's new "Environmental Stewardship Corner"

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Year of Faith Story of Faith

Pam Ballantine reflects on the growth of her faith starting with a Massachusetts childhood
FULL STORY, PAGE 4

FROM CHILDREN TO CHILDREN



Some of the Kindergarten students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh proudly show the money collected during Advent for the Missionary Childhood Association. The students collected \$567.20 to help children in need and to partially fulfill their missionary responsibility. Pictured from left are Grace Trombley, Megan Mast, Zachary Bedard, Kaleb Guay, and Alyssa Fountain.

VATICAN LETTER: Pope Benedict and the expectations for 2013... p. 12

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**
President
MSGR. ROBERT L. LAWLER
Vice President
SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ
Secretary-Treasurer
MARY LOU KILIAN
Editor/
General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except issue after Christmas, one week in January, one week in March and every other week in July by the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

**Entered at the
Post Office:**

Ogdensburg, NY
13669 as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication
should be
addressed to
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
and should be received by
Thursday prior to
publication.

Paper is printed each
Monday;
dateline is Wednesday.
Member, Catholic Press
Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We still need (and have) a little Christmas

Thank goodness Christmas doesn't really end on Dec. 25. We Catholics get to celebrate well past Epiphany, all the way through the feast of the Baptism of Jesus on Jan. 13.

That means I can still wear my Christmas hat here ... and still enjoy my Christmas tree at home.

I think this is a year that we need as much Christmas as possible.

The last few weeks of 2012 were marked by heartbreaking devastation for people in Newtown, Conn.; Webster, NY; and along the hurricane ravaged Eastern seacoast.

There was turmoil in Washington, in Syria, in every corner of the world, it seemed.

More than ever we need peace. We need hope. We need joy. What a blessing that we don't have to look too far to find some.

I may just be the just the luckiest person in the world but right now I'm in the middle of the greatest blessing of all - a baby boom!

We'll be welcoming babies from a daughter, daughter-in-law, niece, cousin, our editorial assistant and one of our staff writers.... all before the end of July.

You can't beat that for hope and joy, if not peace.

Peace, though, was the message of the Holy Father on New Years Day which the Catholic Church marks as World Peace Day as well as the Feast of

Mary, Mother of God.

Pope Benedict XVI said that despite the injustice and violence in the world, every human being yearns for and is made for peace.

Reflecting on his wise words is a good way to launch a year with peacemaking resolutions:

People are called to find an inner peace with God by living according to his will, and to enrich that gift by living peacefully with and for others, including all of creation....

No matter how many troubles in the world or in one's life, there is good in the world and this good is destined to conquer all thanks to God, the God of Jesus Christ, incarnate, died and risen...

It's easy to forget that the good will win, since evil acts like homicides, violence and

injustice are what grab the headlines, rather than acts of love and kindness, which often remain hidden in the back-ground...

If people are to truly understand the world and what life is about, they must go beyond the news flash and be able to silently reflect, think and listen to God....

That way our soul can find healing from the inevitable wounds of daily life" while the mind tries to see things with God's eyes and learn to "look with truth upon our actions and also the evil present in us and around us....

Such self-reflection is necessary for "conversion, which makes one wiser and better" and more able to act in solidarity and communion.

Happy Peaceful Year to all!



Mary Lou
Kilian

FATHER BILL SAYS...

United as 'People of God' with gift of joy

A New Year – but still the Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict XVI in October at the time of the 50th Anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council.

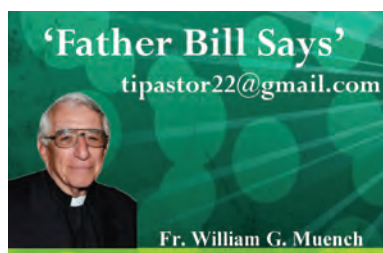
A Year of Faith is a time to find new opportunities to strengthen our faith, our faith in God and in ourselves as the People of God.

The Second Vatican Council reminded us and challenged us that we are one people united together in faith; we are the People of God.

This is the call of the Year of Faith - that we become stronger as we are more united together as one people.

However, we are becoming fewer and fewer as the People of God joining in prayer and in action. This is our challenge for this Year of Faith.

In the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council wrote this: "God has willed to make men (and women) holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might ac-



knowledge him and serve him in holiness."

As the People of God we, you and I, must strengthen that unity, especially as we join together at the celebration of the Mass.

We must also reach out to those who have fallen away from the practice of their faith.

At Mass, let us never forget we are worshipping together as one people – the People of God.

I often tell people that the first thing they should do as they gather for Mass is to look around. I want to see who is with me that day, who is praying with me (even the strangers), who I am praying for as we unite together for Mass (even the strangers), who is praying for me and all I bring to the Lord. This is why we are there together.

I am certain that each time I join with people for the celebration of Mass there is someone there who desperately needs my prayers and those of the others in the pews.

Sometimes that person is me. At Mass, the Sign of Peace is a wonderful opportunity for me to recognize and unite myself with those who are joined with me at this Mass.

In addition, we must all unite ourselves together as we offer this Blessed Eucharist – consecrating ourselves with the Lord who unites himself with us and unites each of us together as one people, the People of God.

One of the Lord's gifts to us through the Blessed Eucharist is joy.

We must carry that joy into our lives from our Eucharistic celebration.

We must show the world our joy of being together as the People of God.

With that joy, any ordinary day becomes very extraordinary, showing all people the joy of being united to the Lord Jesus and to each other as the People of God.

This joy must transform the

way we live our lives. This joy should reflect our confidence – our hope – in our God – and fill us with the excitement to bring the peace and happiness of Our Savior into all that we are and do.

This joy is God's gift to us. Much more than a naïve emotion, it is a joy that transforms us, a love that makes us anxious to live well each day.

Joy comes when we realize God's great love for us. This joy calls us to live like loved people.

It seems that, although we know well what it means to be a loving person and doing loving things for others, we are not good at knowing how to live like a loved person, filled with the ecstatic joy that come from realizing that God loves us and even forgives us always.

In this spirit – this joyful spirit of being a loved person – we should be united together as the People of God, always ready to participate together as we worship, always ready to work together to help those in need, always ready to transform our world into a better place.

