

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

HHS issues proposed rules for contraception exemptions | PAGE 11

A message from the diocesan director of development | PAGE 12

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 6, 2013

Calling God 'father'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - When the Christian creed refers to God as "father," it is affirming a trust that the God who created the universe loves each individual and will never abandon anyone, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"It isn't always easy" to explain to people what it means to believe in God the father, especially when

today's fathers and their children experience such difficulty communicating with each other, the pope said Jan. 30 at his weekly general audience.

"For those who have had the experience of a father who is too authoritarian or inflexible, or indifferent and not affectionate, or particularly if he is absent, it is not

easy to think of God as father and let oneself trust him," Pope Benedict said.

In the second of his audience talks looking at statements of faith in the creed, the pope said understanding what the church means when it calls God "the father almighty" may mean people have to set aside their personal experiences when con-

sidering the words "father" and "might."

The Bible, especially the Gospels, "reveals the face of God as a father who loves us to the point of giving his son to save humanity," the pope said. The love of God is "infinitely greater, more faithful, more complete than any human love." Pope Benedict said.

NEW PRIEST

Malone man ordained in Rome



Cardinal Velasio DePaolis, pontifical delegate for the Legionaries of Christ ordained Father John Pietropaoli of Malone to the priesthood Dec. 15 at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. The son of Angelo and Suzanne Pietropaoli, Father Pietropaoli reflects on the growth of his vocation in this week's NCC.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

World Day of the Sick

In his Follow Me column this week, Bishop LaValley writes that the annual World Day of the Sick will be held Feb. 11, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

"This is a privileged time of prayer for those burdened by physical, emotional and psychological afflictions, a time to assure all who are hurting that they are not alone," he said.

"Let us take the time to notice, approach and give of ourselves," the bishop wrote, "Something as simple as a smile and gentle word can be just what the doctor ordered,"

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Catholics at the Capitol

New York State Catholic Conference will hold its annual public policy

day March 20 in Albany

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

K OF C SUPPORTS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Brzana Chapter was able to double its contributions to two Catholic schools by taking advantage of a New York State Knights of Columbus Catholic School Support Program. The state council dedicated \$50,000 to Catholic schools and agreed to match council and chapter contributions. In 2012, the Bishop Brzana Chapter presented \$1,000 checks to St. Agnes School in Lake Placid and St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake. The State Council Matching Fund Program enabled Chapter President David Clark to visit the schools during Catholic Schools Week and present \$1,000 checks to each school. Above St. Agnes principal Catherine Bemis and Father John Yonkovig accepted the check on behalf of St. Agnes School. They are pictured with St. Agnes students, front, Grace Ericson, Andrew Scanio, Blake Hart, Finley Donahue, Aunestie Carr, Carter Day and Rhys Stanton and middle, Elizabeth Fortune.

SCENES FROM D.C.: Three busloads of diocesan youth march for life.. p. 5

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Get ready, get set... here comes Lent

As we make our way through these last days before Lent, there have been plenty of Catholic-y events to draw our attention.

This past Saturday, for example – Feb. 2 – was the Feast of the Presentation or Candlemas Day, World Day of Consecrated Life, the last day of Catholic Schools Week and, if you attended an anticipated Mass, a time for the blessing of your throat.

Did you think it was just Groundhog's Day?

Next Monday, as the bishop writes in his Follow Me column, the church will observe the World Day of the Sick, a

welcome observance for everyone who suffers and those who care for them.

And, just in case you didn't know, Feb. 1 marked the first day of Catholic Press Month!

We Catholics do a very good job of taking advantage of the calendar to advance our faith.

Feast days and liturgical seasons honor our human need for times to weep, to laugh, to mourn, to dance...

The Season of Lent has a particularly powerful hold on most Catholics; more of us will darken church doors on Ash Wednesday than nearly any other day of the year.

Mary Lou
Kilian

The final days before Feb. 13, this year's Ash Wednesday, provide "time to decide" about how to take full advantage of this gift, yes *gift*, of Lent.

I'd be willing to bet that, in this Year of Faith, all the parishes in the diocese are offering special retreats, days of prayer, bible studies or liturgical celebrations to help us to grow closer to God.

This may be your year to make a Lenten resolution to pray a little more, to pursue some spiritual reading or, maybe, to finally return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a.k.a., Confession!

For many Catholics - for a variety of reasons - making regular confessions is challenge they don't want to face.

The *North Country Catholic* can help with the advice found on the back page of this week's paper.

And, in a couple of week's we'll offer a local angle with a feature story about Malone Catholic Parishes where they are "leaving the lights on." Every Thursday, parishioners are invited to come to Notre Church for an hour for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Begun as an Advent program the special hour continues through popular demand.

Whatever Lent will mean for us, we should all be getting ready.

Our Lenten *time* to sacrifice, pray and grow will be here before we know it.

FATHER BILL SAYS...

St. Peregrine: now that I have found you...

Last Saturday, I attended a Mass that honored St. Peregrine. I know that many of you know all about St. Peregrine, especially you cancer sufferers or survivors. I did not know anything about this saint, until that Mass.

After the Mass, I was taken up with this devotion to St. Peregrine, the patron saint for cancer sufferers, so I called several of my parishioners and friends who were suffering from cancer or were recoverers. They already knew all about the devotion to St. Peregrine and were very devoted to him.

They then proceeded to teach me all about St. Peregrine and devotion to him. Many of them told me of their gratitude to St. Peregrine for help and recovery.

So, I learned that St. Peregrine was a 13th century priest who was known for his concern and care for the needy and the poor.

He developed a tumor on his leg and in a time of prayer, he had a vision of Jesus on the cross. Jesus seemed to come off the cross and touch his leg. In that moment he was healed.

Recently, in a visit to Florida,



I visited a parish where they had a shrine to St. Peregrine on the parish grounds. The shrine is dominated by a large mosaic of St. Peregrine being healed by Jesus who is coming off the cross and reaching out to touch him.

Around the walls of the shrine, parishioners could buy a wall tile to place their loved one's names for remembrance. This particular shrine is set up as a meditation garden.

It was at this parish that I attended the Mass in honor of St. Peregrine right at the shrine with the anointing of the sick and the veneration of a relic of St. Peregrine.

I was impressed. There was a good sized crowd of folks with many cancer sufferers seeking strength to face their illness and possible recovery. There were also many cancer survivors, praying in gratitude

and many others of us, praying for loved ones who were suffering.

Now that I have discovered St. Peregrine, I must make a promise to my many friends

and parishioners who are suffering from cancer that I will turn in prayer for them to St. Peregrine.

So, St. Peregrine, now that I have found you, I have a long list to present to you: my friends and parishioners who have been diagnosed with cancer.

I pray for them all. Take their intentions to the Lord, give them a new and stronger faith, strength to battle pain, confidence to deal with fear, and, if it is God's will, healing.

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FOLLOW ME

World Day of the Sick

On February 11, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Church marks the Twenty-first World Day of the Sick. This is a privileged time of prayer for those burdened by physical, emotional and psychological afflictions, a time to assure all who are hurting that they are not alone.



**Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley**

I think of those who suffer diabetes. Regular trips for dialysis treatments, daily medications, and restricted diets are all part and parcel of daily living for the person who suffers with sugar. Diabetes isn't picky about the age of its victims either. It's so inspiring to see all those who have diabetes to go about their lives in such a routine way while coping with such a heavy burden.

I think, too, of all those who suffer the horrible disease of cancer. I'm sure that from your own personal experience, you have met women and men, again—no matter the age—who heroically tackle the cancers that have invaded their bodies. Treatments to rid the body of this toxic, dreaded visitor bring with them such terrible side effects that are bravely endured by the victims. What a remarkable witness of courage and perseverance!

Then, there are those who suffer that debilitating disease of arthritis. Realizing that one is no longer able to physically accomplish certain feats that once were

considered routine, can lead to a very discouraging and depressing state of mind, particularly when the medication seems to have minimal effects. Yet, in the face of such trials, we see arthritis sufferers reaching out, through their pain, to serve others.

Many in our society, indeed within our families, suffer emotional and psychological distress. When one is hurting badly and no medication relieves the pain, a sense of desperation and frustration can surface. Those who suffer these wounds are often misunderstood, ridiculed or written off by society. These are but a few examples of a multitude of maladies suffered by our sisters and brothers.

Pope Benedict XVI asks those who suffer to understand their pain from a perspective of faith: "It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but rather by our capacity for accepting it, maturing through it and finding meaning through union with Christ, who suffered with infinite love" (*Spe Salvi*, 37).

As we approach the Season of Lent, we are particularly aware of our need to journey with the suffering Christ enroute to the glory of the Resurrection.

This is also an apt occasion to extend words of deep gratitude to all those in the health care ministry.

So many of our neighbors give much of their time and energy as volunteers in our local Fire Departments, EMT'S and other personnel on rescue squads, as well as the medical staffs in our nursing homes and hospitals.

Let us ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts to those who suffer around us,

so that our compassion and care reflects that of the Divine Physician.

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own affairs that we forget or neglect those who are hurting in our midst. Time spent with those who are hurting is the most productive thing we can do with our time. After all, isn't that where

Jesus spent most of His time?

As the Holy Father recently remarked, "Each one of us can be a good Samaritan for others." Let us take the time to notice, approach and give of ourselves. Something as simple as a smile and gentle word can be just what the doctor ordered.



YOU can be part of this gathering!

Save the Date

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Catholics at the Capital Day

Come to Albany for the

New York State Catholic Conference 2013

Over 1,000 Catholics from all over New York State will raise their voices for public policies that:

- † recognize the sanctity and dignity of human life †
- † support the family †
- † focus on the common good †
- † protect and help the poor and the vulnerable †

Join with **Cardinal Dolan , Bishop Terry LaValley, and the Bishops of New York State** for a day of workshops and advocacy on issues of grave importance. Many participants will meet with their legislators and everyone will participate in Mass with the Bishops.

Register on line at: www.nyscatholic.org

Once you have registered, you will be contacted by a local representative from Catholic Charities. You will be provided with all of the information you will need for the day.

Copies of the 2013 Legislative Agenda are available at: www.nyscatholic.org

Imagine being part of a day that focuses on building the kingdom of God through advocacy for a society that is just, compassionate and welcoming to all of God's people.

Join us!



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Father John Pietropaoli of Malone was ordained to the priesthood as a Legionary of Christ Dec. 15 at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. Shown left, at the conclusion of the Rite of Ordination, the new priest exchanges the sign of peace with ordaining prelate Cardinal Velasio DePaolis. Pontifical delegate for the Legionaries of Christ, Cardinal DePaolis ordained 44 young men of that order to the priesthood at the ceremony. Father Pietropaoli celebrated his first Mass in the crypt Chapel of St. Columbanus at St. Peter's. Above, he is pictured with his family following the Mass. From left are Mary Catherine, Elizabeth, Thomas, Matthew, Father John and his parents Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli. The new priest reflects on the growth of his vocation on this page.

Embracing a life of 'gift and mystery'

By Fr. John Pietropaoli, LC
Contributing Writer

Growing up I had no intention of becoming a priest. I entertained many possibilities—archeologist, armed forces, attorney, itinerant mountain biker—yet never felt the slightest glimmer of attraction towards the priesthood.

But God had other plans, and another gift, in mind.

In retrospect, I can see His plan at work from the beginning. My family (father, mother, two sisters and two brothers) is the foundational gift of my life, my first experience of that unconditional love which is a mirror of God's love for us and establishes the touchstone for an entire life.

My parents considered that their most precious bequest to their children was the faith we all profess every Sunday at Mass, and took appropriate steps to ensure its eager reception.

I was not a particularly promising pupil, though. Apparently my first liturgical intervention occurred when I was three years old: I stood up on the pew during

the homily at Sunday Mass and loudly demanded to know if the priest was ever going to stop talking. (In my defense, it was a very long homily.)

Thankfully, however, my parents did not succumb to despair, and braving the glaring gaze of the legitimately offended pastor, they continued to bring their small and opinionated children to Mass and to form them daily in the faith.

Fulton Sheen described two types of grace: white grace, or the presence of God in our souls; and black grace, the awareness that something is missing in our lives, that there is a tremendous gaping hole that nothing seems to fill.

This second type of grace - also a gift - was the experience of my teenage years.

I remember a constant search for something more, for perfection, with the conviction that if I found it - in accomplishments, knowledge, another person—then I would find happiness.

It was what St. Augustine described when he wrote that since God has created us for himself, our hearts are restless until they rest in

him. But at the time I was only aware of the gnawing emptiness that I could not remedy.

One spring evening of my senior year in high school, I was walking past our parish church of Notre Dame. I stopped and entered the quiet building.

I was facing a dilemma, a choice between the college I wanted to attend and the college that offered me the largest scholarship. I recalled that whenever my parents had a difficult decision to make, they always prayed.

Though I had long since given up the practice of prayer, I decided to give it a try. I sat down in a pew, looked at the tabernacle, and mumbled, "I'm not really sure if there is anybody here, but if you are, I have this problem and could use some advice." And then I fell asleep.

After 15 minutes or so, I woke up, decided there was nothing to this prayer business, and got up to leave. Before I could do that, a thought flashed through my mind: "You know, I could be a priest." It was not a voice; it was not a vision. It was a

simple thought, so strange and out of place that I thought I was still asleep.

Wondering what had caused that thought, and hoping that it would not occur again, I went out into the cool April air.

In the end I went with the money and attended St. Anselm, a Benedictine college with a monastery and a church. Classes were good, sports were good, my grades were good and I was having fun.

But I was missing something: I had taken hold of God's gifts, and hadn't yet learned that the gifts without the Giver are ultimately hollow.

Then I watched *Black-robe*, a movie which loosely recounts the heroic missionary work of 17th century French Jesuits in North America. Their obvious sense of purpose struck me: these were men who had found something that impelled them to an incredible heroism and impelled me to learn more about them.

Soon, my first good confession in a long time brought me a taste of something I'd been missing for quite a while.

Then I met the Legionaries of Christ. A visit to their Cornwall seminary showed me a bit of what I so admired in early Jesuits; the fact that they were serious soccer players did not hurt, either.

