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Philippines is devastated by tycoon | PAGE 14

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 20, 2013

Pope: we need confession

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - With baptism, Christians are cleansed of sin, but the sacrament doesn't wash away human weakness nor the obligation to ask forgiveness when they make mistakes, Pope Francis said. Baptism is "God's powerful intervention in our lives to save us. This saving inter-

vention of God doesn't remove our human nature and weakness; we are all weak and we are all sinners. And baptism doesn't remove our responsibility to ask forgiveness every time we err," the pope said Nov. 13 during his weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience,

Pope Francis offered prayers for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines and for those who died Nov. 11 when a shell hit a school bus in Damascus, Syria.

"This must never happen! Let us pray with insistence," the pope said. The "real battles" that need to be fought in

the world, he said, are not wars for power, but battles "for life, never for death."

In his main audience talk, continuing a Year of Faith series about the creed, Pope Francis reflected on the affirmation, "I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins."

PAPAL HONORS

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice to 14



Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that a religious sister and 13 lay persons have been awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross by Pope Francis. Bishop LaValley will confer the cross on the recipients at a special vesper service at St. Mary's Cathedral Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, given for distinguished service to the church, is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the pope. The list of honorees appears on page 3; short biographies of each are printed on pages 4 and 9.

FULL STORY, PAGES 3, 4, 9

Appreciation for priests in the diocese

The *North Country Catholic* presents its annual Priest Appreciation issue with special messages from parishioners and friend and profiles on two priests.

Father John M. (Mickey) Demo talked to reporter Shawn Ryan during the first weeks in his new home. He's now the pastor in Dannemora and Redford.

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Mark McDonald, Watertown native and superior general for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, sat down with NCC reporter Deacon Kevin Mastellon.

FULL STORIES, PAGES 6 & 7

Year of Faith Holy Hour

Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Liberty to be held

Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. across diocese
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

THE SAINTS COME MARCHIN' IN



SCHOOL PHOTO

St. Mary's School students in grades 5-8 in Ticonderoga celebrated All Souls Day by dressing as saints after researching and participating in a "Name that Saint" program at school. Pictured are Cory Lender, as Ignatius of Loyola, Thomas Woods as Damien of Molokai, and Shannon Jordan as Edith Stein.

PICTURE IT: Winners of Year of Faith photography contest... p. 11

NORTH
COUNTRY
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President**REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN**

Vice President

SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSJ

Secretary-Treasurer

MARY LOU KILIAN

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EDITOR'S NOTE

More people to appreciate!

The best laid plans some-
times go awry... and
sometimes that's just
fine.

The focus of this
week's *North Country
Catholic* was intended
to be a celebration of
the priests of our dio-
cese.

We invited readers
and writers to share
their appreciation for
the Fathers of the
North Country and, as
in years past, plenty of
appreciation has been
expressed.

**Mary Lou
Kilian**

You'll see it all, in page after
page of the paper.

But, last Friday morn-
ing, a big announce-
ment came to our desk
that immediately be-
came *the* big news of
this issue.

Fourteen of our
friends and neighbors
have been honored
with *Pro Ecclesia et
Pontifice Cross* by Pope
Francis for their out-
standing service to the
Catholic Church.

How wonderful is

that!?!

While the timing of the an-
nouncement kept the *NCC* staff
on its toes, it certainly
couldn't be more appropriate.

As Bishop LaValley said, "It is
so fitting that we recognize the
faith and dedication of these
generous men and women in
this Year of Faith. Their tire-
less dedication and outstand-
ing service clearly demon-
strate their love of God and His
Church.

"It is people like these recipi-
ents who truly open the doors
of faith for our world," the
bishop said.

He'll have more to say Dec. 8

when he confers the *Pro Eccle-
sia et Pontifice* medals at St.
Mary's Cathedral.

I've been blessed to know
many of the recipients through
my work with the paper and,
hooray (!) in my parish.

I've seen first-hand the dedi-
cation and service to which the
bishop refers. The honor is so
well deserved.

So... pages of this paper that
might have been devoted to
clergymen, are filled, instead,
with short profiles of each of
the honorees.

I don't think any of our
priests will mind!

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Join me in thanking all our priests

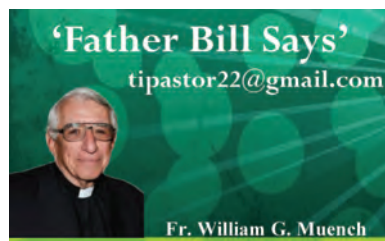
I am writing this today from
Combermere, Ontario, visiting
my friends at Madonna House.
This has always been a very
special community for me.
The foundress of Madonna,
Catherine de Hueck Doherty,
has a deep appreciation for
priests – and so priests have al-
ways been an integral part of
this community.

I remember how she would
react when greeting a priest:
she would kneel right down
and ask for his blessing. A bit
dramatic I will admit – but
such was her respect and ap-
preciation for priests. I always
felt that I should be seeking
her blessing.

Catherine wrote many essays
about the ordained priesthood
and often spoke about the
priesthood. They tell the story
that on one occasion, Eddie,
her husband, received a letter
asking, "Just what is a priest?"
As he was thinking about his
answer, he sought some advice
from Catherine.

The story goes on to say that
Catherine immediately took up
paper and pencil and wrote a
rather well remembered poem
– almost a prayer – about
priesthood. I want to share
just a bit of this with you.

"The heart of a priest is pen,



like Christ's; for the whole
world to walk through...

The heart of a priest is a ves-
sel of compassion, the heart of
a priest is a chalice of love...

A priest is a man who has
crucified himself – so that he
too may be lifted up and draw
all things to Christ."

I am appreciative that God
invited me into his priesthood.
Often, someone will ask me to
explain how I ended up becom-
ing a priest and, I must admit, I
really can't remember any spec-
ific moment when my life was
turned around and I suddenly
knew I should be a priest. I
just always knew that it is has
always been who I am.

I continue to look forward to
each opportunity to celebrate
Mass, to preach a homily, to
teach about being Jesus, to cel-
ebrate the sacraments of the
Church – especially going to
the sick or dying.

I have often meditated upon
Catherine's poem about priest-
hood – I really can't believe I

have yet to match up. I do
know many priests and Bish-
ops who do. I am most grateful
that I have been touched by
such great priests. I am most
grateful for all of my brothers
in the priesthood here in the
Diocese of Ogdensburg.

So, today, I want to offer my
congratulations and gratitude
to our Bishop – Bishop Terry
LaValley. He has accepted this
office with dedication and de-
termination. He brings enthu-
siasm to all that he does. He
challenges us all – people and
priests – to use our gifts and
abilities to make our diocese
alive in the Spirit. He wants to
make the Church of the North
Country a very special, alive
family for the People of God.

I want to also offer my appre-

ciation to all of my brothers in
the priesthood here in this dio-
cese – the young and the old. I
believe we have been blessed
with wonderful priests and we
pray that there will soon be
more.

I am truly impressed with
our younger priests – they are
gifted and truly dedicated to
the people of our diocese, es-
pecially to those in need.

And, of course, I am im-
pressed with the good work
that has been accomplished
and continues to be accom-
plished by those priests that
are a bit older.

So – listen – please join me in
thanking the priests of your
parish – let them know how
grateful you are for their min-
istry.

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



Here is what one subscriber has to say:



"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country
Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in
this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and
read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log
onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

To sign up to receive the *NCC* in your e-mail you can call our office at
315-608-7556

Bishop LaValley to confer Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross Dec. 8

Fourteen receive papal honors

Bishop Terry R. LaValley announced that a religious sister and 13 lay persons have been awarded the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross by Pope Francis.

Bishop LaValley will confer the cross on the recipients at a special vesper service at St. Mary's Cathedral Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.

In announcing the awards, Bishop LaValley said, "It is so fitting that we recognize the faith and dedication of these generous men and women in this Year of Faith. Their tireless dedication and outstanding service clearly demonstrate their love of God and His Church. It is people like these recipients who truly open the doors of faith for our world."

The recipients of the Papal Honors are: Catherine Sponable of Lake Placid, Dr. John T. Middleton, of Plattsburgh, Mary Ann Lepkowski of Turin, Catherine Denny of

Ogdensburg, Elizabeth Hartzell of Watertown, Mary Besio of Massena, Patricia Stabins of Watertown, Roger Snyder and Colleen Snyder of Lake Pleasant, Grey Nun Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, of Ogdensburg, Leo Giroux and Theresa Giroux of Plattsburgh, Joseph A. Provoncha of North Hudson, and James D. Carroll of Plattsburgh.

The *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 to commemorate his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination and was originally bestowed on those who aided and promoted the Jubilee.

It is currently given to a lay person or cleric for distinguished service to the Church. It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the pope.

Each honoree will receive the medal and a certificate explaining the award. The medal is cast in gold. The



PHOTO BY MARIKA DONNERS
Recipients of the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* award will receive gold medal and lapel pin during a special vespers service Dec. 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

cross includes the images of Saint Peter and Saint Paul and includes the words "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (for Church and Pope). It also contains three crosses and a

papal tiara. The medal is attached to a yellow and white ribbon.