FOLLOW ME

'To cultivate peace, protect creation'

A New Year always brings with it the promise and hope of new beginnings. Particularly during this *Year of Faith*, we continue to explore new avenues of becoming more faithful disciples of Jesus, and, in the process, creating a better world in which to live.

In his 2010 World Day of Peace Message, *"If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation,"* the Holy Father stated that "respect for creation is of immense consequence."

He writes of the troubling "threats arising from the neglect - if not downright misuse - of the earth and the natural goods that God

has given us. For this reason, it is imperative that mankind renew and strengthen that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God, from whom we come and toward whom we are journeying."

Pope Benedict XVI asks, "Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change...the deterioration and loss of productivity in vast agricultural areas, the pollution of rivers...and the deforestation of equatorial and tropical regions?"

We need only look at our

own fields here in the North Country. Where once stood many small well-kept family farms with acres of neat furrows of corn and meadows plush with oats and clover, today we see brush and brambles. Proudly productive lands have become wasted eyesores.

Tragically, economics have impacted our local environment.

While scientists and politicians continue to debate the impact that human behavior has on our climate, there is no arguing the fact that our behavior affects the environment in which we live.

God commands man and woman "to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it." (Gn. 1:28) This command is a summons to responsibility. How tragic

then that we have interpreted this command as a license to exploit or neglect the land on which we live without thought for our children's future.

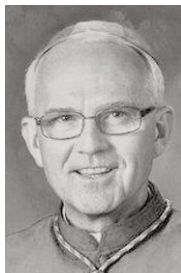
As this New Year begins, I invite us all to reflect on how our personal lifestyle and habits affect our environment. Groups of concerned parishioners have come together in several of our parishes seeking to heighten such awareness. Parish programs such as *Lent 4.5* have proven to be highly successful means for parishioners to reflect on simplicity, personal consumption, and environmental stewardship.

I encourage such parish efforts which offer programs that focus on information, education and the

formation of the sense of responsibility in children and adults toward environmentally sound patterns of development and stewardship of creation.

As we meditate on Scripture's view of creation, we are caught up in its majesty and beauty. St. Francis of Assisi encouraged his followers to contemplate creation and to praise God.

Are you looking for a New Year's resolution that will help you to become a more faithful disciple this Year of Faith? Take the time each day to marvel at God's gift of creation and, walking in the footsteps of Jesus, find ways you can better reverence all life. May the God of all creation bless you and your loved ones as we greet this New Year!



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

Environmental Stewardship

Pope Benedict XVI, in his January 2010 address on World Day for Peace, said people needed to change how they live their lives and called for "ecological responsibility" to be taught.

The pope said individuals and families had as important a role to play in preserving the environment as governments meeting at international summits such as the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen.

He told thousands of faithful who had gathered in St. Peter's Square that environmental responsibility was essential for global peace. "I would like to underline the importance of the choices of individuals, families and local administrations in preserving the environment... An objective shared by all, an indispensable condition for peace, is that of overseeing the earth's natural resources with justice and wisdom," he said.

Beginning here, in the first issue of the *North Country Catholic* for 2013, the Faith and Ecology Group who meet bi-monthly in Lake Clear will offer suggestions for leading a more "ecologically responsible" life:

Suggestions:

- Avoid plastic packaging! Buy eggs in cardboard cartons, which are burnable and recyclable. Use them for small objects, nuts, screws, etc. or give them to day care centers for children's crafts.
- Use covered glass food storage containers: don't cover bowls with plastic or aluminum unless you reuse them.
- Don't use paper towels or napkins for routine purposes. Use cloth ones that can be washed with other clothing and used again.

Ecumenical service set

CARTHAGE - Bishop Terry R. LaValley Will preside at the annual Diocesan Ecumenical Service to be held Sunday at St. James Church beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The theme for the program is "What Does God Require of Us?" (Micah 6: 6-8)

Other participants Will include Father George Maroun, pastor of St. James; and the Village Ecumenical Ministries (VEM) of Carthage area.

The Rev. Linda Harris, pastor of the United Methodist Church Three River Valley Parish, will preach and the service will be enhanced by the participation of a combined choir of Carthage area churches.

A reception will follow at Augustinian Academy.



All of here at St. Hubert's Parish send warm wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year to our pastor, Fr. Robert Decker

JOB OPPORTUNITY

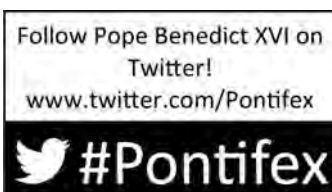
Director of Evangelization

Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse

Develop the Office of Evangelization to facilitate evangelization in the diocese by collaborating with pastoral agencies, introducing outreach activities and generating new initiatives. Catholic in good standing w/ MA in pastoral ministry or equivalent, excellent communication skills and substantial experience at parish level.

2 year contract required.

To apply: Contact Rosemary Smith at rsmith@syrдио.org



YEAR OF FAITH...STORY OF FAITH

Story of faith written... and re-written

By Pam Ballantine
Plattsburgh regional director of Christina Formation Office

When asked if I would write a reflection on my faith journey for the Year of Faith, I was very apprehensive.

Sharing your faith with others is like praying, there is only one wrong way to do it. . . . that is not to do it at all!

As I began to pray and reflect on my faith story, two thoughts came to mind. Was my journey easy as following a green line painted on the ground like I have seen on the television commercial from Fidelity Investments or did it look like a large ant hill that was just run over by a lawn mower with all the ants scurrying every which way due to the chaos of the unexpected?

As I look back to my childhood, my journey began following that straight green line that my parents laid before me. I dare say as I started to take ownership of my own faith development is where the chaos came in.

Sharing your faith with others is like praying, there is only one wrong way to do it...that is not to do it at all! So here goes.

I was raised in the quiet Berkshire County town of Lenox, Mass. My church, St. Ann's, sat at the bottom of the big hill in the center of town. I do not remember too much of the Latin Mass, only that if the candles on the higher altar were lit we had to stay longer.

I also remember kneeling down at an altar rail to receive my First Communion and then going to a communion breakfast after Mass with our pastor Father Healy. He was by himself with 60 plus kids and no one dared to speak above a whisper or spill anything on our first communion attire.

I remember going to my older brother and sister's Confirmation waiting to see how hard they were going to get slapped on the cheek by the bishop only to fall asleep during the Mass and missing the entire ceremony.