At a discernment retreat, I experienced a deluge of overpowering grace. It was the first time in my life that I recognized Jesus as a real person - that he is present, that he has a plan for me, that he is my happiness. I entered the candidacy in June of 2000, and have been a Legionary ever since.

On December 15, 2012, I was ordained to the priesthood, a life which Blessed John Paul II described as gift and mystery: "The mystery - that sinners are called to be God's face for the world; the gift - that they are able, with God's grace, to do so. The mystery - that someone who lived only for himself is called to live for others, in Christ; the gift - that God trusts him and will never revoke his call. The mystery - that a man can say, 'This is my body given up for you'; the gift - that by his priestly ordination, these words come true."

AT THE MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON

PRO-LIFERS GO TO D.C.

Hundreds of marchers from the North Country included three busloads of young people



Father Thomas Higman, parochial vicar for Malone Catholic Parishes, and Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan vocation director, served as chaplains for the youth buses bringing young people from the diocese to Washington D.C for the Jan. 25 March for Life.



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER
The North Country marchers gathered at the Museum of Natural History before beginning their walk.



Young people from Lewis County were among 14,000 who took part in a pro-life youth rally at the Verizon Center in Washington before the march.



Lindy Pacelli of Lake Placid met up with her son, Alex, a diocesan seminarian studying at the Pontifical Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.



Riders of three Youth Buses for Life from the North Country pose in front of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The diocesan pro-lifers were among more than a half-million from across the

country who took part in the March for Life in Washington D.C. Jan. 25, marking the 40th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion through out the United States.

Catholics at the Capitol set March 20 in Albany

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will lead a delegation from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Albany March 20 for the annual Catholics at the Capitol Day.

Cardinal Dolan and the bishops of New York State will join hundreds of Catholic New Yorkers at the annual public policy advocacy day at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

Participants from all eight dioceses of New York State will attend a workshop on the issues, meet with their legislators, participate in praying the Rosary with the Knights of Columbus and process to the Cathedral of

the Immaculate Conception for 1:30 p.m. Mass with the Bishops.

Cardinal Dolan will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

Participants will lobby their legislators on five issues identified as priorities by the bishops. They are:

- Oppose Gov. Cuomo's abortion expansion plan
- Preserve Catholic schools and provide equitable resources for all school children
- Develop affordable housing for low-income and vulnerable populations
- Support humane treatment for incarcerated indi-

viduals

•Ensure that Medicaid redesign provides benefit to consumers and does not diminish quality of care

There is no cost to attend and a boxed lunch will be provided. A goodwill offering will be taken at Mass to offset the costs of the day.

For more information and to register online, go to www.nyscatholic.org or contact the diocesan coordinator, Sister Donna Franklin, (315) 393-2255, ccdirec@wadhams.edu

The Catholic Conference represents New York State's Bishops in matters of public policy.

Funeral held for Sr. Anita Boucher, SCO, age 87

LOWELL, MASS. – A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Anita Boucher (Raymond d'Espagne), age 87, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa for 67 years, was held Jan. 31 in the Chapel of D'Y-

ouville Life and Wellness Community.

She died Jan. 27 at the Lowell General Hospital after a brief illness. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Chelmsford, Mass.

Born in Lowell on June 20, 1925 she was a daughter of the late Albert and Adeline (Mercier) Boucher.

Sister Anita taught in Ogdensburg, Haverhill, MA; and at Notre Dame de Lourdes, Ste Jeanne d'Arc and St. Joseph Schools in Lowell.

She also served as librarian at St. Joseph and Ste Jeanne d'Arc Schools.

She is survived by a

brother and sister-in-law, Normand and Charlotte Boucher of Lowell; three sisters in law, Rita Boucher of Chelmsford, Cecile Boucher and Annette Boucher both of Lowell; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also the sister of the late Gerard, Raymond, Robert, Elphege, Roger, and Donald Boucher, Gertrude Lacasse and Violette Rondeau.

Memorial donations in her name may be made to the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, Retirement Fund, 559 Fletcher Street, Lowell, MA 01854.

Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 6 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Feb. 7 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Feb. 8 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Feb. 9 – 4:30 p.m., Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Westville

Feb. 10 – 11 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

Feb. 12 – Installation Mass of Bishop Dennis Sullivan as Eighth Bishop of Camden, NJ

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.

Feb. 11 – 6 p.m., Holy Family School, Malone

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

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

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Call Christine: 315-608-7556

Environmental Stewardship

In the midst of winter, "When the Trees Say Nothing" as Thomas Merton notes, the trees are directing their energy into their roots, so that they may bring forth new life in spring. So, too, we are invited to nourish our bodies with resting time and comfort foods, and our souls with quiet time and spiritual food.

To live more lightly on the earth:

- Take time to observe the trees around you and reflect on what may need to be nurtured within you.
- Spend a time observing the ice crystals on your window, and wonder at the magnificence of God's creative Hand in nature and in your life..
- Make space in your winter day to listen to Scripture "Be still and know that I am God." Notice how it may affect the rest of your day and how you relate to the natural world around you.

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 6 – Msgr. Gerard Gefell, 2009

Feb. 8 – Msgr. Patrick Bernard Riley, 1981

Feb. 9 – Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

Feb. 10 – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

Feb. 12 – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy Rev. James Seymour at 315-393-2920 or the

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: aycsnn@yahoo.com; Phone: 518-569-0612; Fax: 518-425-0401

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A YEAR OF FAITH...STORY OF FAITH

'My faith has taught me to focus more on others'

By Kate Curry
Staff writer

INDIAN LAKE - When Mary Ellen Dowling moved to Indian Lake from the Schenectady area around 2001, she was going through many challenging life experiences and was not close to the Catholic Church.

That changed when she went to Mass at St. Mary's and met Father Roland Hart.

"He was a man of faith," she said. "I could feel God with him. I really believe he is a holy man.

"His faith was so strong and it helped mine," she said.

Mary Ellen decided to move to a house that was better winterized and found one in Blue Mountain Lake in 2007. There, she became more involved in the church and is a lector today at St. Paul's in Blue Mountain Lake.

She says that her faith was modeled after her mother and grandmother.

"The church had always been a source of comfort and strength," she said. "My mother was particularly devoted to St. Anthony - he always delivered."



PHOTO BY KATE CURRY
Mary Ellen Dowling, a parishioner of St. Paul's Church in Blue Mountain Lake, reflects on her faith as a child and as a North Country parishioner.

grandmother started talking about the soul and she explained to me about the lilies of the valley."

Life went on and Mary Ellen went to college and earned a degree in teaching and then a master's degree in public administration.

She worked in social services in the areas of employment and training and aging. She also worked in regional health system planning for northeastern New York counties.

She recalls her First Communion: "my grandmother made this beautiful dress for me" and remembers having a discussion about the soul with her grandmother when she was small.

"I think I had picked lilies or we were discussing lilies," she said. "My

"I saw a lot of problems with our health care system," she said. There was over utilization for those who are insured and a genuine lack of care for those who are not."

Today, Mary Ellen likes to act in dramatic organizations and sing and arts organizations in general. She has two grown children. Her daughter is a director of communication for an arts organization and her son teaches English as a Second Language in Shanghai, China.