The certificate accompanying the cross states: "Pope Francis has determined to bestow the medal of the venerable cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, awarded in recognition of outstanding service distinguished by remarkable zeal and effort to [the recipient] and at the same time granting the aforementioned the honor of wearing the insignia of this award."

Bishop LaValley said, "I look forward to celebrating these wonderful faces of faith," at the Dec. 8 vespers service.

"These individuals have truly built up the Church in our Diocese by their dedicated service," he said. "I am delighted to have the opportunity to express our gratitude to them for their generosity and their faithfulness. These individuals are

most deserving of this recognition."

The recipients were nominated for these papal honors by Bishop LaValley after consultation with their pastors.

Short biographies of the recipients appear on page 4.



*Father Chris,
Our magnificent
spiritual
encourager.
St. Peter's Altar-Rosary
Lowville*

Year of Faith Holy Hour set

Catholics from across the Diocese of Ogdensburg have been invited to participate in a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Life, Marriage and Liberty Sunday at 3 p.m.

Bishop LaValley has directed that a Holy Hour with common prayers be held in each Deanery to celebrate the blessings of the Year of Faith which ends Nov. 24, the Feast of Christ the King

As the Bishop leads the Holy Hour at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, each Deanery of the Diocese will celebrate a Holy Hour using the same prayers and readings. The sites are:

- St. Lawrence Deanery: St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg
- Adirondack Deanery: St. Bernard's Church, Saranac Lake
- Clinton Deanery: St. Augustine's Church, Peru
- Essex Deanery: St. Patrick's Church, Port Henry
- Franklin Deanery: St. Mary's Church, Brushton
- Jefferson Deanery: St. Paul's Church, Black River
- Lewis Deanery: St. Peter's Church, Lowville

*Father Phil Allen -
God Bless You!
Happy Climbing!
Deacon Jim &
Christine*

*Fr. Sony,
You are the
greatest!
From your two
churches.*

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"It's very well done, and so interesting!" --Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
"I love the stories...the pictures are amazing too!" --Jennifer DuBose

"A labor of love...and a fascinating perspective!" --Msgr. Peter R. Riani
"I could not put the book down..." --Evelyn Lamont

Meet the recipients of *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*

Catherine Sponable

Catherine Sponable is a devout parishioner of St. Agnes Church in Lake Placid, New York. Miss Sponable was born in New York City and she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Science degree from New York University.

Catherine gave up a career as a scientist to care for her parents. Catherine was devoted to her parents and looked after them in illness and old age. Since moving from New York City to Lake Placid in 1971, Catherine has been extremely supportive in every way to St. Agnes Parish and St. Agnes School in Lake Placid.

Catherine has also been very generous to the Diocese through the Bishop's Fund Appeal, charitable annuities, and Bishop's Heritage Circle. Catherine exercises her stewardship in a very quiet and humble way.

Catherine also has been generous with her time in support of her parish. Since 1971, Catherine has served as sacristan at the parish, setting up for liturgical celebrations and cleaning up afterward. From 1990 through 2010, Catherine served as wedding coordinator for the parish, making a positive impact on young couples preparing for marriage. She also proved to be a great help to her pastors in assisting couples with the practical details of marriage

preparation. In addition, Catherine generously helped out in the parish office, performing filing, typing, and other clerical tasks to help the parish.

Catherine is a very devout and active Catholic and has always served the Church in a humble and unassuming way.

John T. Middleton, Ph.D.

Dr. Middleton is a parishioner of Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh, New York. He has been active in the Pro-Life Ministry of the Church and other parish and diocesan organizations over the years.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Hardin College, and a Ph.D. degree in counseling from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dr. Middleton has been a strong promoter and supporter of the Sacrament of Marriage and served as co-director of the Family Life Department of the Diocese and was an instructor in our Pre-Cana Ministry.

Dr. Middleton has also been a strong advocate for the Pro-Life Ministry of the Church, and served as Chairman of the New York State Right to Life Committee and was one of the founders of the Champlain Valley Right to Life Committee.

Dr. Middleton is very pious and active in the life of his parish. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus. Dr.

Middleton is married and the couple has four sons and four daughters.

Mary Ann Lepkowski

Mary Ann Lepkowski is a parishioner of St. Hedwig's Church in Houseville, New York. Mary Ann received a Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Oswego and a Master's degree from the State University of New York at Albany. Mary Ann was a teacher at Beaver River Central School until her retirement. After retirement, she taught at St. Peter's School in Lowville, New York.

Mary Ann is active in her parish. She has served her parish in many capacities, including Eucharistic Minister, catechist, and as a member of St. Hedwig Women's Guild.

Mary Ann has supported the missionary activities of the Church, assisting the poor in Poland and South America. Mary Ann is a woman of prayer who actively lives out her faith.

She has a deep devotion of the Divine Mercy and a deep love and devotion to Our Blessed Mother, St. Mary.

Catherine Denny

Catherine Denny is a parishioner of Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, New York. After completing her schooling, she worked for many years as a therapy aide at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center until her retirement.

Catherine has been an example of piety and service in her parish community. She is a daily communicant at Notre Dame Church, participates regularly in Eucharistic Adoration, and helps bring patients at St. Joseph's Nursing Home to chapel for daily Mass at that institution.

Catherine has been an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a lay associate of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, and a member of the Knights of

Columbus Women's Auxiliary. Through these organizations, Catherine has given selfless service to the poor, elderly, sick, homebound and needy persons in the name of the Church.

Catherine remains active as a parishioner of Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, and as a volunteer at St. Joseph's Nursing Home in Ogdensburg. Catherine is a widow and has four sons and a daughter.

Elizabeth Hartzell

Elizabeth Hartzell is a parishioner at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown, New York. After graduating from Mercy Nursing School in Buffalo, Elizabeth worked as a nurse. After her marriage she was a stay at home mother.

A devout Catholic, Elizabeth has been deeply involved in the Pro-life apostolate of the Church. In 1973, Elizabeth founded Birthright in Potsdam, New York. Birthright offered guidance and assistance to pregnant women in an effort to help them give birth and raise their babies. In 1982, Elizabeth co-founded Liferight, a group focusing on communicating the Church's Pro-life message to the public. Liferight also provided assistance to pregnant women or young mothers as they faced the challenges of childbirth and parenting.

Elizabeth has been a tireless advocate for the unborn and the poor. Her goal has been to calmly and rationally present the Church's Gospel of Life, so that the message might be more clearly heard and understood.

Elizabeth is a woman of faith, who has courageously stood up for the truth of the Gospel. She is devout and humble in her piety and spirituality. She seeks to share with others the peace and strength her faith has brought to her.

Elizabeth has been active in her parish, and lives a life of virtue. Her service to the parish has included singing in the choir, working with the Altar Rosary Society, and bringing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound. Elizabeth's service reflects her great respect for all human life.

Mary Besio

Mary Besio is a parishioner of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Church in Massena, New York. Mary graduated from Norfolk High School in 1947, and went into the workforce. After working with her sister at a restaurant in

Massena, Mary worked for ALCOA from 1947 through 1955. Mary stopped working at ALCOA to raise her family. In 1973, Mary became the parish secretary at St. Mary's Parish in Massena, and served in that capacity for thirty-three years. After her retirement in 2012, Mary continues to help out as a volunteer in the parish office.

Since arriving in Massena in 1947, Mary has actively participated in the life of St. Mary's Parish. She remains active as a member of the Knights of Columbus Auxiliary, Sacred Heart League, Parish Council, Bereavement Committee, and Church Bazaar Committee. Mary participates in Mass daily and attends Eucharistic Adoration.

Mary has been a good example to the other parishioners. She is a woman of prayer whose faith is reflected in her humble and gentle dealings with others. Mary is welcoming and helpful to all who interact with her.

Mary is the widow of Nelson Besio and she has one son and one grandson living.

Patricia Stabins

Patricia Stabins is a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown, New York. After graduation from Immaculate Heart Academy in Watertown, Patricia worked as a telephone operator. After her marriage in 1959, Patricia worked in her husband's dental practice and also worked as an independent antique dealer.

Patricia has been an active member of St. Patrick's Parish for her entire life. Patricia has volunteered in numerous capacities both at the parish and the parochial school. Patricia is and has for some time been a member of the Altar Rosary Society and Liturgy Committee and has served as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister and catechist for the parish.

Patricia has been faithful in her visitation of those in nursing homes and has served as a member of the Sacred Heart Foundation in Watertown, New York.

Patricia is a faithful Catholic, regularly attending the Eucharistic celebration and taking part in Eucharistic Adoration. Patricia is a woman of prayer and service, always ready to extend a helping hand to bring God's love to others. Patricia is married to David Stabins. The couple has four children and five grandchildren.



"Crossing the threshold of hope"

The Seton community extends sincere gratitude to our pastors, Bishop LaValley, Fr. Cannan, Msgr. Duprey, Fr. Reamer, and Fr. Seymour for their priestly ministry and their unwavering support of Catholic education.