But most importantly, the greatest impact of my faith development as a small child was watching my mom and dad's faith in action.



At left, Pam Ballantine and her granddaughter Vanessa admire the family Christmas tree.

They took the time to teach my brother, sister and me our prayers and took us to Mass every Sunday. There was never any argument on Sunday mornings about attending Mass. It was woven throughout the fabric of our family life.

The changes of Vatican II for the liturgy were implemented in our church when I was in about the fourth grade. We had a few weeks of instruction during Mass on the changes in the liturgy and then we clutched onto the pew cards that guided all of us through the Mass. (Sound familiar?)

I continued attending religion classes through high school. It was during these formative years that I began asking questions about my faith, especially as I entered into college. It seemed that the more I learned about the church, the scriptures and the liturgy, the more questions I had.

It was during these struggling times that God always seemed to place special people into my life who kept me from wandering too far away from my spiritual path.

I now look back on those times and thank God for these individuals who are still very close friends today.

It was through these formative years, that I began to realize that my life's journey wasn't just a string of unrelated events; they were all beginning to connect to one another with Jesus right in the middle.

I realize now he was right there in the trenches with me. He was real! Jesus became the foundation of my faith, my life and my ministry.

My ministry began as a guitar player for a folk group with college friends and then just grew from

there. It was through this ministry that I met my husband Dan.

I was asked to sing at the wedding for a dear friend. Her brother, (Dan) was home on military leave before heading to Guam for 18 months. We fell in love and on his return from Guam were married in 1980.

While stationed at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Dan was sent on a remote tour to Belgium for one year. It was during this tour he converted to Catholicism.. Unbeknownst to me, priest friends obtained the needed paperwork from back home and Dan made his profession of faith and received the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

I will never forget the phone call that wonderful Easter morning.

While stationed in Plattsburgh, the chaplain, Father Dan Cassiero, couldn't find a director for the religious education program. I told him I would help him out until he found one.

Two years later, after taking classes offered through the diocese I received my certification as a coordinator for religious education.

In 1989 Dan retired from the military and we moved on to civilian life.

A year later in 1990, Father Richard Sturtz called to see if I would be interested as coordinator of religious education at St. Alexander's in Morrisonville.

For the next eight years, I was challenged with raising a family and working for the church. It was through the faith, love and support of my children and husband that I was able to continue this ministry. We as a family grew in our own faith through this ministry.

Our family had many faith-filled

adventures such as being on staff at Family Guggenheim, the planning stages of SportsCamp, and many youth ministry activities offered by our parish and the diocese.

As a family, we were also active in the faith and community life of the Catholic schools that our children attended.

In 1998 with the changing landscape of the parish at St. Alexander's due to the shortage of priests, I was asked to take on the ministry of pastoral associate.

So once again it was back to school to St. Michael's College where I earned a Master's Degree in Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Ministry and Spirituality.

It goes without saying that my family, once again, came through with their love and support.

Our boys are now grown, have children of their own and I was beginning to see the retirement light at the end of the tunnel. Sixty two was only three years away.

But once again God smiled and said "follow me"! I was swinging on that trapeze of faith again, leaving a comfortable parish ministry and moving into a whole new ministry in the Diocesan Christian Formation Office.

And again God has placed awesome people in my life who help me through the discernment process on yet another journey of faith.

But, most importantly, it is my faith in God, who has never let me down and who has always been my rock., who said, trust me, as always we will do this together.

I always try to remember the story in scripture about Peter walking out onto the water when Jesus called to Him. He kept walking above the water as long as he stayed focused on Jesus. It was when Peter took his eyes off of Jesus he began to sink.

My testimony is always changing as I continue to take more steps on my faith journey. Like Peter, I sometimes am walking above the water and sometimes I am sinking, but through these experiences I find that I'm always at a new place where I see my faith differently.

It's not that I have different "versions", it's just that my story of faith is constantly being written.

There are new people, new travels, new experiences, new stories and God is always up to something in all of it .

DECEMBER...A TIME TO GATHER FOR CHRISTMAS FUN!



Bishop LaValley joined the members of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocations Society (D.O.V.S.) and priests, deacons, and religious of the area Dec. 12 for a luncheon at the Best Western in Canton. D.O.V.S. hosts this annual event to show appreciation for the work and ministry for all clergy and religious.



PHOTO BY CELINA BURNS
Children from Small Fry Academy in Ogdensburg visited St. Marguerite D'Youville Academy Dec. 10 and worked on Christmas Projects. They decorated Christmas cookies, made reindeer food, colored Christmas pictures and played with different centers in the classroom. Above, Shea Kiah and Kyra McCarthy color Christmas pictures.

For a New or Used Car
MORT BACKUS & SONS
On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
Phone **315-393-5899**

MONASTERY CARD SHOP
Cards for All Occasions
Mass Enrollments for your living & deceased loved ones.
Precious Blood Monastery
OPEN: 9 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 3 PM
400 PRATT ST., WATERTOWN
315-788-1669

Plattsburgh Wholesale Homes
New or Used Manufactured and Modular Homes
7109 State Route 9
518-563-1100 or 1-800-640-1833
www.pwmh.com

Bring this ad in and receive \$1000 off the purchase of a new home!

Warm up with Good News!
Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.
OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317
Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250
 New Subscription Renewal

Please send my subscription to my e-mail address:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parish _____

Warm up with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic* and find out what is happening with the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Retirement Party for Betty Bernhard

Please join us on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2013 from 2 p.m. to 4 for an open house at the Knights of Columbus as we honor Betty for her many years of service at Notre Dame as Pastoral Associate.



Daughter of Charity served in Plattsburgh and Champlain

Rites held for Sr. Cecile M. Fortin, 84

LITTLETON, NH— A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Cecile M. Fortin, (Sister St. Reginald), 84, a Daughter of the Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was celebrated Jan. 3 in the Mount Sacred Heart.

She died Dec. 30 at the Mount Sacred Heart Provincial House Infirmery.

Burial will take place in St. Mary Cemetery, Newport, Vt., in the spring.

Cecile Fortin was born Feb. 12, 1928 in Derby Line, Vt., the daughter of Cyrille Fortin and Albertina Lessard Fortin. She professed her vows with her religious congregation

July 29, 1947.

During her 65 years of religious profession Sister Cecile served missions as an educator, religious formator, school administrator and congregational leader.