In 2010, she herself moved to China and taught English as a Second Language in Southwestern China in the Eastern Himalayas.

"The farms employed the same ways of farming for thousands of years, subsistence farming," she said. "They jumped from the 10th to the 21st century in record time."

Life still had its challenges. In 2007 she lost her aunt and uncle within three days of each other. Then she also lost two brothers from cancer and heart failure and a sister in 2010 from chronic illness. All her siblings are gone now but she knows life has to go on.

"My faith today has taught me to focus less on myself and more on others now," she said.

Speaker addresses issues related to human trafficking

WATERTOWN - Nearly 30 people gathered at the St. Joseph Motherhouse Jan. 27 to hear Sabel Bong, a native of Cam-

bodia and current academic counselor at SUNY Canton, speak on human trafficking. This modern day form of

slavery, he said, is found not only in Cambodia and in developing countries, but even in northern New York.

There are more slaves today than at any other point in human history, he said, noting that that awareness is the key to ending human trafficking.

Bong urged listeners to "...find out, learn about it, talk about it, bring it up to churches, to schools, start clubs that will support organizations that are at the ground level working."

Due to the fact that poverty is one of the major causes of people being sold into slavery, Sabel suggested

one way to support families would be to buy fair trade products, that guarantee farmers and other workers receive just wages for products, such as coffee, cocoa, tea, and hand-made items.

This money then can be used for education and economic stability for their community, he said.

Bong also urged participants to ask President Obama and the members of

Congress to support the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and continue to strengthen U.S. polices against child slavery.

The event was concluded with a Prayer Service for the End of Human trafficking.

Students from Immaculate Heart Central's Faith Community Service group assisted with hospitality for the event.



Sabel Bong, a native of Cambodia and current academic counselor at SUNY Canton talks with Sister Bernadette Collins and Sister Mary Louise Fiedler after his presentation on human trafficking at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Lounge Jan. 27.



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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
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NAME _____

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Telephone _____

Number of Tickets _____ Amount of check \$ _____
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NCC



Father Doug Lucia, pastor of St. Mary's in Canton, was one of the referees at the Jan. 30 Catholic schools girls' basketball game, Trinity Catholic in Massena vs. St. Mary's in Canton. The final score was 29-28 with St. Mary's winning.



Sixth graders from Seton Academy in Plattsburgh joined ninth graders at Seton Catholic to bag cookies as a treat passed out after the Catholic Schools Mass Jan. 26. The students are (clockwise from bottom left) Haley Moore, Zainab Pasher, Kaylee Amorielle, Sophie Macner, Humza Ali, Olivia Nachbauer, and Neil Young.



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A Week for 20 Weeks!

All drawings will be held on "Twenty Week Tuesday"
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Seton Twenty Week Club
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St. Augustine's Council 7273 Grand Knight Peter Glushko, center, and District Deputy Allen Dixon, right, presented a State Council Matching Fund check for \$1,000 to Father Kris Lauzon who accepted it on behalf of Holy Name School in AuSable Forks. St. Augustine's K of C took advantage of the 2012-13 New York State Council Knights of Columbus Catholic School Support Program. To encourage donations to Catholic schools, the State Council agreed to match council contributions between \$500 and \$1000 up to a total of \$50,000. A few months ago the Peru Council contributed \$1,000 to Holy Name School in AuSable Forks, \$750 to Seton Academy and \$750 to Seton Catholic Central School in Plattsburgh. Now the State Council has matched those contributions.

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Your donations help strengthen the Church of this region through grants to Catholic organizations that help those in need receive food, shelter, medicine, pastoral care, and compassion through the light of Christ.

Pope: lack of faith can hurt marriage, may affect validity

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - A lack of faith in God can damage marriage, even to the point of affecting its validity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Faith in God, sustained by divine grace, is therefore a very important element for living in mutual dedication and conjugal fidelity," he said.

The pope said he was not suggesting there was a simple, automatic link "between the lack of faith and the invalidity of marriage."

Rather, he hoped "to draw attention to how such a lack may, although not necessarily, also hurt the goods of marriage," given that referring to God's plan "is inherent in the covenant of marriage."

The pope made his comments Jan. 26 during a meeting with members of the Roman Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

The current crisis of faith has brought with it a state of crisis for the Christian vision of marriage as an indissoluble bond between a man and a woman, the pope said.

"The indissoluble covenant between man and woman does not require, for the purpose of sacramentality, the personal faith of those to be married," he said. "What is required, as the minimum condition, is the intention of doing what the church does" when it declares a marriage is a sacrament.

While the question of intent should not be confused with the question of the individuals' personal faith, "it is not always possible to completely separate them," he said.

The pope quoted Blessed John Paul II's speech to the Vatican court in 2003 in which he said, "an attitude on the part of those getting

married that does not take into account the supernatural dimension of marriage can render it null and void only if it undermines its validity on the natural level on which the sacramental sign itself takes place."

"The Catholic Church has always recognized marriages between the non-baptized that become a Christian sacrament through the baptism of the spouses," and it does not doubt "the validity of the marriage of a Catholic with a non-baptized person if it is celebrated with the necessary dispensation," the late pope had said.

Pope Benedict said such considerations need further reflection, especially in a secularized culture that puts little faith in a person's ability to make a lifelong commitment and fosters an incorrect understanding of freedom and fulfillment.

Humanity is incapable of achieving what is truly good without God, the pope said, and refusing God's invitation "leads to a deep imbalance in all human relationships," including marriage.

While faith in God is "a very important" part of a marriage lived with commitment and loyalty, it does not mean that "loyalty and other (conjugal) properties are not possible in natural marriage between non-baptized spouses, who still receive the graces that come from God."

"However, closing oneself off from God or refusing the sacred dimension of the conjugal union and its value in the order of grace certainly makes it more difficult to realize concretely the highest model of marriage as envisioned by the church according to God's plan, possibly going so far as to undermine the actual validity of the covenant" if the tribunal determines it amounts to a refusal of fidelity, procreancy, exclusivity and permanence.

IN HONOR OF NEW SAINTS



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

Images of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. Marianne Cope flank the main entrance into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, Jan. 26. The shrine hosted a special national Mass of thanksgiving for the recent canonizations of the women.

Speaker says media blitz can help youths find the Gospel

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The best way the church can be heard and seen amid the deluge of the information age is to launch a media blitz of simple answers to life's deepest questions, a young Catholic journalist told a Vatican news conference.

"People always say it should be quality over quantity; perhaps this was true once upon a time, but today quantity is necessary," said Alessio Antonielli, who works for the Conventual Franciscan-run San Francesco Review magazine in Assisi.

"The church is full of quality" with its rich 2,000-year history of writings and teachings, but "the problem is no one reads them; and today if you aren't present in certain channels, it's like you don't even exist," he said Jan. 31.

Antonielli was one of the speakers presenting details about the Pontifical Council for Culture's plenary assembly Feb. 6-9.

He was invited to attend the assembly to help the council's members and advisers explore this year's topic of emerging youth cultures and how the church can better respond pastorally.

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, the council's president, said often it seems young people are disconnected from the real world around them, with eyes glued to smartphones and ears muffled by headphones.