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*To the Priests of the
Diocesan Offices...our
Colleagues and Friends:*

*Bishop LaValley • Father Morgan
Father O'Brien • Father Seymour
Msgr. Snow • Msgr. Aucoin
Father Lucia • Father Stitt
Father Belina*

Giving Thanks

*"We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to
mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance
in hope our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father,
knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen."*

-From St. Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians

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Father Demo moves to Dannemora/Redford during his silver jubilee year

New pastor prepares to lead with team approach

By Shawn Ryan
Staff writer

DANNEMORA - Father John "Mickey" Demo quietly celebrated his 25 anniversary as a priest this past fall. Now ensconced in a new parish, he's ready to bring his calming, team-like approach to St. Joseph's Parish in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford.

"I think the bishop's plan is to have me here for several years," he said recently... surely welcome news to parishioners of those two parishes.

Father Demo describes his style of leadership as a "we" approach, choosing to guide by example, from within a group. This team approach, he says, was instilled in him by his parents, but was also nurtured by a strong upbringing in competitive sports.

In high school, growing up in Brasher Falls, Father Demo was a three-sport athlete, playing football, hockey and

baseball. He attended LeMoyne College after he graduated, where he focused his attention on baseball.

His love of sports, especially baseball and football, is still apparent today. He follows mostly New York teams, even though he attended seminary 20 minutes from Boston's Fenway Park, but is also a big supporter of Notre Dame football. For hockey though, he follows the Montreal Canadiens.

Father Demo knew quite early that he was leaning towards a life in the priesthood. He was an altar-server from a young age, but kept that ministry through high school, when many other youth leave the altar.

He credits the interaction with several of the priests of the diocese with showing him the human side of the priesthood, and making the goal of becoming a priest seem more attainable.

He notes especially the guidance and friendship of Fathers Louis Gardner, Harry Snow, Mike Gaffney and Don



PHOTO BY SHAWN RYAN

Father Mickey Demo, right, began service as pastor of St. Joseph's in Dannemora and the Church of the Assumption in Redford at the end of October. He is pictured with parish secretary Carol Holzer, in the St. Joseph's parish chapel in Dannemora.

Manfred.

"For someone whose only contact with a priest is Sun-

day Mass, you don't see the human side of the priest as you would if you have a friendship," he said. "You have the idea of 'wow,' what he is involved in is pretty

good stuff. There's that whole other side, the human side."

Father sees the relationship of the priest to the people of the parish as the most significant part of his ministry. It's the spontaneity of dealing with the various types of situations that occur on a daily basis that keeps him on his toes and that makes him enjoy being a priest.

"You don't know from one day to the next what you might be involved in," he said. "One of the most enjoyable aspects of being a priest is the different types of situations that occur week to week."

That, and the actual celebration of the Mass, are highlights for Father Demo.

Though he has only been 'on the mountain' (Dannemora) and 'in the holler' (Redford) for less than a month, appreciation for Father Demo is quickly turning from simple appreciation of the fact that he is there, to appreciation for him as a priest, and as a leader of the two parishes.

To our pastor, Fr. Steve Murray,
Msgr. Paul Whitmore & Fr. Leo Wiley



The Parishioners of Holy Family thank you for sharing God's grace with us in the sacraments. We appreciate your loving guidance and faithfulness. We are abundantly blessed!

God Bless Fr. Manfred,
our pastor and Knight
of The Year.

Deacon Tom and Linda
Proulx

Father Ray,
Thank you for leading
us on our spiritual journey
providing us with
Christ sacraments, your
love, kindness and good
works.

The Underwoods

We were blessed to have
Fr. Mickey Demo as our Priest
in St. Philip of Jesus Church,
Willsboro and St. Joseph's
Church, Essex.

He makes our lives more
Religious. His beautiful
Church Services made our
lives more Spiritual and Holy.

We are because he is
transferred to St. Joseph's in
Dannemora. We will miss him
but will always be grateful to
him.

May God continue to bless
him in his priestly life.

Bishop Navagh hears a prediction during a visit to Sacred Heart School:

'We're going to make a priest out of this one'

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

WATERTOWN - Father Mark McDonald believes the seed of his vocation, his call to become a priest, was planted in him in grammar school at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

Father Mark McDonald's life as a Missionary of the Sacred Heart priest has taken him from a farm near Watertown to an office near the Vatican

"The two parish priests, Father Francoeur and Father Dostie, were men I admired," he said. "Seeing their example was the biggest thing but I never told anyone how I felt while I was in grade school.

"The desire to become a priest did not occur at any one special moment; it was gradual," he said.

"Then, when I was in high school, Bishop James Navagh was coming to the Diocese and he stopped in Watertown to visit the schools," he said. "I had a chance to shake his hand and when I did Father Francoeur said to the bishop, 'we're going to make a priest out of this one.'"

And so it was ordained. Mark McDonald, son of Anna and Donald, a farm boy from the Pearl Street Road in Watertown, became a priest in 1968.

He chose to follow in the steps of the two men he admired, Fathers J. Arthur Francoeur and Benoit Dostie and became a Missionary of the Sacred Heart (MSC).

Father McDonald did not think much about serving the Church beyond the borders of North America until a fateful couple of days in Ohio. After serving eight years as a teacher at IHC in Watertown, Father Mark was sent to work in the congregation's retreat house in Ohio.

While there at a general chapter meeting of the Province in August 1980, he



PHOTO BY KEVIN MASTELLON

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Mark McDonald, a Watertown native, is serving his second six year term as the superior general of his order. During a recent visit with family in Clayton he reflected on growth of his vocation with North Country Catholic reporter Deacon Kevin Mastellon

learned of the difficulties the MSC were having in Guatemala and Colombia. A parish would have to be closed in Colombia because of a staffing shortage.

In the course of a day Father Mark resolved to offer his services to the Provincial. Two years later he was in Colombia.

That decision placed the farm lad from Northern New York on a road to international work for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and his current job in Rome.

Father Mark McDonald now serves all Missionaries of the Sacred Heart worldwide as their Superior General from offices on the Via

Asmara in Northeast Rome. It is located across town from the Vatican.

Half of Father Mark's time is spent in Rome as administrator of the congregation. The balance of his year is on-the-road to Indonesia, India, Viet Nam, Colombia, New Guinea, the United States, Canada, and other provinces on the African, South American and European continents.

"My role is to keep us unified, keep us on mission," Father Mark said in an interview while visiting relatives in Clayton. "There is so much enthusiasm among the young people called to serve the Church in our congrega-

tions in the emerging countries.

"We have 80 seminarians in Indonesia in their final years of formation," he said. "There are another 40 or 50 preparing in India. My job is to promote our mission: 'May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be loved everywhere.'"

Father Mark is now in his second six year term as Superior. He works at the congregation's international headquarters in community with a dozen other MSC's. His four closest colleagues are from the Dominican Republic, India, England and Australia.

The greatest joy for Father McDonald is witnessing the enthusiasm on the emerging and growing Catholic faith communities. In Indonesia, for example, there are a few million Catholics surrounded by 200 million Moslems.

There is a strong sense of community among those few million "and there are very few non-practicing Catholics" among them.

It is the loss of community that most concerns Father McDonald.

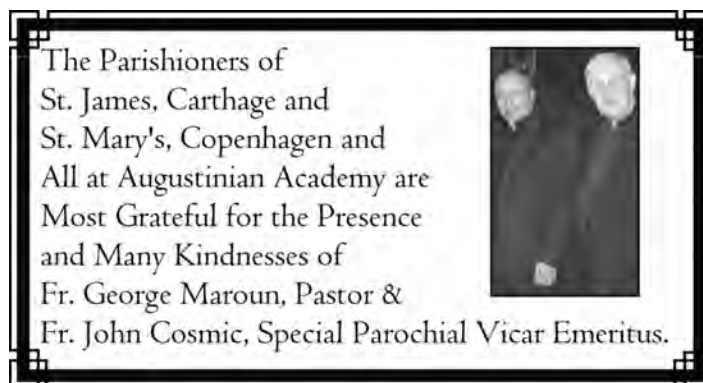
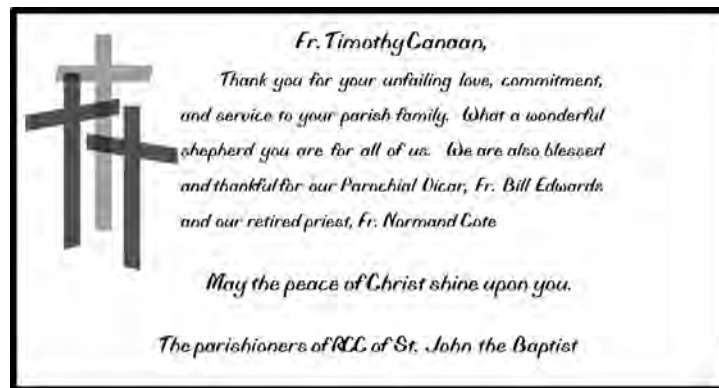
"People seem to think they can travel this journey alone," he said. "It is not just in the Church; it is in society in general. We have lost community, lost the sense of neighbors and neighborhoods.

"Believers need a community to pray in and with and to witness to the faith they share," he said.