Sr. Cecile M. Fortin, FCSJ

Her missions took her to Sherbrooke, QC, Newport, Burlington and Barre, Vt.; Champlain, Buffalo and Plattsburgh, N.Y.; Franklin, Colebrook, and Littleton, N.H.; Seekonk, Mass.; La Salle-de-Vihiers, France, and Crowley, La.

Sister Cecile had a passion for learning and teaching

which was contagious, whether the subject was French, theology, spirituality, or literacy and G.E.D. mentoring.

Following 12 years on our Congregation's international leadership team, having traveled the world, she gave herself to the challenge of working in proximity to the poor and underserved in the United States.

In her later years, Sister Cecile helped to establish our congregation's presence in the Deep South, leaving St. Theresa Parish because of health reasons not long before Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita ravaged that area.

In recent years of sharing

life with the Sisters at Mount Sacred Heart, Sister Cecile reveled in the beauty and cycles of nature, harvesting the fruit of the earth – berries, apples -- and artistically arranging flowers picked from the fields and forests of the Mount Sacred Heart property.

Sister Cecile is survived by her brother Viateur (wife Rita) and sisters Bernadette, Rita Peterson, and Yollande Osowski, sisters-in-law Laurette, Jeanne, and Melvedine, and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, her brothers Maurice, Alexandre, and Reginald, her brothers-in-law Allan Peterson, and Walter Osowski, several aunts, uncles, cousins, and nephew Guy. Sister Cecile is also survived by her Sisters in the religious community.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in care of the Daughters of the Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 226 Grove Street, Littleton, NH 03561-4210, or make a donation to the charity of your choice whose mission it is to take care of the needs of the poor.

Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 11 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Jan. 12 – 10 a.m., Mass at Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg

4 p.m., Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Rouses Point

5:30 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Church in Champlain

7:30 p.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Coopersville

Jan. 13 – 2:30 p.m., Ecumenical Service at St. James Church in Carthage

Jan. 14 – 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

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. 9 – Rev. Fred Commins, O.S.A., 1924; Rev. Joseph E. Doyle, 1958;

Rev. Jeremiah Albert O'Brien, 1974

Jan. 10 – Rev. Christopher C. Poulin, 1904; Msgr. James O'Driscoll, V.F., 1913; Msgr. Frederick P. Diviney, 1961

Jan. 11 – Msgr. John Andrew Cotter, 1964; Msgr. Anthime D. Charbonneau, 1976; Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg, 1986

Jan. 12 – Msgr. Francis Joseph Maguire, 1978

Jan. 14 – Rev. John M. Neenan, M.S.C., 1879; Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M.Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000

Jan. 15 – Msgr. James Lacey, 1942

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

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!!!

Advent Calendars, Wreaths & Candles, Books & Prayers
Christmas Nativities, Cards, Music, DVDs, Ornaments
Rosaries, Statues, Angels, Jewelry, Art, Icons, Children's Gifts
St. Andre, St. Kateri and St. Marianne Cope Items
Willow Tree, Soaps, Maple Products, Mugs & More!

HOLIDAY HOURS!

M-F 9:30a.m.-5:30p.m., Sat. 9:30a.m.-3:30p.m.

Peaceful Dove Books & Gifts 518-561-5083

164 Boynton Ave. Sq., Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Shipping Available!



Holy Spirit

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

KM

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).

KM

Protecting God's Children

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. 14 – 6:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Church, Watertown

Jan. 24 – 7:30 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE



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

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Despite evil, human beings are hard-wired for peace, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Welcoming in the new year, Pope Benedict XVI said that despite the injustice and violence in the world, every human being yearns for and is made for peace. "Man is made for peace, which is a gift of God," but also something individuals must work tirelessly to build, he said. The pope celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1, which the church marks as the feast of Mary, Mother of God and as World Peace Day. Thousands of people filled the basilica, which was decorated with white roses, small yellow flowers and evergreens. In the crowd was a group of children wearing colorful capes and cardboard crowns in memory of the three kings who traveled to Bethlehem; three of the children brought offertory gifts to the pope. Prayers for peace were offered in five languages; in Arabic, the prayer asked that Mary "awaken in government leaders, legislators and men and women of science respect and concern for motherhood, God's supreme gift to humanity." In his homily, the pope quoted from the peace day message he had sent to government leaders around the globe. Despite the "tension and conflict caused by growing instances of inequality between rich and poor, by the prevalence of a selfish and individualistic mindset which also finds expression in an unregulated financial capitalism," as well as terrorism and crime, "I am convinced that 'the many different efforts at peacemaking which abound in our world testify to mankind's innate vocation to peace.'"

Parishioners mourn firefighters ambushed while responding to blaze

WEBSTER, N.Y. (CNS) -- Christmas Masses in the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., took on a somber tone as parishioners mourned two volunteer firefighters fatally shot while responding to a fire in a lakeshore community outside of Rochester. Firefighters Michael Chiapperini, 43, and Tomasz Kaczowka, 19, died in a hail of gunfire Dec. 24 after being lured to a blaze that New York State Police said was set by the gunman. Two other firefighters, Joseph Hofstetter and Theodore Scardino, were injured in the ambush and remained hospitalized in satisfactory condition Dec. 27. Police said William Spengler Jr. ambushed first responders before turning a gun on himself. Police are also investigating the remains of another victim found in the charred ruins of the home that Spengler shared with his sister, Cheryl Spengler. The fire eventually destroyed seven homes as first responders delayed battling the inferno until police secured the neighborhood located on a narrow strip of land along the Lake Ontario shore. Many people at St. Rita Parish in Webster were touched by the tragedy, said Father Lance Gonyo, pastor. Kaczowka occasionally attended Mass at St. Rita when he was unable to make it to his home parish of St. Stanislaus, where he had been active with the Polish community and had been an altar server, staff members of both parishes said. A funeral Mass for Kaczowka was scheduled for Dec. 31 at St. Stanislaus Church. He is survived by his parents and two brothers.

'Strangers No Longer' ten years later

Migration Week brings revived interest in letter, push for legislation

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Catholic Church's observance of National Migration Week Jan. 6-12 this year comes at a time when the outlook seems promising for improving migrants' legal situations in the United States.