"In a certain sense they have put up a shield of self-exclusion" not only against "the unbearable social, political and religious difficulties we adults have created," but also because "we have excluded them with our corruption and hypocrisy, precarious employment, unemployment and alienation," he said.

Young people are passionate about many things and are often hiding their own genuine sense of spirituality, sincerity and freedom "under the guise of apparent indifference," the cardinal said.

Antonielli said to overcome this indifference, it's necessary to anticipate and be ready for what young people need and are looking for.

He said he was searching for the meaning of life and other important questions during his time at college. Instead of finding answers, he stumbled upon even more questions and was never actively approached with the church's message.

"The church today surely risks making little impact because young people don't ask questions anymore; however, they nonetheless want answers with one click," he said.

The church needs to have "a huge presence" in a world awash with choices "because few will see or hear just one pearl dropped in a pool." The more the church's message is "out there," he said, the more likely someone will come upon it and decide to explore it.

This means the church needs to translate its values and teachings into simply understood terms and concrete actions, he said.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

The sick, their caregivers can gain indulgences on World Day of Sick
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The sick, their caregivers and any Catholic who prays for or lovingly assists someone who is ill can gain an indulgence with prayers and service on or around the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which the Catholic Church marks as World Day of the Sick. A special Mass and services marking the Feb. 11 day of prayer for the sick will be celebrated at the shrine of Our Lady of Altotting in Germany. Catholic faithful can receive one indulgence each day Feb. 7-11 by joining observances at Altotting or at any church or shrine designated by their local bishop, according to the Vatican decree announcing the indulgence. Catholic health care professionals, volunteers and family members of the sick who cannot attend a special World Day of the Sick service "can obtain the same gift of a plenary indulgence if, during those days, they generously offer at least a few hours of loving assistance (to the sick) as if they were offering it to Christ the Lord himself," and fulfill the prayer requirements in a timely manner. The sick and the aged who cannot attend special services can obtain the indulgence by "spiritually participating" in them, particularly if the Mass in Altotting or a local World Day of the Sick Mass is being broadcast on a local television or radio station. The Vatican decree also said a partial indulgence is available in early February "to all the faithful every time they turn to the merciful God with a contrite heart" and pray for the sick.

Cardinal relieved of public duties for past failure to protect children
LOS ANGELES (CNS) -- Cardinal Roger M. Mahony will "no longer have any administrative or public duties" as retired archbishop of Los Angeles because of past failures to protect children from clergy sex abuse, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez announced Jan. 31. The archbishop's statement came the same day the archdiocese released 12,000 pages of personnel files of clergy who were the subject of a 2007 global abuse settlement. The material has been posted on the website <http://clergyfiles.la-archdiocese.org>, along with supporting information that includes the names of members of the hierarchy involved in the handling of abuse allegations. Archbishop Gomez also accepted Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Curry's request to be relieved of his responsibility as the regional bishop of Santa Barbara. Cardinal Mahony, 76, headed the archdiocese from 1985 until his March 2011 retirement. Bishop Curry, 70, was the archdiocese's vicar of clergy and chief adviser on sexual abuse cases in the mid-1980s. "These files document abuses that happened decades ago," Archbishop Gomez said Jan. 31. "But that does not make them less serious. I find these files to be brutal and painful reading. The behavior described in these files is terribly sad and evil. There is no excuse, no explaining away what happened to these children. The priests involved had the duty to be their spiritual fathers and they failed. We need to acknowledge that terrible failure today," he said.

HHS issues proposed rules on exemptions from contraceptive coverage

By Patricia Zapor
 Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Exemptions from the requirement to provide contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act will be simplified to include many more types of religious institutions and accommodate the needs of self-insured church entities that say they must keep a clear financial and functional wall between themselves and the provision of contraceptives.

A new set of proposed rules announced Feb. 1 by the Department of Health and Human Services attempt to accommodate objections raised by Catholic institutions, among others, that said the previous rules would force them to stop providing employee health insurance because the federal requirement to include contraceptive coverage violates their religious beliefs.

The Affordable Care Act includes coverage of contraceptives in all insurance plans. Under what has become known as the contraceptive mandate, the early version of proposed rules for this part of the nationwide health care program mandated all employers provide free coverage of contraceptives for their workers.

The first version of proposed rules for this coverage exempted only religious organizations whose main purpose is the inculcation of faith and who employ and serve members of the faith. A later "accommodation" said nonexempt organizations could do this through third-party insurers.

The expansion would cover religious higher education institutions, health care providers and charitable agencies that do not discriminate on the basis of religion

as to whom they serve or employ.

The new proposed rules specify that no exemption will be given to "for-profit, secular employers." Some for-profit entities such as Christian-owned toy retailer Hobby Lobby have sued the federal government over the contraceptive mandate, saying that it violates the religious beliefs of the owners and the faith-based company outlook, and so they should be entitled to a religious exemption.

A brief statement from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said the conference welcomed "the opportunity to study the proposed regulations closely. We look forward to issuing a more detailed statement later." The Catholic Health Association, which represents Catholic hospitals and health care agencies, also declined to comment on the changes until they were studied.

Others were quick to praise the proposed new rules for addressing the objections of Catholic and other entities, while some found fault with them, saying they would not resolve their objections.

The same day the proposed rules were released they were published in the Federal Register, opening a 60-day period for public comment. The rules are expected to be finalized this summer. Institutions are required to provide the coverage by August.

At a teleconference about the changes, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, deputy director of policy and regulation in the HHS Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, said no nonprofit religious institution -- including churches, universities, hospitals and charities -- will have to "arrange, contract, pay for or refer for" contraception in-

surance for employees or students who want it.

US bishops welcome the opportunity to study the proposed regulations closely

Even in the case of self-insured religious entities -- which includes many dioceses and colleges -- employees or insured students who want contraceptive coverage will be able to arrange it through outside insurance companies, at no cost to themselves and without financial or even administrative support of the faith-based institution, Brooks-LaSure said.

"The eligible organization would have no role in contracting, arranging, paying, or referring for this separate contraceptive coverage," the proposal says. "Such coverage would be offered at no charge to plan participants and beneficiaries, that is, the issuer would provide benefits for such contraceptive services without the imposition of any cost sharing requirement (such as a co-payment, co-insurance, or a deductible), premium, fee or other charge."

The proposal includes several possible ways of arranging such insurance for employees of self-insured organizations.

Brooks-LaSure said that insurers will be able to provide the coverage at no cost to the individual because of the financial savings realized from preventing unwanted or unplanned pregnancies versus paying the costs associated with pregnancy, labor and delivery.

The 80 pages of details include a discussion of the 200,000 public comments HHS received on the preliminary rules, giving examples of some of the situations presented for consideration,

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Listening to the invitation of God

When we're very young, most of us have glamorous or exciting careers we want to follow. "I want to be a fireman...I want to be an astronaut...I want to be movie actress"

As we grow older, our choices are more realistic. "I want to be a veterinarian...I want to be a nurse..."

More rarely, a person feels "called" to be or do some special work.

It sounds so noble, for it takes both courage and humility to answer a call!

The two persons in today's readings—Isaiah and Peter-- were both called, but

felt unworthy to accept until strengthened and encouraged by God.