His other concern is clericalism.

"Being a priest is not for my honor and glory," he said. "Being a priest is for service in the Church." He suggests clerics: "priests, deacons, yes, bishops, cardinals and even popes, need more humility" and more focus on mission.

Father Mark McDonald, M.S.C. made his profession of vows 51 years ago. He loves being a priest. He is enthusiastic about his congregation, the clergy, religious and lay people associated with his work and most assuredly demonstrates his own definition of evangelization, "how we live the faith is the best, and maybe the only, advertisement for faith."



*Father Norm Poupore,
Thank you for your many years of serving our
Church & a belated Happy 90th Birthday!!*

*Your fellow Brother Knights
& their families
K of C Council 7364, Adams, NY*



Rites held for Sr. Mary Larkin

NEW ROCHELLE, NY – A Memorial Mass for Ursuline Sister Mary Larkin, 81, was celebrated at the Ursuline Province Center Nov. 4. She died Oct. 21 at Calvary Hospital.

Sister Mary was born in the Bronx, Nov. 9, 1931, the daughter of Catherine and Michael Larkin. She entered the Ursuline Sisters in 1950 and made her First Profession of Vows in 1953.

During her 60 years as an Ursuline, Sister Mary was a

teacher at parochial schools in the Bronx, Westchester, Franklin, and Orange Counties.

She was a teacher, Notre Dame School, Malone from 1963 to 1967

When she retired from teaching, Sister Mary worked in several parishes as a pastoral associate both in New York and New Jersey.

For the Diocese of Ogdensburg, she served as a pastoral associate at St. Patrick's

Church, Brasher Falls, from 1986 to 1994.

Later, Sister Mary was a volunteer chaplain at Phelps Memorial Hospital.

She is predeceased by her parents Catherine and Michael, and her sister, Kathleen. Sister Mary is survived by a niece and a nephew.

Donations may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund, Ursuline Province Center, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY.



Holiday 50/50 Challenge

Support your local economy by spending 50% of your holiday food and gift money within a 50 mile radius of where you live.

Here are some shopping ideas:

- * Buy things from your local craft persons.
- * Buy gift certificates to locally owned restaurants
- * Support locally owned businesses
- * Support businesses that sell local products
- * Don't forget your local farmer for cheese, maple syrup, apples, cider and other local food items for holiday meals & gifts

Just think...

If 25,000 families across the North Country spent \$100 at local businesses or on local products...that would add \$2,500,000 to the North Country economy

If 25,000 families across the North Country spent \$200 at local businesses or on local products...that would add \$5,000,000 to the North Country economy

Sponsored by Catholic Charities

Bishop's Schedule

Nov. 21 – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Spratt Building in Ogdensburg

Nov. 22 – 8:45 a.m., Visit to Trinity Catholic School in Massena, followed by Mass at Noon

5:30 p.m., Evening Prayer at the Vatican II Workshop at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Nov. 24 – 11a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

3 p.m., Eucharistic Holy Hours for Life, Marriage and Liberty at St. Mary's Cathedral

Nov. 26 – 5:30 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner for the Special Religious Education Program at IHC School in Watertown

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: ayc-snn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401 or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340



Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 20 – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939

Nov. 21 – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

Nov. 22 – Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

Nov. 23 – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

Nov. 24 – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950

Environmental Stewardship

What is the Church doing?

In 2008, the roof of the papal audience auditorium was covered with 2,400 solar panels to produce energy for the Vatican, cutting carbon-dioxide emissions by the Vatican by about 225 tons per year. In April 2009, the Vatican announced that it will build the biggest solar plant in Europe, harnessing sunlight on a grand scale to help create renewable energy.

What can I do?

*Take the virtual energy saving tour of your home. Identify the best ways to save energy by using an online Home energy Saving Calculator.

*Consider having a professional energy audit of your home which will reveal areas of heat loss and suggest ways to remedy these energy leaks.

For more info. contact 1-866-NY-SERDA (toll free)

*When replacing appliances, go with Energy Star models.

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Meet the recipients

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Roger and Colleen Snyder

Roger and Colleen Snyder are parishioners at St. James Major Church in Lake Pleasant, New York. The couple was married in 1972, at Our Lady, Queen of Angels Church in Frankfort, New York. After successful careers, this couple retired to Lake Pleasant, New York, where they immediately became active in the parish of St. James Major.

Roger serves the church as a trustee, lector, and Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. Colleen works as a member of the Liturgy Committee, taking care of the liturgical environment, and as an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister.

Together, they have been instrumental in organizing fund raising events to help the less fortunate members of their community.

Roger and Colleen are devout and faithful in the practice of their Catholic Faith. They are daily communicants in the parish and are active in the adult education and formation programs of the parish. They give faithful witness to the Faith and are an inspiration to others.

Leo and Theresa Giroux

Leo and Theresa Giroux are parishioners of St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh, New York. This couple was married on June 8, 1946, at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy, New York. The couple had four daughters and six sons. Leo and Theresa Giroux owned and operated Giroux Dairy and Poultry Farm. Additionally, Leo served as Town Justice for the Town of Plattsburgh.

Leo and Theresa have been active in St. Peter's Parish for over sixty years. Leo served as Parish Trustee and as a member of various committees and councils in the parish. Theresa has been involved with the Altar Rosary Society, Regina Maria Retreat League and the parish Harvest Dinner Committee.

Leo and Theresa have actively lived out their faith, attending daily Mass, praying the Rosary, participating in Eucharistic Adoration, Novenas, and special services in their parish. They are supportive of their parish priests and their humble, pious participation in Church life and worship has been an inspiration to their fellow parishioners.

They are prayerful. Family rosary, Morning Prayer as a couple, family prayer before meals, and personal

prayers are a regular part of their daily routine. They have a loving and stable marriage and sacrificed to put all ten of their children through Catholic schools in Plattsburgh. They are role models for Christina marriage, family life and service to the Church and community.

Their faith and love are clearly revealed in their love for their children. In particular, Leo and Theresa provided appropriate and loving care for their son, Lawrence, who was born with serious handicaps.

Despite professional advice to the contrary, Leo and Theresa provided loving care for Lawrence at home until his death in 2009 at the age of 49. Their faith and love were extraordinary gifts that enabled Lawrence to live a full life at home with his family.

Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake, GNSH

Sister Mary Teresa LaBrake recently retired from parish ministry at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, New York. Sister Teresa has a wonderful record of service in Catholic education and parish ministry.

Sister Mary Teresa was one of fourteen children born to George and Hilda LaBrake. She received a bachelor's degree in education from D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York in 1959, and a Master's degree in Education from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh in 1966. Sister Mary Teresa made her religious profession on June 22, 1954, at the Motherhouse of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in Malrose Park, Pennsylvania.

Sister Mary Teresa served as an elementary teacher at Catholic schools in Ogdensburg, Jackson Heights, and Atlanta, Georgia. She served as a Principal in Catholic schools in Ogdensburg, Eden, and Buffalo. In 1990, Sister Mary Teresa became Assistant Superintendent of

Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, a position she held for seven years. In 1997, Sister Mary Teresa became Pastoral Associate at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, a position she held until her retirement this past June. She continues as a volunteer at the Cathedral parish, visiting the sick and leading the Evangelization team.

Sister Mary Teresa is exemplary in her sharing of her faith by example and by proclamation. She is a woman of prayer and service. She has led a life of loving service to God's people.

Joseph A. Provoncha

Joseph A. Provoncha is a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Schroom Lake, New York. Joseph received a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Rose College in Albany, New York, in 1981.

Joseph taught at St. James Parochial School in Albany for a period of time. He returned to the North Country and began an extensive career in public service. Joseph served as Director of the Essex County Youth Program, Deputy Supervisor for the Town of North Hudson, Town of North Hudson Clerk, and Trustee of the Clinton-Franklin-Essex Library Association. Joseph is currently serving as Essex County Clerk, having been elected for several terms. Joseph also assists persons with addictions by serving in the Substance Abuse Program in Ticonderoga.

Joseph has also given outstanding service to his parish. Joseph assists his pastor in many ways, including altar serving, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Lector, organist, and teacher in the parish Confirmation Program. He is also active in the Knights of Columbus, the Sierra Club (vocation awareness) and is a past member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Joseph is also a member of the parish's Pastoral Council.

James D. Carroll

James D. Carroll is a parishioner at St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh, New York. He received an Associate's Degree in Business and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Champlain College in Plattsburgh.

James was a business education teacher at Lake Region Union High School in Vermont for eight years. In 1981, James began a career in the banking industry, serving as a loan officer and bank manager before his retirement in 2002. Since retirement, James has worked as a real estate agent in Plattsburgh, New York.

James is very involved in his parish. He has been a member of the parish

choir for over thirty years, and currently serves on the Cemetery Committee, and Liturgical Environment Committee. He served as parish trustee from 1999 through 2002. He also was chairman of the Church Renovation Committee for his parish.

James serves in a quiet, unassuming way. He is motivated by love of God and neighbor, and finds joy in sharing his gifts and talents with others.