The annual observance of Migration Week this year focuses on encouraging Congress to approve comprehensive immigration reform and marking the 10th anniversary of a joint pastoral letter by U.S. and Mexican bishops: "Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope."

The January 2003 letter said migration policies had created a new underclass in the United States, and called for changes in law and policy in the U.S. and Mexico. The bishops promised to do more themselves to educate Catholics and political leaders about the social justice issues involved in migration and to do more to address migrants' needs.

The 50-page letter said the governments of both countries must change policies, including making it easier to legally immigrate to the United States, better protecting the civil rights of migrants in both countries and addressing the root causes of migration -- poverty and lack of employment options in Mexico and Central America.

It discussed the theological roots of the church's support for immigrants and laid out steps to be taken by church and public authorities. It notes that "misperceptions and xenophobic and racist attitudes in both the United States and Mexico contribute to an atmosphere in which

undocumented (people) are discriminated against and abused."

The letter urged both governments to "abandon the type of (law enforcement) strategies that give rise to smuggling operations and migrant deaths" and to restore due process rights. It encouraged a broad legalization program for the millions of people who are in the United States without authorization.

Besides renewing attention to "Strangers No Longer," the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged people to mark migration week by participating in a postcard campaign, calling on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that addresses five goals:

- Provide a path to citizenship for undocumented people.
- Preserve family unity as a cornerstone of the immigration system.
- Provide legal paths for low-skilled immigrant workers to come and work in the United States.
- Restore due process protections to immigration enforcement policies.
- Address the root causes of migration caused by persecution and economic disparity.

This year could offer one of the strongest chances of moving such legislation through Congress. Strong voter turnout by Hispanics who supported President Barack Obama and other Democrats has prompted Republican and Democratic leaders to say the time is ripe for immigration reform.

In an appearance on "Meet the Press" Dec. 30, Obama cited it among a handful of agenda items for the year.

"I've said that fixing our

broken immigration system is a top priority," Obama said. "I will introduce legislation in the first year to get that done. I think we have talked about it long enough. We know how we can fix it. We can do it in a comprehensive way that the American people support. That's something we should get done."

Last summer, the administration launched an effort to ease the situations of one group of undocumented immigrants by offering a chance to defer deportation for qualified young adults who came to the U.S. before they turned 16. The program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, had more than 360,000 applicants through mid-December, with about 102,000 approved. Approved applicants receive permission to work and a Social Security number.

But even in announcing the program last summer, Obama called it a temporary, stop-gap measure to address one piece of the problem administratively while Congress works on a permanent solution.

Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, said in a Jan. 3 statement, as members of Congress were sworn in, that the "new, bipartisan climate around immigration that has emerged in the past year" was welcome.

"With Democrats and Republicans recognizing the moral, economic and political imperative to fix the immigration system, the 113th Congress marks the best opportunity for broad immigration reform in nearly a decade. Americans across the political spectrum are ready for action on immigration. Now is the time."

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus

Last Sunday, we celebrated the coming of the Wise Men from the East to let the world know that a tiny child born in Bethlehem is really a King.

As Isaiah had foretold five hundred years before has now come true. A Saviour has come for all people. The secret is out!

Jesus, as an infant, is already preparing the way for his mission to the world. That mission is to bring the light of God's truth and God's love into the world's ignorance and lack of love.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

And so, the Father sends a star to guide foreign "magi" - wise men - to see the light for themselves.

Today's feast is another "epiphany" of Jesus as He is about to begin his preaching and healing.

He receives his official approval from God the Father and the Holy Spirit in a very dramatic scene in the desert.

Jesus has left his mother to journey into the desert seeking out his cousin, John.

To the amazement of John, Jesus insists on going down into the water to receive John's baptism of repentance.

John protests, then gives assent to Jesus' request.

Here, surrounded by ordinary sinners and seekers Jesus, the sinless One, bends his head and shoulders as John pours the water, Luke tells us that Jesus stays in the water and prays.

We wonder what Jesus was praying about.

It is quite likely he is asking the Father to show some sign of His approval for his "going public".

His prayer is answered in a most dramatic fashion. The heavens open, a voice thunders "You are my beloved Son; with You I am well pleased!"

Remarkably, the third Person of the Holy Trinity, in

JAN. 13

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

bodily form, takes the form of a dove, visible to all onlookers. He, too, endorses Jesus' mission.

For those onlookers who had been wondering if John the Baptist were the Messiah, all doubt is removed. It is Jesus whom God has chosen.

As we close the Christmas season today, can there be any doubt that Jesus has come to invite all people to

know the Truth, and, in love, to share that Truth with one's family and friends.

We, too, have been baptized, not with the baptism of John, but with the Baptism of Jesus Himself, in the water of life and the fire of God's love.

At our Confirmation, we were approved to be witnesses to Jesus' message of love and truth.

As 2013 unfolds, will it be truly a Year of Faith and a new opportunity for truth and love to overcome the evil that surrounds us?

Light always has power over darkness, especially when it comes through Jesus Christ and His followers. Can He count us in?

OUR READERS WRITE

Catholic response to human trafficking

By Mary Palamar

Lay Associate of Sisters of St. Joseph and member of SSJ Social Justice Committee

Over 27 million women, children and men worldwide suffer each day from the harsh reality of a modern form of slavery. Human trafficking, both for labor and sex, is among the largest and fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the world. Much to surprise of many Americans, human trafficking exists in every state in the U.S. and District of Columbia.

January 11 has been designated as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day as a result of a Congressional resolution in 2007. January is also National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month proclaimed by President Obama.

The Catholic Church has been involved in educating its members about the scourge of human traffick-

ing, has organized a Catholic Coalition, and has developed social service programs to identify and rescue survivors of human trafficking, since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in October 2000.

What is human trafficking and where does it happen?

Trafficking in persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threats or use of force or other forms of coercions, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power. The essence is force, fraud, and/or coercion of vulnerable people.

There is disproportionate representation of poor women, children and members of disadvantaged minority groups.

Human trafficking also includes children and adults who are forced into unpaid labor in sweatshops, commercial agriculture, domes-

tic servitude, construction, restaurant work, housekeeping, and other service industries.

One of the most common forms of human trafficking in the United States involves young victims, often adolescents who have run away from home, who are forced, threatened or coerced into prostitution or forced labor by individuals from whom there is little escape.