In today's reading from the first chapters of Isaiah, the young prophet is aware of his sinfulness as he experiences a vision of God on His throne about to make a decision. Who will He send as His messenger to clean up the mess left by King Uzziah and bring the people back to fidelity?

After one of the heavenly seraphim has touched a burning coal to his lips (ouch!), Isaiah now feels worthy enough to cry out, "Here I am; send me". And so, Isaiah's whole life's work begins.

The Gospel is just as dramatic. It portrays an unforgettable day on the Lake of Gennesaret. Simon Peter and his partners, James and John, are tired and discouraged after a night of fruitless fishing. Jesus prevails on them to let him use their boat as a pulpit.

After Jesus has preached a while to those on the shore, he dares to ask these tired fishermen to try just once more. Simon must have thought, "He's a good preacher, but He doesn't know much about fishing!"

However, he obeys, and puts out to the deep. To his amazement, the nets are filled to breaking with huge fish. In panic, Simon calls for help.

Now the two boats are in danger of capsizing as they

Feb. 10

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
READINGS

Isaiah 6:1-2a,3-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel Luke 5:1-11

John, are willing to take the same risk.

While we may not have the stature of an Isaiah or a St. Peter, God knows better than we do what vocation in life will make us truly happy and fulfilled.

The wisdom of God often seems like foolishness to humans. Jesus that day issued an invitation. Simon Peter, James and John had trust enough to answer it! We must pray every day that young people (and older people, too) will have the courage and the humility to answer God's call to the consecrated life and to the Priesthood.

They need a lot of encouragement from their families, the Christian community, and close friends who know them.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Catholics in the diocese: we're on the same team

By Scott Lalone
Executive Director,
Diocesan Development Office

When I first took the position of executive director of Development and the Foundation for the Diocese of Ogdensburg back in late February, I knew I needed to become educated on the structural layout/differences between the diocese and the ministries.

And after 10 months, I think I will share what I have learned thus far in order to help everyone realize we are all on the same team with common goals, beliefs and faith.

The diocese is in essence the mother ship of the parishes, Catholic schools, ministries, organizations. The diocese offers you and your parish or school ways you can support one of these affiliates close to your heart through giving vehi-

cles such as Charitable Gift Annuities, gifts of cash or stock, real estate, life insurance, savings bonds, and bequests.

Outright gifts are transferred immediately while planned gifts are invested by the diocese with the distribution to the beneficiary made at the death of the donor.

The diocese also holds funds supported through planned and outright gifts to pastors education, special care, disabilities and retirement along with several other ministry funds from areas such as Catholic education, social concerns, spiritual life, priests, deacon and lay education and religious formation.

While Planned Gifts sometimes have the beneficiaries listed to some of these funds, the Bishop's Fund Appeal is our annual giving program which supports Catholic education, social

concerns, spiritual life, priests, deacon and lay education and religious formation.

We (pastors, deacons, religious, parishioners, ministries and the diocese) are all on the same team supporting our *mission statement*:

"As the People of God in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, in communion with the Holy Father and our Bishop, we affirm that we are members of one family, whose roots are ethnically diverse, united by our faith, our conviction in the centrality of the Eucharist and our commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ. Grounded in our history and tradition, we remain open to the movement of the Holy Spirit as we strive to promote an awareness of the presence of the Triune God and the

sacredness of all human life in every aspect of our personal, communal, and ecclesial lives. We desire to create structures and processes that will ensure effective collaboration among all members of the diocesan Church in keeping with each one's vocation. We acknowledge our radical dependence

on the providence of our loving God, as we enter into the new millennium recognizing that, with God, all things are possible and all is grace."

The vision statement

We are all on the same team supporting our *vision statement*:

"As we prepare to cross the threshold of hope into the Third Christian Millennium, the opportunities and challenges we face as a

diocesan Church are numerous and diverse. However, we know that we do not stand alone. God the Holy Spirit guides us, one step at a time. If we are open to His sanctifying presence, we will be empowered to continue creating a culture of life, building a civilization of love, and developing a kingdom of justice and peace.

In building this Kingdom of God on earth, we believe:

- That the Eucharist, both Sacrament and Sacrifice, lies at the heart of our life and mission as Church and that, therefore, its faithful and fruitful celebration is essential;

- That the parish is the place where the Church finds its most immediate and visible expression and thereby, becomes a home where the Christian faithful gather to celebrate Christ's presence in the sacraments,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Scott
Lalone

AT THE MOVIES

BULLET TO THE HEAD



CNS/DARK CASTLE HOLDINGS

Sylvester Stallone stars in the movie "Bullet to the Head."

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

The 90-minute killing spree that is "Bullet to the Head" (Warner Bros.) - with its banal dialogue and weak, stale story - offends on every possible level. But, above all, for its sheer pointless mayhem.

Director Walter Hill and screenwriter Alessandro Camon adapt a French series of graphic novels by Alexis Nolent called "Headshot." In doing so, they send the body count well into double digits and the boredom factor into overdrive.

There's a Cajun-flavored comic-book plot built along the lines of the chop-socky genre. Thus, curved knives

used for gutting fish are a favored weapon.

Sylvester Stallone plays hit man James "Jimmy Bobo" Bonomo, who grunts out such incisive one-liners as "Guns don't kill people. Bullets kill people."

He reluctantly teams up with police detective Taylor Kwon (Sung Kang) to fight mobsters.

Also in their sights is the seemingly invincible assassin Keegan (Jason Momoa), who killed their respective partners in Crescent City, La. -- a barely fictional version of New Orleans.

The partners are aided by Bonomo's tattoo-artist daughter Lisa (Sarah Shahi) as they confront corrupt lawyer Marcus Baptiste (Christian Slater) and mendacious property baron Robert

Nkomo Morel (Adewale Akinouye-Agbaje).

When he's not too busy shooting or punching, Bonomo makes a wide array of racial remarks about Asians.

There are some other plot details, but the remaining cast is around only long enough to be killed. So it's all lost in this fetid gumbo of gunfire and stabbing.

The film contains relentless violence, a vengeance theme, frequent upper female nudity, and pervasive rough, crude and crass language.

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

Same team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

in particular the Eucharist, which are the source of sanctification for every state of life;

- That the diversity of gifts present in the parish will enrich us as we continue to seek ways to best respond to the direction of the Holy Spirit in our midst, especially through our efforts at Christian formation for all members at every stage of life;

- That the parish exists to evangelize and to develop ecclesial community where God's gifts are received and where the baptized generously make their response of faith, hope, and love to the call of the Gospel and the proclamation of God's Word;

That, as parishes who together from one diocesan Church, we exist not for ourselves but for the life of the world and are missioned with the task of bringing the healing presence of Christ to a wounded humanity;

- That the faith-filled and full collaboration of clergy, persons living the conse-

crated life, and laity will ensure the best possible pastoral care of the parish and other ecclesial communities, within the context of clearly understanding the essential difference between the priesthood of all the faithful and the ministerial priesthood;

- That given the prudent stewardship of resources, both personnel and financial, over the next five to ten years, parishes and other ecclesial communities must collaborate, so that the mission of the Church to teach, to sanctify and to serve can continue, albeit in new or different forms, throughout the diocese.