A devout man of prayer, James lives out his faith and lovingly reaches out to others in need. James' love for the Church is made obvious by his devoted and humble service to his parish. James is married to the former Gale Lapham, and the couple has one daughter.

Father Patrick Ratigan,

Thank you for your service
to our Church, our Parish &
our Country.

Congratulations on 30 years
of Priesthood.

Your Brother Knights &
their families
K of C Council 7364,
Adams, NY



Thank you, Father Jay!



*From the Catholic Community of
Morristown, Hammond and Rossie*



Eleven Missionaries of the Sacred Heart attended the Sept. 18 Sacred Heart Foundation dinner. Front are Brother Jean-Paul Paradis, Brother Pierre Marceau and Father Vincent Freeh; back Brother John Peralta, Father Pierre Aubin, MSC; Father E. Michael Camilli, guest speaker; Father Richard Kennedy, Father Jonas Tandayu, Father David DeLuca, Father Raymond Diesbourg, provincial superior; and Father Joseph Kanemea.

Sacred Heart Foundation hosts annual dinner

WATERTOWN - Nearly 300 people, family and friends of the Sacred Heart Foundation and the region's Missionaries of the Sacred Heart gathered Sept. 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn to celebrate the 47th year of the Foundation's existence and four decades of dinners.

The event celebrated the Foundation's awards of 44 scholarships totaling \$72,000 in 2013 to seminar-

ians studying to become Missionaries of the Sacred Heart priests and brothers.

The program theme, "Locally Connected to the World," is evidenced by the region's benefitting from the generosity of the Foundation's supporters.

This year's scholarships support students in the United States, Colombia, Brazil, Cameroun, Fiji, India, and Indonesia.

The evening opened with the Foundation's Annual meeting chaired by Foundation President, Nancy McCabe.

Deacon Kevin Mastellon, Deacon Pastoral Associate at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown and a member of the Foundation Board, was Master of Ceremonies for the evening's program.

Father Joseph Morgan, Vicar General of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, offered the invocation.

Following the dinner, Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father E. Michael Camilli, shared his thoughts on Renewed Missionary Energy in the Year of Faith.

His remarks are available on the Foundation web site, www.sacredheartfoundation.com

Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Raymond Diesbourg, provincial superior, closed the evening with benediction



for your spiritual guidance and compassionate support to all the parishioners

*Church of the Visitation, Norfolk,
St. Andrew's Church, Norwood, and
St. Raymond's Church, Raymondville*

express appreciation to the caring priests in our parishes:

*Monsignor John R. Murphy,
Father Andrew J. Amyot
& Father Jack L. Downs*

Thank You
Pastor Scott Seymour and
Priest in Residence,
Fr. Gordon, Msgr. Riani and
Fr. Gilbert Menard for all that
you do for us here at the
RCC of St. Alexander
& St. Joseph Church!

Your hard work and dedication
does not go unnoticed.

From your Staff and all your
parishioners.

Father Riani,

The parish family of
St. Elizabeth's is very
grateful for the many

years you were

Our "shepherd".

We thank you

very much!!

PICTURE IT... CATHOLICISM



At left, Bishop LaValley presents a certificate to Carter Pierce of St. Raphael's Church, Heuvelton, for his winning entry in the diocesan Year of Faith photo contest "Picture it... Catholicism." Above are the organizers of the event, Carol Gonthier of Norfolk and Donna Smith of Hogansburg.

Winners of Year of Faith photo contest honored at Nov. 8 reception

NORFOLK – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented certificates to the winners of the diocesan Year of Faith photography contest "Picture it.... Catholicism," at a reception held Nov. 8 at the Church of the Visitation parish center.

The program was organized by Carol Gonthier of Norfolk and Donna Smith, Hogansburg, Year of Faith committee members.

Eighty photographs were submitted from 29 entrants. They were judged for content/theology/catechetical objective, adherence to Catholic teachings, photographic technique and creativity.

The judges were Anita Cafarella, Jack and Linda Kelley and Jackie Siddon.

The winners were:

Elementary - Color, not manipulated

- 1st: Meaghan Pierce, St. Raphael's, Heuvelton
- 2nd: RJ Wolfe, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Junior Senior High School - Color, not manipulated

- 1st: Maureen Pierce, St. Raphael's, Heuvelton
- 2nd: Carter Pierce, St. Raphael's, Heuvelton
- 3rd: Alexis Michael, St. Raphael's, Heuvelton

College - Color, not manipulated

- 1st and 2nd: Emily Gonthier, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

tation, Norfolk

Adult - Color, not manipulated

- 1st: Gayle Frank, St. Mary's, Clayton
- 2nd: Teresa Clemmo, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk
- 3rd: Charlie Robinson, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Adult - Black & White, not manipulated

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd: Father Andrew Amyot, Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

Adult - Color, computer manipulated

- 1st: Kathleen Wolfe, Church of the Visitation



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

Bishop LaValley is pictured with some of the "Picture it... Catholicism" winners. In front is Roger Wolfe; back, Emily Gonthier, Kathleen Wolfe, Bishop LaValley, Carter Pierce and Alexis Michael.

Thank You
Fr. Giroux for all
that you do for our
Catholic Community.

St. Patrick's Church, Brasher Falls
St. Lawrence Church,
North Lawrence

We offer prayers and gratitude for ALL of our wonderful priests. May God richly bless you for your generous and joyful witness.

Love the Pierce Family



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The fair choice is the right choice. The daily decisions you make as a consumer can make a real, positive difference in the world. When you choose to buy fair trade products you are making a strong connection with hardworking, but impoverished workers around the world. Our CRS Fair Trade network guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It also provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system. Team up with us. Buy fair trade products and you return human dignity to people just like you.

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Serve coffee that serves others.



Find a CRS partner near you and buy some of their fantastic Fair Trade coffee to drink at home. Persuade the powers that be to serve it in your parish, office and school. Lobby to get it into the dining halls on your campus. Sell it as a fundraiser.

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Give gifts that give hope.



Work of Human Hands features thousands of beautiful handcrafted items from dozens of countries around the world, and brings communities together in the United States in support of disadvantaged artisans overseas. When you host a consignment sale in your parish, school or office, you allow members of your community to buy beautiful items for their homes and to give gifts that give hope. No time to organize an event? Then purchase Fair Trade items directly from the catalog.

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE

Make the world sweeter.



Thanks to Fair Trade, chocolate is not just a yummy treat, but a delicious way to promote economic justice. Divine Chocolate helps cocoa farmers in Ghana earn extra income to invest in community services, such as water wells, schools and health clinics. Divine Chocolate also empowers farmers like the ones pictured here to take greater control of their lives, since they own nearly half the company! Buy Divine Chocolate for yourself or sell it in your school as a way to "Raise Money Right."

THE CRS FAIR TRADE FUND

Expanding Fair Trade.



Every time you buy an item through the CRS Fair Trade Program, a percentage of your purchase goes to the CRS Fair Trade Fund to help expand the Fair Trade model through Development Grants to producer groups overseas and Market-Building Grants to Fair Trade advocates in the United States. And now you can contribute directly to the Fair Trade Fund through our secure on-line donation platform. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible contributions are used to support worthy projects.

Coffee, chocolate and handcrafted items from around the world can be purchased through the Catholic Relief Services website: www.crsfairtrade.org

Catholic Charities supports Fair Trade. For more information contact Catholic Charities at 315-393-2255

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Cardinal Dolan urges bishops to make religious freedom a priority

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan called upon his brother bishops to champion the cause of people around the world being persecuted because of their faith even as the bishops continue to prevent what he described as infringements upon religious practice in the United States. In his final address as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at the opening of their fall general assembly Nov. 11 in Baltimore, Cardinal Dolan outlined a series of steps the bishops can take to protect religious freedom around the world. Calling actions to protect religious freedom "a central social and political concern of our time," Cardinal Dolan urged the bishops to make the protection of religious liberty around the world a priority in their work. "We as bishops, as shepherds of one of the most richly blessed communities of faith on the planet, as pastors who have spoken with enthusiastic unity in defense of our own religious freedom, must become advocates and champions for these Christians whose lives literally hang in the balance," the cardinal said. Citing recent incidents of attacks on Christians during Syria's civil war and in Egypt, India, Nigeria and the semiautonomous island of Zanzibar off the coast of Tanzania, the USCCB leader encouraged intercessions for persecuted people, comparing the action to "prayers for the conversion of Russia" in the mid-20th century.

Pope says purported visions of Mary can lead people away from God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Purported visions of Mary, if taken in the wrong spirit, can sow confusion and distance people from the Gospel, Pope Francis said. Curiosities distance people "from the Gospel, from the Holy Spirit, from peace and hope, from God's glory and God's beauty," the pope said Nov. 14 during a homily at morning Mass in the Vatican guesthouse, where he lives. "Jesus says that the kingdom of God doesn't come in a way that attracts attention," the pope said, according to a report by Vatican Radio. Pope Francis reflected on the day's Gospel reading from Luke (17:20-25), in which the Pharisees ask Jesus when the kingdom of God will come. Jesus answers that the "coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed," and tells his disciples not to "run in pursuit" of signs of his second coming. "Curiosity pushes us to want to hear that the Lord is here or over there, or it makes us say, 'Well, I know a visionary who receives letters from Our Lady, messages from Our Lady,'" the pope said. But Mary is "not a postmaster of the post office sending out messages every day."