In recent years, sex traffickers have been luring young victims into sex trafficking, by use of the Internet social sites, telephone chat lines, at malls, clubs or on the streets.

The United States Department of Justice estimates that 100,000 to 300,000 American children under the age of 18 are involved in prostitution annually and are often targeted by sexual predators.

According to the F. B. I., the average age of entry for prostitution for a girl is 13, for a boy 12.

Catholic organizations respond to need to educate the community

International and national Catholic organizations have formed a coalition, Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking, as a way to further formulate plans to combat trafficking, to promote the development of services for trafficking victims, to promote dialogue with government officials and others, and to devise strategies for public education, awareness and grass roots action.

Some of the members of this coalition include Catholic Charities, USA; Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.; Jesuit Refugee Services; Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

One of the most informative anti-trafficking newsletters is Stop Trafficking, published monthly by Jean Schafer, SDS.

Stop Trafficking is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among reli-

gious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations working to eliminate all forms of trafficking in human beings.

Those interested in receiving a copy can request being on the mailing list (publication is free) by contacting jeansds2010@yahoo.com

Each month, Stop Trafficking has information about various organizations, individuals, laws, training opportunities, films and publications available to combat trafficking. It provides the reader with specific action steps to eliminate human trafficking. One suggestion was to ask local newspapers to bring more attention to the issue of human trafficking.

Response in the local area

In recent years, numerous congregations of vowed religious have taken public stands, issued statements and became advocates to eliminate human trafficking.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

THE GUILT TRIP

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

The inevitable tensions of family life have served as the basis for many a screen comedy. In the current holiday season alone, they provide grist for two very different cinematic mills: the crude misfire "This Is 40" and the warmhearted mother-and-son road movie "The Guilt Trip" (Paramount).

Though the latter includes material for mature eyes only, it offers a view of clan interaction that calls to mind St. Paul's inspired insight that the first --and perhaps primary -- attribute of real love is patience (1 Cor. 13:4).

Learning that lesson as the film unspools is buttoned-up Los Angeles chemist Andy Brewster (Seth Rogen).

Visiting his New York-based mom Joyce (Barbra Streisand) before setting off on a cross-country business trip - during which he'll be

pitching a cleaning product he invented to various store chains - Andy discovers a secret about her past: Before she married long-deceased dad, Joyce had a boyfriend for whom she still carries a nostalgic torch these many years later.

This being the age of Google, a moment's research on Andy's part, once he's alone in his room - together with a follow-up phone call - reveals that Joyce's former beau is alive and well, single, and living in San Francisco.

Andy decides he'll secretly engineer a reunion by inviting Joyce along on his journey, and pretending that his last appointment is in the City by the Bay.

Needless to say, doting Mom is thrilled by the idea.

Not all the adventures that ensue make for family viewing, notably an unintended stop-off at a roadside strip club. But the vibrant mutual affection between the two main characters shines through as they try to reconcile their ill-

matched temperaments.

Extrovert Joyce repeatedly runs afoul of Andy's love of the laid-back, and frequently elicits wry observations from him on the eccentricity of her outlook.

A creative researcher, but no salesman, Andy could benefit from Joyce's common touch, but bearishly refuses to listen to her advice.

As a dedication included in the end titles hints, and publicity materials for the film explain more fully, screenwriter Dan Fogelman found inspiration for his script in a real-life excursion he and his mother - also named Joyce - undertook together.

By turns amusing and touching, director Anne Fletcher's picture, which sees both Streisand and Rogen in top form, registers as enjoyable fare for grownups.

The film contains brief partial nudity, numerous adult references, a couple of uses of profanity as well as at least one rough and about a dozen crude terms.



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Seth Rogen and Barbra Streisand star in a scene from the movie "The Guilt Trip."

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rat-

ing is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Human trafficking

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

During the 2011 Federation Conference of the Sisters of St. Joseph held in St. Louis, participants spent some time planning actions to continue the fight to end human trafficking.

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the Watertown Sisters of St. Joseph have been collaborating with Watertown Flower Memorial Library to co-sponsor several events during the month of January to provide education on this moral human rights issue.

During this month the library has an extensive display on this topic with a brochure listing all of the available books, DVDs, and other resources.

The Sisters of St. Joseph and the library are presenting the movie "Bought and Sold: An Investigation Documentary about the International Trade in Women" on the following dates and times: Jan. 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Jan. 11 from 4

p.m. to 4:45; and Jan. 12 from 11 a.m. to 11:45.

On television, WPBS is showing the production of "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide" Jan. 13 from 2 p.m. to 4, part one; Jan. 20 from 2 p.m. to

4, part two.

A Prayer Service for an End to Human Trafficking and a speaker, Sabel Bong, will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Lounge, 1425 Washington St., Watertown.

MOP MALONE OFFICE PRODUCTS
Dean Lamica
Sales Representative
333 West Main St., Malone
1-800-894-6626
518-483-6600

BARSTOW
AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION BUICK PONTIAC GMC SUBARU
"Family owned dealership serving the North Country for over 56 years!"
For more information, visit our Website at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY • (315) 265-8800

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
is on
FACEBOOK
 
• Find Us
• Like Us
• Follow Us


CLINTON

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Plattsburgh - A series of Natural Family Planning classes will be offered by the Diocesan NFP Office.

Date: Jan. 26
Time: 1 p.m.
Place: St. John's Church [Parish Center, 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 Pietropoli, at 518-483-0459 or email apietropoli@dioogdensburg.org.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

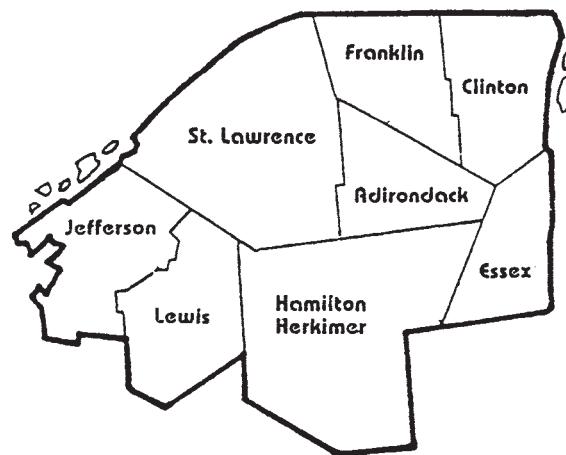
Treadwell Mills - St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.
Date: Jan. 13
Time: 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

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 and April 6
Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Features: Reflecting on themes of Lent, these five sessions will draw heavily from Scripture. The topics will be Sacrifice, Forgiveness, Compassion, Suffering, and Triumph. Light lunch provided. Donations appreciated.
Contact: RSVP 518-594-3253 or toolaprayehouse@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. Topics include: Scriptural Foundations for Healing, History of Healing in the Church, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Introduction to Deliverance Prayer, and more. Overnight accommodations available. Level II given in March, Level III in April.
Contact: To register or for questions email Pat at olaprayehouse@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 retreat will begin with each of us looking at our special uniqueness and how to find true happiness. We will move to praise of our Lord Jesus through song and prayer. The day will conclude with Mass. Lunch provided.
Contact: Email call 518-594-3253 or olaprayehouse@gmail.com to register. Donations for the day appreciated.