If you have any questions or seek further information in more detail on the funds, programs, agencies, etc., please contact me at your convenience.

Scott M. Lalone
Executive Director
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Ogdensburg, NY 13669
slalone@dioogdensburg.org



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ADIRONDACK

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Tupper Lake—Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

Dates: Feb. 12 and Feb. 19, both mornings required to complete training

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Place: St. Thomas Episcopal

Features: Friendship Volunteers of all faiths, from Tupper Lake, Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid help elders stay connected to their communities, helping to relieve isolation and loneliness

Registration: The program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. To request registration information, please contact Sheila Schneck at Mercy Care by calling 523-5583.

CLINTON

HEALING MASS

Plattsburgh—Oblate Father Richard McAlear, will be at St. Peter's Church for a special Healing Mass and a Healing and forgiveness Workshop/Holy Hour.

Date: Mass Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.; Workshop/Holy Hour Feb. 9, 1 p.m. to 2:30

Contact: Eve McGill, Living Waters Healing Ministry: evemcgill@charter.net or 518-563-0001 for more information. Cost: There is no fee to attend either event, however, a collection will be taken up at the Healing Mass.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills—St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: Feb. 10

Time: 8:30 a.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; April 6

Time: 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Features: Rita Breen will be reflecting on themes of Lent Light lunch provided. Donations appreciated.

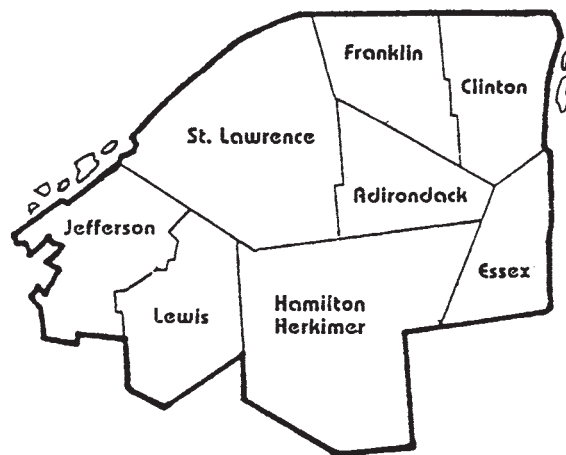
Contact: RSVP 518-594-3253 or toolaprayrhouse@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF HEALING PRAYER

Ellenburg Center—Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will be offering Christian Healing Ministries School of Healing Prayer Level I Training.

Date: Feb. 21-24

Information: Course provides a foundational, practical approach to developing a



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.

prayer ministry and offers a scriptural basis for God's gift of healing prayer. Overnight accommodations available. Level II given in March, Level III in April.
Contact: To register or for questions email Pat at olaprayrhouse@gmail.com or call 518-594-3253. Course limited to 6.

LENTE RETREAT

Ellenburg Center—Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a Lenten Retreat.

Date: March 2

Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Speaker: Fr. Bill Edwards.

Features: The day will conclude with Mass. Lunch provided.

Contact: Email call 518-594-3253 or olaprayrhouse@gmail.com to register. Donations for the day appreciated.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh—Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Place: St. John's chapel

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

Theme: "Each year, O Blessed Lady, thousands Masses are offered and a million pilgrims honor Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at your wonderful shrine of Lourdes. . . . Your most cherished desire is to draw souls closer to Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist." (From the Our Lady of Lourdes novena)

Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email us at Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP

Sciota—Monthly prayer group to be

held second Friday of the month.

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: To be determined, contact Nancy Monette at 561-8225 for details

Features: praying the Rosary, The Divine Chaplet, centering around creative prayer and music.

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 SUPPER

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

Date: Feb. 28

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; children \$4.50; under 3, free; sauce, \$5 per quart meatballs are \$.75 (Please bring your own containers)
Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m.

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Watertown—DVD "Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith" to be shown.

Dates: Feb. 11, 18; March 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

Place: Hearthside Center at the Motherhouse SSJ

Cost: No charge

Contact: Holy Family Church at 315-782-2468 for more information

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills—The Indian River Knights of Columbus will be having a Spaghetti & Meatball dinner.

Date: Feb. 9

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5 eat for free

DINNER FOR TWO

Watertown—A Dinner for Two for married and engaged couples to be held at Holy Family Church at no cost

Date: Feb. 16

Time: 5:15 p.m. liturgy; 6:15 social followed by dinner

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

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown—Liferight of Watertown will hold its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 4 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Features: The office has videos, books and educational materials on infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and chastity.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480; website: www.liferight.org.

LEWIS

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Lowville—The Altar Rosary Society will be having a Spaghetti Supper.

Date: Feb. 7

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available 4:30 p.m.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-SPAGHETTI

Harrisville—An all you can eat spaghetti dinner has been planned

Date: Feb. 20

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30; Take outs Available at 4

Place: St. Francis Solanus Church

Price: Adults: \$8.00, ages 12 - 5 \$5.00, under 5 - free.

Features: With meat balls and sausage, Italian bread, salad, refreshments and homemade dessert.

ST. LAWRENCE

ALTAR ROSARY BREAKFAST

Ogdensburg—The Notre Dame Altar & Rosary Society will hold an all you can eat breakfast.

Date: Feb. 10

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: Knights of Columbus building
Cost: \$6

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Massena—The Catholic Community of Massena/Louisville will be using Fr. Robert Barron's video series "Catholicism" during this Year of faith.

Dates: On Wednesdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; March 6; April 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Mary's Social Hall

Cost: No cost, but workbooks can be purchased for \$25

K OF C BRUNCH

Brasher Falls—A Buffet Brunch will be held.

Date: Feb. 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

FEB. 10 BRUNCH

Norfolk—The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a brunch.

Date: Feb. 10

Time: 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Place: Visitation Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children under 12, \$4; Under 5, Free; Family, \$18; Take-outs

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.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRIES ARE BACK

Ogdensburg—K of C 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 All proceeds benefit Knights of Columbus Charities.

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



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 Alaskan bishop

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

Once again, the summer of 2012's Mission Cooperative Program featured the Diocese of Northern Alaska. Below is an excerpt from a recent letter of gratitude I received from Patty Walter, the Alaskan Shepherd Editor.

Happy New Year! Here in Alaska's interior we hit record lows for December plummeting to nearly 50 degrees below zero; and just when we had braced ourselves for the cold weather, temperatures rose to nearly 40 above! We can thank a Chinook wind for the brief reprise, knowing that cold weather is something we can count on in January.

On such days, it is easy to believe that the sun is 93 million miles from the Earth. It warms little and is still putting in very short days. If you want to see the sun—assuming it is not obscured by ice fog- you may stand a chance at noon—gazing due south.

Many here in Fairbanks on New Year's Eve, gather to watch a firework display sponsored by the University of Alaska. Alaskans are unable to view fireworks in July when the mid-night sun barely leaves the sky— and so the New Year firework display is anticipated in a special way.

Know that you with your love and your prayers and generous help, warm and brighten considerably these wintry days. We are grateful to you. I thank you now in particular for your recent so truly generous donation- which we will put to good use in our service of the Lord and His people here in the Missionary diocese. May He reward and bless you richly, as He alone can.

Kindly accept these expressions of sincere gratitude as coming also from Bishop Donald Kettler and all here in the Northern Mission....