Catholics eager to give input as church prepares for synod

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- The extraordinary Synod on the family, called by Pope Francis for next October, is drawing great interest from everyday Catholics, many of whom are anxious to weigh in on questions the Vatican has sent out in preparation for the session. In a brief report to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Nov. 11, New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan said he's awaiting clarification from the Holy See about how preparatory material such as the answers to a questionnaire sent to the world's bishops' conferences, will be used. Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., suggested the U.S. bishops create several ways that everyday Catholics can respond to the questions the Vatican posed. Cardinal Dolan said he didn't think it would constitute skating on thin ice to say that any bishop could rework the questions from the Vatican so that they are clear to the general public.



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

Bishop Terry R. LaValley and other members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops attend the opening session of their annual fall meeting Nov. 11 in Baltimore.

Highlights of U.S. bishops' annual general assembly

BALTIMORE (CNS) - During the Nov. 11-12 public sessions of the annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore, the bishops:

- Elected Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., to succeed New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and elected Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston as vice president.

- Approved the development of a pastoral statement on the dangers pornography poses to family life that would serve as a teaching tool for church leaders. The Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth will develop the statement, providing a draft to the bishops in 2015.

- Nearly unanimously approved several steps toward adapting the Mexican Missal Romano for use in the U.S. The Mexican translation of the missal will have Mass propers for the U.S. calendar included, with publication possible as soon as fall of 2015.

- Approved adaptations for the Order of Celebrating Marriage and OK'd a new translation of the Order of Confirmation for use in U.S. dioceses.

- Heard a report on the USCCB's efforts to promote and defend traditional marriage, which stressed that recent laws have placed

the legal defense of marriage "at a critical point in this country."

- Heard a report on the work of Catholic Relief Services, which highlighted what the agency is doing for survivors of Super Typhoon Haiyan. The agency has already committed \$20 million in emergency aid, with the funds expected to come from a second collection CRS asked U.S. bishops to take in their dioceses before the end of the year.

- Approved a budget for 2014 and approved a 3 percent increase in diocesan assessments starting in 2015.

- Heard a report on "important progress" being made in bishops' priorities for 2013-16 in their efforts to protect the life and dignity of the human person, to strengthen marriage and family life, to promote religious liberty, and to improve faith formation and sacramental practice.

- Approved adding a new staff person to the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities to work on a national level with the post-abortion ministry Project Rachel funded by a Knights of Columbus grant.

- Approved the advancement of the sainthood cause of Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, who founded the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, an order focused on contemplation and door-to-door, personal ministry.

Caritas leader: typhoon devastation 'unimaginable'

By Simone Orendain
Catholic News Service

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (CNS) — The devastation brought on by Super Typhoon Haiyan is on a scale so big it is "unimaginable," said Jesuit Father Edwin Gariguez, head of Caritas in the Philippines.

"This is beyond our capacity," Father Gariguez told Catholic News Service by phone from Cebu province Nov. 13. "That's the reason why we have our Caritas network with us now."

The head of Caritas Philippines and his counterparts from the Netherlands and

Germany, as well as the communications staff of Caritas Internationalis, were on their way to Leyte, one of the provinces that bore the brunt of Haiyan's first lashing on the central islands of the country. The plan was to appraise the needs on the ground and make contact with the various dioceses that have been affected.

Father Gariguez said the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services was doing the same kind of work ahead of a mid-November meeting with aid agencies and local parish priests to be hosted by Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu. When the typhoon hit Nov. 8, the CRS country representa-

tive to the Philippines, Joe Curry, was already in Bohol dealing with relief from the Oct. 15 earthquake, so CRS was able to get its assessment teams to Leyte Nov. 10.

With about 600,000 people displaced by the storm, the task of getting aid to Filipinos posed a challenge in terms of coordination and the logistics.

International aid started began arriving the week of Nov. 10, while local relief began immediately after the typhoon hit.

But five days after the storm cut a path of damage that obliterated as many as 90 percent of the houses in some areas, there were still stories of people not receiving anything.

Adelyn Manos was one of those. At the entrance of the Villamor Air Base in Manila,

she took cover from the rain under at a tarp-covered shuttle stop.

She had just arrived via military plane from Tacloban, a city in Leyte that some are calling "ground zero" because of the decimation there from a 15-foot storm surge brought on by Haiyan. It left bodies strewn about in its wake.

"I came with them, my three children and a companion," said the 35-year-old Manos, carrying her 3-year-old daughter. "And my other child, she died because the water went up so high ... she was not even buried because there are no coffins there."

Manos said she decided to come to Manila because none of the food packs being distributed had made their way to her neighborhood. Her husband was living in Manila

for work, but he did not even know she had arrived because her cellphone got clogged with water. Reporters helped her contact her husband and were trying to arrange for a ride.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino said Nov. 13 he expected the death toll to be around 2,500 -- lower than initially predicted. That morning, the government put the death toll at 1,833; of those, 1,300 were in Leyte.

Jesuit Brother James Lee, head of the Church That Serves the Nation, the social justice arm of the Philippine Jesuit province, said Nov. 12 that hungry Filipinos were blocking aid trucks, demanding food to let them pass. He said his organization's relief efforts would involve coordinating to make sure the food arrived safely at its destination.

Taking the massive need and the work to meet it into account, Father Gariguez said, "As a church this is part of our ministry ... we are doing this as part of our mission: to help the poor and the vulnerable. So we are really happy to be of help and to contribute whatever we can to ease the life of our people who are really very much burdened by this disaster."

"A good priest is recognized in the way his people are anointed..."

When our people are anointed with the oil of gladness-leave Mass looking as if they have heard good news...that what we preach touches their daily lives... People thank us because they feel that we have prayed over the realities of their everyday lives, their troubles, their joys, their burdens and their hopes. And when they feel that the fragrance of the Anointed One, of Christ, has come to them through us, they feel encouraged to entrust to us everything they want to bring before the Lord: "Pray for me, Father, because I have this problem", "Bless me Father", "Pray for me" - When we have this relationship with God and with his people, and grace passes through us, then we are priests, mediators between God and men."



Pope Francis
Chrism Mass
Holy Thursday
March 28, 2013

Dearest Father Shurtleff:

Each year as we celebrate the Priests of the Diocese of Ogdensburg...Our words try to match what our hearts know only too well. Pope Francis says it best of you... You are a vessel of the oil of God's blessing and grace to us in all that we are and that we do. God has no finer mediator and ambassador of his mercy than you...

Much Love,
The People of Notre Dame
Ogdensburg, NY

*Father Raymond Moreau,
My favorite priest.
He was very kind &
treated his flock all alike.
God Bless
Sincerely,
Mary B. Saxton*



*The parishioners of
St. Mary's, Clayton &
St. John's, LaFargeville*

*want to say how much we appreciate the great
leadership of our pastor Fr. Art Labaff.
We are blessed!!*