PRAYER MEETING

Plattsburgh - A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Peter's Church, St. Brother Andre' Chapel.

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh - Soaking Prayer is offered every second and fourth Wednesday of the month under the direction of the Living Water's Healing Ministry.
Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30
Place: Upper room at St. Peters
Features: A quiet prayerful environment, to be soaked in God's love

LECTIO DIVINA

Ellenburg - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be having *Lectio Divina* (Divine Reading), every Friday.
Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Features: Meditation on the following Sunday's readings and Rosary

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

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills - The Indian River Knights of Columbus will be having a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.
Date: Jan. 12
Place: St. Mary's Parish Center.
Time: 4 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$7; senior citizens, \$6; children under 12, \$5; under 5 eat for free

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.

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.

ST. LAWRENCE

YEAR OF FAITH WORKSHOP

Ogdensburg - Father Garry Giroux, chairman on the diocesan Year of Faith Committee, will present a workshop entitled: The Year of Faith: Anniversaries, Events, or More?
Date: Jan. 16
Time: 7 p.m.
Place: St. Mary's Cathedral's Bishop Brzana Memorial Hall
Features: The goal of the workshop is to assist participants in fostering an encounter with Christ and a deeper understanding of the truths of our faith.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk - The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.
Date: Jan. 13
Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Place: Visitation Parish Center
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18

SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP

Canton - The Surviving Spouse Friendship and Support Group meets the first Thursday of the month.
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Best Western University Inn
Contact: Lita Maroney at 379-1650

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.

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES ARE BACK

Ogdensburg - The Knights of Columbus Friday Night Fish Fries are back beginning Jan. 11 and continue every Friday until Easter.
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, free; desserts, \$1 and cash bar
Features: Offering fresh haddock or shrimp dinner with macaroni and cheese or French fries or half and half with cole slaw and a roll. Take-outs are available. All proceeds benefit K of C Charities.

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.

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

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

DIOCESAN EVENTS

DIOCESAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Carthage - The annual diocesan Ecumenical Service has been planned.
Date: Jan. 13
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. James Church
Program: Participants of the diocesan service will include Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Father George Maroun, pastor of St. James; and the Village Ecumenical Ministries (VEM) of Carthage area. The Rev. Linda Harris, pastor of the United Methodist Church Three River Valley Parish, will preach on the theme, "What Does God Require of Us?" (Micah 6: 6-8). The service will be enhanced by the participation of a combined choir of Carthage area churches. A reception will follow at Augustinian Academy.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Gratitude

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

I am most grateful for your Christmas sacrifices and donations, which are such a blessing to the Church as it serves the poor of the Missions. Through these donations, you help to support the work and witness of Religious Sisters throughout the Missions, especially as they offer loving service to children in need. By your prayers, and your gifts to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, you accompany those who bring this Good News to the poor and suffering. As I ask your continuing prayers for our mission family, know that you and those you love remain in my prayers.

Thank you for trusting in the love you show by your support and sacrifices to our brothers and sisters in developing countries. Let us reach out as missionaries and confidently announce the Good News of Christ with words and deeds. The best Christian testimony is love for others. Have a blessed new year!



World Mission Rosary

Green for the families of Africa, Red for the families of the Americas, White for the families of Europe, Blue for the families of Oceania and Yellow for the families of Asia. To pray the World Mission Rosary, reflect on each area of the world according to the particular color bead described above at the time you announce each Mystery. When you have completed the World Mission Rosary, you have given the World a big hug! What about praying on my favorite rosary? Yes, remember a continent on each decade of your favorite rosary as you pray for your special intentions. World Mission Rosaries are available while supplies last in the Mission Office by calling 315-393-2920.

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

OBITUARIES

Altona – Dusty M. Clark, 28; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at Holy Angel's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

AuSable Forks – Shirley Ann (Hood) George, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at Holy Name Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Canton – John "Clavin" Clarke, Sr., 79; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2012 at the O'Leary Funeral Home; burial in the South Russell Cemetery.

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

Chateaugay – Edwain Raymond Knox Jr., 90; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Clayton – Thomas M. Bogenschutz Sr., 91; Services Jan. 3, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Clayton – Frances M. (Higgins) Haas, 70; Funeral Service Dec. 29, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Constableville – Rose (Skorupa) Earl, 92; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Constableville – Pauline M. (Getman) Seelman, 84; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Boonville.

Deferiet – Roland C. Demers, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at St. Rita Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Evans Mills – Donald J. Bowman, 68; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Ft. Covington – Lillian Mary (Hart) French, 96; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at St. Mary's of the Fort Parish; burial in parish cemetery.

Glenfield – Lavina (Milles) Nellenback, 89; Funeral Dec. 28, 2012 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Thelma M. (Lawrence) Moe, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2012 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

Keene – Margaret "Marge" (Finnegan) Surgoff, 90; Funeral Service Jan. 12, 2013 at St. Brendan's Church.

Lowville – Donald W. Sawyer, 61; Funeral Dec. 27, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Madrid – Barbara L. (Bushaw) Carkner, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2012 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in Madrid Cemetery.

Massena – Frank C. Chase, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2013 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Norma S. (Stryker) Dondewitz, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2013 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – MaryAnn S. (Plourde) Donnelly, 68; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2012 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Louisville Community Cemetery.