The 2013 Missionary Cooperative Program will kick off once again this year in the Diocese of Ogdensburg on the Western Side's deaneries this year. We look forward to welcoming our visitors every summer.

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



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OBITUARIES

Altona – Marcella M. (Perry) Barcomb, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2013 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

Brasher Falls – Ralph J. Burnell, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2013 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Brushton – Colleen (Bean) Brockway, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2013 at the Flint Funeral Home.

Carthage – Mary K. Welcker, 79; Memorial Services Feb. 2, 2013 at St. James Church.

Coopersville – Rita Esther (Pilger) Laurin, 81; Funeral Jan. 26, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Deferiet – Gino M. Zando, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2013 at St. Rita's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Glenfield – Shirley E. (Evans) Bush, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Croghan.

Lake Placid – Loretta (Charland) Smith, 92; Funeral Jan. 28, 2013 at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lisbon – George B. LaBrake Jr., 76; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2013 at St. Philip & James Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

Lowville – Shirley E. (Rhone) Roy, 80; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2013 at St. Peter's Church.

Malone – Gerald A. Dufort, 78; Funeral

Services Jan. 28, 2013 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena – Patricia A. (Hammill) Larue, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Oswald "Larry" Lawliss, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 29, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church.

Newcomb – Marie E. Garrand, 92, died Jan. 27, spring burial at the convenience of the family

Norfolk – Patty (Paige) Phelix, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2013 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Mary Jane (Lanthier) Francis, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2013 at Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in White Church Cemetery, Lisbon.

Plattsburgh – Joyce M. (Dow) Glasgow;

Funeral Jan. 26, 2013 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Francis J. LaVarnway, 52; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2013 at the Brown Funeral Home

Plattsburgh – Jeannette (Martin) Pelletier, 94; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2013 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Waterbury, Conn.

Plattsburgh – Catherine D. (Dwane) Stone, 86; Funeral Feb. 1, 2013 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Potsdam – Lillian Smith, 92; Funeral Feb. 1, 2013 at the Garner Funeral Service; burial in Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Karyn Fay (Hartpence) Giles, 40; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2013 at the Fortune Keough Funeral Home.

Star Lake – Mary Rogene (Corcoran) Henrie, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 28, 2013 at St. Hubert's Church.

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Tips for Catholics long absent from the confessional

'Bless me Father for I have sinned'

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)-- After "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned" - even if they get that far - there are millions of Catholics who don't exactly know what to say next.

This is especially true for Catholics who have not gone to confession in years, or even decades.

Despite parishes and dioceses inviting inactive Catholics to return to church at Lent, with the sacrament of reconciliation as an incentive, it is likely Catholics are afraid, bewildered or even intimidated at the prospect of returning to the confessional after such a long period away from it.

A rote recitation of sins doesn't seem quite right. Laundry lists, as some priests call them, are out. In fact, one advises, even devising a game plan before returning to the confessional is out.

"Just come. Don't prepare. We'll do it in there. I'll help you with this. At the end of it, you're going to think about things we didn't cover. You can come again," said Msgr. Richard Lavalley, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Winooski, Vt.

"The more complicated it becomes, the worse it becomes. They (penitents) don't know what to make of it and they become ashamed," he said.

The motivations for wanting to go back to confession can be many, said Jesuit Father Jake Empeur, a priest

since 1965 and a parochial vicar at St. Matthew Parish in San Antonio.

Just come. Don't prepare. We'll do it in there. I'll help you with this. At the end of it, you're going to think about things we didn't cover.

You can come again

Msgr. Richard Lavalley, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Winooski, Vt.

"It could be because of health issues. It could be because their conscience moves them to finally be able to participate in the church and the liturgy and Communion and things like that," he said. "People get married. Sometimes it's someone's first Communion, sometimes it's a wedding. It's all sorts of different reasons."

And what they have on their mind - and want to get off their chest - can vary as well, Father Empeur told Catholic News Service.

A few things stand out, he said.

"Being in an irregular marriage, they gave up believing in God when they were in their early 20s and now they're thinking about that. Each case is really, truly different," he said, adding he tells penitents to focus on "what they came to say" because it "gives me further questioning on what I need to do (as a priest): whether or not they're married, personal relationships, issues in their life, whatever it might be."

"They don't talk about a lot of non-sins, small things and so forth," Father Empeur

continued. "They have a couple of major things, relating to marriage -- they got married outside the church, they had a bad experience with a priest, or so forth.

"Sometimes they'll talk about taking drugs, adultery, perhaps, or sleeping around," Father Empeur said. "Things like that might come up in the course (of a confession) - not the grocery list for things that happen more frequently."

Msgr. Lavalley said he tells penitents, "If you're holding back because you're afraid or you're frightened or you don't know what to do or how to say it, say 'Our Lady sent me.' I can't tell you how many times that's worked."

He recalled the time one man came into the reconciliation room telling him, "I'm supposed to tell you somebody sent me, but I can't remember who it was." He added he told the man it was Our Lady, and that "she sent me, too."

Msgr. Lavalley said he's told penitents, "I don't bite, I don't kick, I don't yell and I don't faint. So let's start. Can I help you by going through the Commandments? ... Is it easier for you to say yes or no with me?" And in doing that, he added, "I get what I need."

Father Empeur said he asks penitents whether they pray. "Usually they'll say something like their evening prayers before they go to bed, or they pray before meals. Usually they have not been going to Mass: 'I say the rosary' or things like that.

"Then you can talk about participation in the Eucharist. So you have to kind of instruct them, helping them along," he explained. "Encourage them. 'Are you going to be more involved in the church? Are you going to go to Mass? Are you going to go to confession once in a while?'"

"What's prominent? What most outstanding in their mind? ... They have something on their minds. That's



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Father Thomas Fusco, pastor at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Syosset, N.Y., listens to a penitent's confession during a Catholic men's conference at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, N.Y., in 2012. Each Lent parishes and dioceses across the U.S. invite inactive Catholics to return to church and to take advantage of sacrament of reconciliation.

why they're coming in the first place. Usually I find my questions have to do with their relationships or to talk about their spiritual life a little bit. After all, that's the purpose of all this. I can't say I've had two identical confessions."

Msgr. Lavalley, ordained in 1964, still remembers a confession from his first year as a priest. He was hearing confessions from students at the parish grade school, and one boy was among the last to be brought in.

"This kid's behind the screen. He's not talking to me. He's just breathing. 'Do you want to go to confession?' (No response.) 'Do you want to tell me what your sins are?' 'No.' 'Why?' 'Because you know what my sins are.' 'How?' 'Because I

did them before."

Just like that boy, Msgr. Lavalley told CNS, penitents are habitual sinners. "Everyone's a habitual sinner, and so am I," he said. "It's not about sin, it's about mercy and about God's love."

Msgr. Lavalley remembers himself as a grade schooler making comparisons among the priests in his parish about which ones handed out sterner or lighter penances.

But he recalled one experience with a priest that "made me the confessor that I am. He was so kind and so wonderful, and I never forgot the penance he gave me. He said, 'Can you say the name of Jesus once? I'll say it for you.' And he did it without sarcasm.

"That changed my life."

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