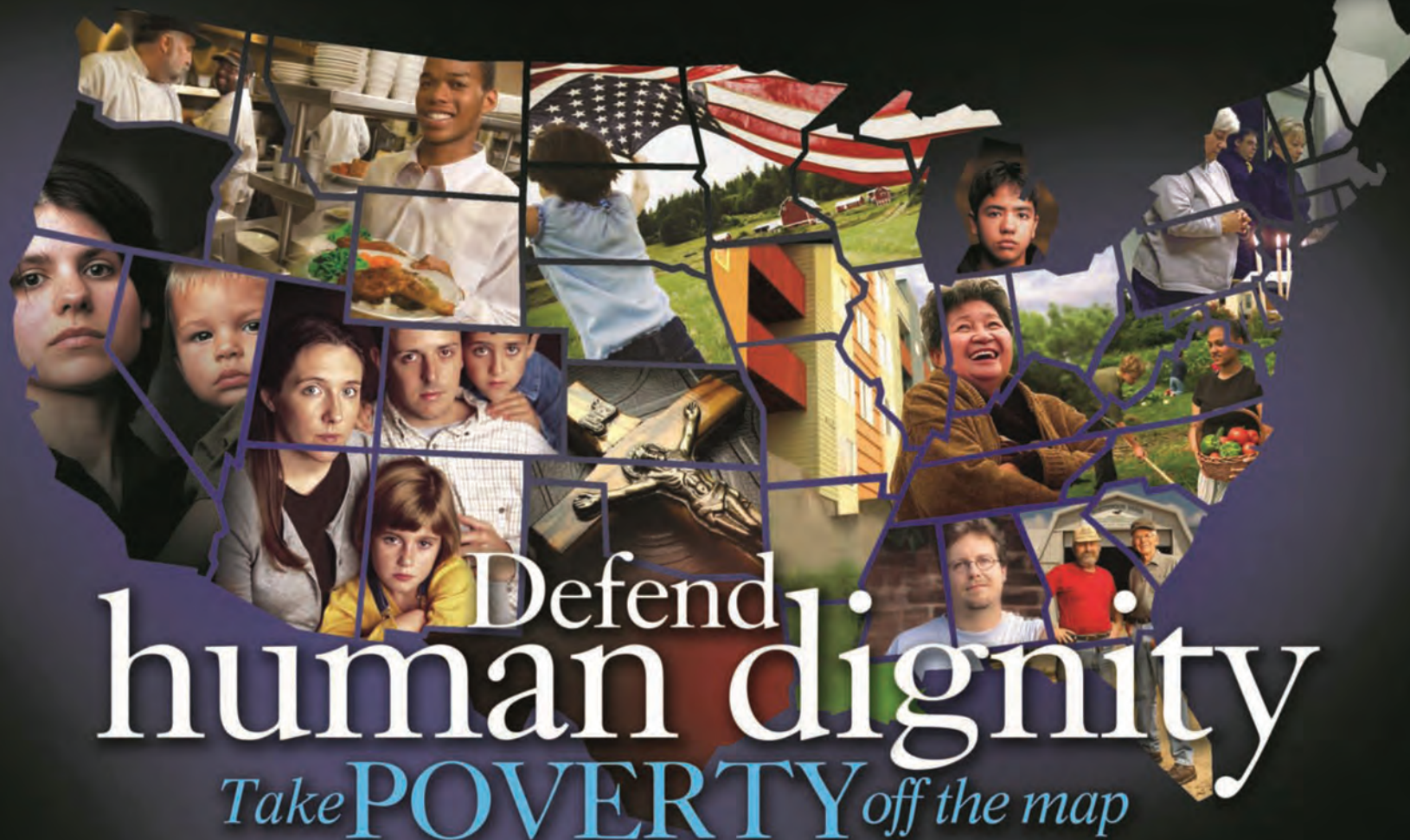


**God bless you, Fr. Doug
for being the shepherd
of St. Mary's School and
Parish in Canton, NY!**

*We of
"The Catholic
Community of
Alexandria"
are blessed in
have you as our
Pastor,
Father Douglas
Comstock!*

*Thank you,
Parishioners &
Deacons*





Defend
human dignity
Take POVERTY off the map



Support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development

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November 23-24, 2013

Black and Indian Mission Special Collection to be held in addition at your parish



BLACK AND INDIAN
 MISSION OFFICE EST. 1884

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King sets a tone of celebration, a time of hope, and a reminder that wars will end and all nations will succumb to His rule before the Last Judgment.

With this feast, the Church marks the end of the Church year.

It's not about pomp and pageantry; it's about the reality of a heavenly king who has issued a



Monsignor Paul E. Whitmore

firm invitation to eternal joy if we but give Him our hearts. It's a reminder that earthly monarchs may "mess up" and cause our world to whimper, but in reality, God is still in charge of this earth's final outcome.

As the wonderful ancient hymn declares, "*Christus vincit, Christus regnat, Christus imperat* (Christ conquers, Christ rules, Christ is sover-

ign over all)".

One of the best statements of our faith, and most consoling supports for our hope is found in today's second reading which urges us to "give thanks to the Father...for He has delivered us from the powers of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption (and) the forgiveness of sins...and, in Him, all things hold together".

He tells us keep our eyes fixed on the Kingdom He has promised to those who

NOV. 24

Feast of Christ the King

READINGS

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Luke 23:35-43

Colossians 1:12-20

cling to Him in faith and obedience to His laws.

In the first reading, we see the origins of the Kingdom of David who was chosen by the northern tribes for his outstanding qualities of leadership and ability to unify the Israelites.

He was the shepherd king, the caring and forgiving king, who prepared the way for the Messiah-King, Jesus, the Son of David and the Son of God.

His Kingdom is a kingdom of Peace and Love, a Kingdom of Justice and Truth,

The Gospel narrates in detail the horrible insults hurled at Jesus by his enemies as He hung helpless on the Cross. They came from the Romans who saw Him as a threat to imperial power. They came from Jewish religious leaders who feared that He would replace their authority.

Their taunts and jeers have been repeated endlessly down the centuries by all who have refused Him the obedience of their minds and hearts.

The bishops of the United States were urged recently by Pope Francis through his Apostolic Nuncio to be true Shepherds in their dioceses, welcoming all to Christ's kingdom on earth through an attitude of encouragement, hope, and mercy.

As true disciples, all of us must do the same for our brothers and sisters who so long for a world at peace.

Father Larry,
God bless you for all you for us!!
May the Holy Spirit be upon you and guide you!
St. Mary's Church,
Constableville
St. Mary's Nativity,
West Leyden

In appreciation for your service to our parishes and communities. We thank you for all you do.

*Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Diocese of Ogdensburg*

Father Flynn,
The parish of St. Elizabeth's is in gratitude to have you as our pastor.
Thank you for all you do!

Msgr. Whitmore,
Thanks for bringing us together!
God Bless!!!
Deacon Jim & Christine

**We thank you, God...
For the priests who share their wisdom in the pages of the *North Country Catholic***

Bishop Terry R. LaValley
Bishop • Publisher
Follow Me

Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore
Scripture Reflections

Fr. William G. Muench
A Pastor's Perspective

AT THE MOVIES



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Domhnall Gleeson stars in a scene from the movie "About Time."

ABOUT TIME

"About Time," a romantic comedy, written and directed by Richard Curtis, is a wish-fulfillment fantasy about changing your destiny at will, to win the love of your life.

On his 21st birthday, a young man (Domhnall Gleeson) is given a rather unusual present by his father (Bill Nighy): the knowledge that the men in the family can travel back in time.

He uses this special gift to land a girlfriend (Rachel McAdams), marry, and have a happy, perfect life.

Unlike 1993's "Groundhog Day," where the hero betters himself as well as the world around him, "About Time" takes a more narrow view. The manipulation of others for selfish reasons, coupled with disrespect for the role of divine providence in one's life, may leave the viewer feeling empty rather than satisfied.

Implied premarital sexual activity, brief nudity, several vulgar gestures, some sacrilegious humor and sexual innuendo, much profanity and crude language.

The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Father Leo Wiley,

Thank you for your many years of service to our Church & a special thanks for your "summer service" at St. Cecilia's & Queen of Heaven parishes.

*Your fellow Brother Knights & their families
K of C Council 7364, Adams, NY*



Follow Pope Francis on
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#Pontifex

**Attention
Snowbirds**
going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.



**Thank you Father Steve Rucker-
"A man for all seasons"**

**Love,
Your St. James Family**



ADIRONDACK

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid - St. Agnes School will be having a Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Features: Baked goods, gifts, crafts, toys, wreaths, trees, holiday plants and raffle items. Lunch will be served and complimentary babysitting will be available. Vendor space available.

Contact: Kathleen at 518-523-3771

CLINTON

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Ellenburg Center - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will have their 5th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Date: Nov. 28

Time: Noon

Contact: RSVP by Nov. 25 to 518-594-3253 or olaprayerhouse@gmail.com

CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville - St. Alexander and St. Joseph is holding its annual craft show

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 9 a.m. to 3

Features: Padre's Cafe with soups, chili and michigans, dessert, Assorted crafts by local crafters, bake and candy shop.

TURKEY RAFFLE

West Chazy - St. Joseph's Men's Club is holding its annual Turkey Raffle.

Date: Nov. 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Features: No admission charge. Free buffet supper. Lots of prizes.

Contact: Parish Office at 518-493-4521.

ADVENT ADORATION

Ellenburg Center - Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will have Advent Time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the Joyful Mysteries

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Features: Feel free to bring a bag lunch.

SETON CHRISTMAS DINNER

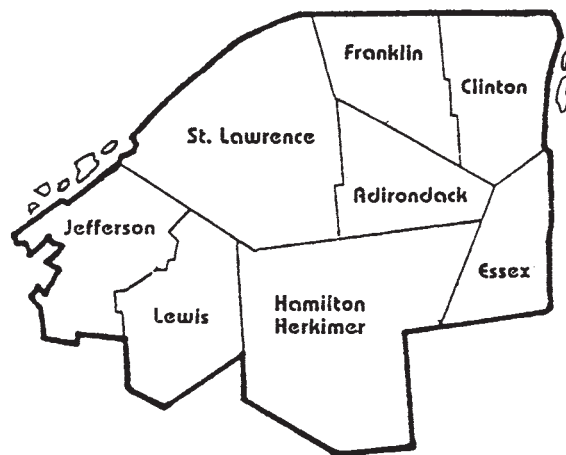
Plattsburgh - Seton Catholic Will hold its 9th annual Christmas dinner

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 12 - 5 pm

Place: Seton Catholic High School (former Air Base)

Cost: \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors (55+), \$5 for children ages 5-12 and ages under 5 are free. Take-outs will be \$9 each, can call ahead for take outs (561-4031 ext 121). Any adult who brings an unwrapped toy or food item



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.

will receive \$1 off their meal.

Features: Seating is handicap accessible. A variety of theme baskets for raffle. Holiday music preformed by Seton students with a special appearance by Lita Kelly and Jay Lesage. Bake and holiday wreath sale, 50/50 drawings

HEALING MINISTRY MOVES

Morrisonville - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's announces the addition of Living Waters Healing Ministry to the Parish.