Massena – Clayton H. Miller, 80; Funeral Jan. 2, 2013 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Donald G. "Donnie" Morrell, 62; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norfolk – Charles W. Goodspeed, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 26, 2012 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood – Margaret Ann (Logan) Murray, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2012 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – James A. Boland Sr., 69; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2013 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Hammond.

Ogdensburg – Stephen J. Phelps, 47; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2012 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Peru – Sharon Lynn Schenk Deitering, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2012 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Elbow Hill Cemetery, Brant Lake.

Peru – Harold S. Harblin, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2013 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – William J. Baker, 52; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Donald N. Favro, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Ida L. Jacques, 101; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2012 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Bernard F. Murphy Jr., 90; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2012 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Redford – Joseph "Junior" Liberty, 89; Funeral Dec. 22, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Redford – Adelor L. "Dill" Pellerin, 79; Funeral Dec. 26, 2012 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

Schroon Lake – Velma M. (Rock) Gochie, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2013 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church; burial in The Schroon Lake Community Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Aimee Lee Poirier-Curry, 35; Funeral Dec. 21, 2012 at Holy Name Church; burial in Holy Name Cemetery.

Tupper Lake – Richard John Stublely, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Waddington – Joseph E. Brown, 58; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2012 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Watertown – Daniel E. Alden, 55; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2013 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Claire J. (Joynt) Hayes, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2012 at St. Patrick's Church.

Watertown – Toni-Jo J. Bell McConnell, 55; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2012 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Isabelle (Piattelli) VanDeWater, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2012 at the D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Westport – Mary (Hood) Floyd, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 5, 2013 at St. Philip Neri Church.

VATICAN LETTER

Agenda for a year of faith

Looking ahead at Pope Benedict's 2013

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Fortunetelling, like all occult practices, is strictly taboo at the Vatican; and prophecy is a rare gift among journalists. But Pope Benedict XVI's calendar for 2013 is already filling up with planned, probable or possible events.

Here are 10 to watch for in the news during the coming year.

Italian elections:

When Italians go to the polls Feb. 24, the big story for most foreign observers will be the fate of a comeback attempt by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. For the pope and other Italian bishops, a prime concern will be whether voters instead elect a center-left majority that could bring Italy into sync with other major Western European countries - and out of line with Catholic moral teaching - on such issues as in vitro fertilization and legally recognized unions of same-sex partners.

New encyclical:

Pope Benedict's fourth encyclical will be released in the first half of next year, very possibly in the spring, according to Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman. Treating the subject of faith, the encyclical will complete a trilogy on the three "theological virtues"; the previous installments were "Deus Caritas Est" (2005) on charity, and "Spe Salvi" (2007) on hope.

Worldwide solemn eucharistic adoration:

On the feast of Corpus Christi, June 2, Pope Benedict will lead an hour of eucharistic adoration to be observed simultaneously around the world, highlighting a traditional devotion that fell largely out of use in the decades after the Second Vatican Council, but which has lately grown more popular with the pope's personal encouragement. This promises to be one of the most visually impressive of many events scheduled for the Year of Faith, which ends Nov. 24.

New charter for health care workers:

The Vatican plans to publish an updated version of its 1995 guidelines for Catholic hospitals, taking into account nearly two decades of technological developments and political trends in areas including abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning. The document, whose target release date is in June, will reflect Catholic moral teaching on biomedical issues and Catholic social teaching on the equitable and effective provision of health care.



CNS PHOTO/BRUNO DOMINGOS, REUTERS

The famous Christ the Redeemer statue is seen in 2011 atop Corcovado Peak in Rio de Janeiro. Hundreds of thousands of young Catholics are expected to gather in Rio in July for a week of events whose highlight will be the presence of the pope, encouraging them to cultivate their faith and religious identity.

World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro:

Hundreds of thousands of young Catholics are expected to gather in Rio in July for a week of events whose highlight will be the presence of the pope, encouraging them to cultivate their faith and religious identity. This will be Pope Benedict's second trip to Brazil, the country with the world's largest Catholic population, where he is also likely to address problems of inequality in a developing economy, as well as the need for good government and civil peace in Latin America as a whole.

New U.S. ambassador?

The post of U.S. ambassador to the Vatican has been vacant since Miguel H. Diaz stepped down shortly after the November 2012 elections, and the choice of his replacement will be especially delicate given current tensions between the church and the Obama administration. All previous ambassadors have been Catholics, but it could be hard to find one who has not taken a public stand over the administration's plan - strenuously opposed by U.S. bishops - to require that most Catholic institutions provide insurance

coverage for contraception and sterilizations, which violate the church's moral teaching.

New Secretary of State?

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone has served as Pope Benedict's top aide since 2006. Some commentators, especially in the Italian press, have accused him of neglecting necessary administrative reforms and blamed him for mismanagement documented in the so-called "VatiLeaks" of confidential correspondence. Pope Benedict reaffirmed his confidence in his longtime collaborator last July, but the cardinal is already three years past the standard retirement age of 75, so he could well leave the stage this year. His replacement would likely be another Italian, perhaps Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, currently prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy.

New archbishop of Chicago?

Cardinal Francis E. George, who has led the Archdiocese of Chicago since 1997, turned 75 - the age at which bishops must offer to resign - last Jan. 16. Pleased with the effects of his recent chemotherapy for kidney cancer, he has called his prognosis "very, very hopeful" and said that he has no plans to step down. But he has acknowledged the seriousness of his condition and the possibility that Pope Benedict might replace him this year.

New cardinals?

The number of cardinals under the age of 80, the only ones eligible to vote for the next pope, will be down to no more than 110 by Oct. 19. Pope Benedict could choose to boost their number to the legal limit of 120 by calling a consistory on the day before the feast of Christ the King (Nov. 24, 2013), a traditional occasion for the creation of cardinals and the last day of the Year of Faith. Likely additions to the College of Cardinals include Archbishop Gerhard L. Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Archbishop Vincent G. Nichols of Westminster, England.

Anniversary of the Edict of Milan:

2013 is the 1,700th anniversary of the Roman Empire's legal toleration of Christianity, a watershed moment in the history of the church. Hopes have dimmed that Pope Benedict and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow might jointly commemorate the occasion at the Serbian birthplace of the Emperor Constantine I, who promulgated the edict. But the pope is almost certain to mark the anniversary in some way, perhaps taking the opportunity to highlight one of his primary concerns, threats to religious liberty around the world today.