Date: First Thursday each month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Healing Mass, Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

QUILT SHOP OPEN

Ellenburg Center - Lost Sheep Quilt and Fabric Shop is now open!

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer,

Hours: Tues. - Sat, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Evenings and other times by appointment. Phone 594-3253 or email olaprayerhouse@gmail.com to come at other times

EUCHARISTIC 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

Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

Features: May be pre-ordered starting on Nov. 4 by calling 518-529-6580

ESSEX

HOLIDAY FAIR

Willsboro - St. Philip of Jesus Church is holding its 8th Annual Holiday Fair.

Date: Nov. 23

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Parish Hall

Features: Crafts, bakes shop, raffles

FRANKLIN

BENEFIT FOR JOHNSTON FAMILY

Chateaugay - Fundraiser sponsored by Catholic Daughter of Chateaugay to benefit the Candi Johnston family.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Knights of Columbus Hall

Features: No charge - donations only. Activities include Chinese Auction, Irish Music by the Duffy's, a dance with the Busco Bandits Band. Donations go to family of Matthew Johnston who died July 5th in a car accident.

CHRISTMAS TEA

North Bangor - St. Augustine's Parish will hold its annual Christmas Tea "Away in a Manger"

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 11 a.m. to 3

Place: Parish hall

Features: Crafts, baked goods, The Cake Walk, a Chinese Auction and raffles plus Tea, Coffee, Punch and Cookies; luncheon available with homemade soups, sandwiches, and beverages.

JEFFERSON

ADVENT PROGRAM

Watertown - Holy Family Parish has planned an Advent program featuring Father Robert Barron's DVD series "The New Evangelization"

Dates: Dec. 2, 9 and 16

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

Place: SSJ Motherhouse Hearthside Center

Features: Discover ways to engage the people. Learn pragmatic approaches. Share the joy of your faith. Acquire a new sense of passion for Jesus' mission.

Contact: Rectory, 315-782-2468.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Watertown - Holy Family Church is holding holy hours of Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Schedule: Monday through Friday following the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.),

PIE SALE

Clayton - St. Mary's Parish is holding its annual pie sale

Date: Nov. 23

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sold out)

Place: Clayton Shurfine Supermarket

Features: Over 50 pies prepared by our parishioners will be on sale. Tickets for our Holiday Food Fair raffle (10 cash prizes for \$50 each) will also be available for purchase. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They are also available at various Clayton stores, the parish office or from parishioners.

HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Clayton - St. Mary's will be having a Holiday Food Fair.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost: Food Fair, \$6; Photo w/ santa 4x6, \$3; Raffle tickets, \$1 each or 6 for \$5

Features: Over 50 special dishes prepared by parishioners from their favorite family recipes will be available for sampling, holiday gift items, photos with Santa. Children's Fun Room provides the little ones the opportunity to create crafts for themselves or to give as gifts at no cost. A free lunch is provided for children ages 3-12. Raffle drawings, 1 p.m.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: Nov. 21

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5/ quart, meatballs/ \$.75

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

LEWIS

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Dec. 1

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Evening Prayer, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction

ST. LAWRENCE

AUCTION NIGHT

Canton - St. Mary's School's Tenth Annual Auction Night to be held.

Date: Friday, November 22

Time: 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Place: School gymnasium

Cost: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Features: Over 200 quality items to bid on in silent and live auctions with hors d'oeuvres, adult beverages, entertainment.

Contact: St. Mary's School, 386-3572

CRAFT FAIR

Gouverneur - St. James School will be having a Craft Fair.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Features: Santa will visit at 1:30 p.m. Items available will include: jewelry, woodcrafts, ceramics, stuffed animals, homemade dolls, leather goods, candles, knitted items, country crafts, Christmas ornaments and decorations, baskets, etc. Over 50 vendors will be there. Lunch will be available. Admission is a donation.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Massena - Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group last Tuesday of each month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Convent

Features: A gathering of those who have had a recent loss of a loved one.

Contact: 315-769-3137

NOVENA FOR MILITARY

Ogdensburg - Notre Dame Church is holding a Weekly novena for the safety of U.S. military personnel at a new time.

Date: Tuesday afternoons

Time: 1:30 p.m.

LATIN MASS

Potsdam - A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday with Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin as the celebrant

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church



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@rcdony.org

They really 'do good on earth'

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

We in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are blessed to have our wonderful priests.

These are grace-filled, hard working men who are deeply rooted in faith in Jesus Christ.

Priesthood Appreciation

They are aware and open to the needs of our people in the North Country as well as service to the developing lands. They walk through daily tasks and events both planned and not, with care and forgiveness.

Priests witness the impossible, guide our hearts, heal the broken and encourage hostility giving way to peace. They minister with prayer trusting that people will grow in their faith journey.

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, on April 29, announced his missionary prayer intention for May 2013, calling on the faithful to direct their prayers for those studying for the priesthood in the Missions: "That seminaries, especially those of mission churches, may form pastors after the Heart of Christ, fully dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel."

Today, a growing number of men from Asia and Africa are responding to our Lord's call to the priesthood. These men responding to the call of priesthood, are also providing service outside the seminary, in local parishes, hospitals, prisons and even on farms.

The seminarians in Developing Lands belong to a "mission club," praying for all Missions and for those who bring to the world the "Good News" of Jesus.

This year's World Mission Sunday celebration – "Do Good on Earth" – highlights that outreach as it's carried out by dedicated missionaries among the poor a world away.

I need to emphasize though, that this message is not only overseas, I see it here too with our local priests who act as models while trying to make this statement come alive in the Diocese of Ogdensburg and beyond.

I offer my prayers to Bishop Terry R. LaValley and all of our dedicated priests in their zeal for ministry to assist people in their joy and enthusiasm in encountering Christ. God bless.

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

OBITUARIES

Chazy – Bernard E. Perry Sr., 79; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Croghan – June M. (Gaul) Woolschlager, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Bremen.

Mooers Forks – Cassandra Jo "Cassie" Perras, 20; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2013 at St. Ann's Church.

Morrisonville – Joanne B. (Ryan) Seabron, 52; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church.

North Bangor – Bruno M. Porier, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2013 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's parish cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Rita M. (Clark) Bouchey, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2013 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Ann J. (Gallagher) Dodds, 71; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2013 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home

Peru – David W. Trayah, 55; Memorial Services Nov. 16, 2013 at St. Augustine's Church.

Plattsburgh – Patricia L. (Parrotte) Gonyea, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2013 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.



Catholic news from around the world and the Diocese of Ogdensburg delivered to your home with a subscription to the *North Country Catholic*

Port Henry – Michael J. Sharrow, 64; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Moriah.

Port Leyden – Julie Marion Belmont, 99; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2013 at St. Martin's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Helen I. (McCormick) Muncil, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 13, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Lawrence Smith, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Sciota – James "Jim" Reid, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2013 at St. Louis of France Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown – Linda (Palumbo) Poggi, 100; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne.

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• Holy Family – Nov 9, 10

• St. Patrick's – Nov 16, 17

• St. Anthony's – Nov 23, 24



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What is a Priest?

Priests are mystery men. They come in assorted sizes, ages, weights and collars. They are found everywhere - speeding along, perspiring over, walking by, kneeling on, praying over, laughing with, preaching to, teaching about, pardoning for, and playing baseball with. Little children run to them; teenagers marvel at them; aged folk turn to them; lay people treasure them; non-Catholics stare at them; and Mary watches over them.

A priest is Prudence in a T-shirt; Fortitude with a breviary in his hand; Justice on a ball diamond; and Temperance at any party. He is Faith with a blueprint; Hope with a sense of humor; and Charity with a golf club in hand.

A priest may be anything from a contemplative monk in a monastery to a magazine editor on Wall Street, from a labor mediator to a TV personality, from a student to a professor. Formerly known as the boy-around-the-corner, he's a member of each family, yet belongs to none. He penetrates secrets, shares sorrows, heals wounds. He has the trust of a child, the kindness of a best friend, the sternness of a top-sergeant, the daring of a tight-rope walker, the authority of an encyclopedia, the versatility of a commando, and the salesmanship of a Fuller-Brush man.

A priest is a humble creature - a mystifying worker at all professions. His hours are the longest; his salary the smallest; his Boss the best! He likes good pastors, the smiles of children, a good sermon, a home-cooked meal, and the name "Father."

A priest is all things to all men in the sight of God. He may be misquoted, mistaken and misunderstood, but he'll always forgive - because he's a mediator; a peacemaker; a go-between heaven and earth. It's no wonder God loves him. He's a man standing at an altar, clothed in Holy clothes, who while being aware of his own nothingness speaks to God for us and to us for God. And although his greatest act is to offer sacrifice, his most consoling one is to say to me, "Go in peace - Your sins are forgiven."

**Words of Father Thomas E. Langer
found in the sacristy of one of the churches in the Diocese**

Dear Fathers, Thank you for saying yes to Christ's Call, "Follow Me."

**Vocations Office
Father Bryan Stitt
www.myvocation.net**

