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for CRS and Peter's
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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

MARCH 6, 2013

THE END OF A PAPACY



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Members of the Swiss Guard close the main door of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, at 8 p.m. Feb. 28. The Swiss Guard concluded its protective service to Pope Benedict XVI, signaling the end of his papacy. The *North Country Catholic* pays tribute to the pope emeritus throughout the pages of this special issue.

Pope delivers a personal, emotional farewell on last day

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- On his last full day as pope, Pope Benedict XVI delivered an unusually personal and emotional farewell address, thanking the faithful around the world for their support and assuring them that he would remain in their service even in retirement.

"I will continue to accompany the path of the church with prayer and reflection, with that dedication to the Lord and to his bride that I have tried to live every day till now and that I want to live always," the pope told a crowd in St. Peter's Square Feb. 27, the eve of his resignation.

Under a clear blue sky with temperatures in the low 40s, the pope arrived

for his last public audience shortly after 10:30 a.m., standing and waving for almost 15 minutes as his white popemobile made a circuit through the square.

Abandoning his usual practice of giving a catechetical talk on a devotional text or theme at public audiences, the pope spoke about his time as pope and his historic decision to resign.

He looked tired but composed as he read his speech, and he smiled at the frequent interruptions by applause.

Pope Benedict recalled his almost eight-year pontificate as a time of "joy and light, but also difficult moments."

AT THE RITE OF ELECTION



FULL STORY, PAGE 4

Memories of, reflections on the pope

Bishop Terry R. LaValley was among Catholics from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to share personal reflections on the pontificate of Pope Benedict XVI.

The bishop celebrated a Mass for the pope-emeritus' intentions on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter Feb. 22.

Father Joseph Giroux was ordained a deacon by the pope when he was a cardinal.

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Mission of Hope

PAGE 6

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Historic month for Catholics begins

The first time I understood the significance of papal transitions was on my first day on the job.

I was hired as assistant editor of the *North Country Catholic* on Oct. 30, 1978, just two weeks after the election of Pope John Paul II.

Poor Father Christman, our intrepid editor, had yet to recover from the deaths and elections of two popes in less than three months.

Twice, he literally had to "stop the presses" since Pope John Paul I and Pope John Paul II were both elected on press day... just after the deadline.

It would be more than a quarter century before we would bid farewell and then hello to popes again.

April 2005 was certainly a historic month in the life of the Catholic Church; March 2013 will be one as well.

When Pope Benedict XVI announced that he would step down from the papacy, it set off shockwaves around the world and not just for Catholics.

Every reaction imaginable has been reported: "there must be a scandalizing secret!" "what a humble, generous leader we have," "he must be dying" and

on and on.

For me, the announcement of his retirement brought me right back to the day when I realized what a gifted, holy man we had in this pope.

In the homily of his inauguration Mass April 24, 2005, the brand new pontiff reflected on the symbolism of shepherds and fishermen in the life of a pope and then, he said:

"...the purpose of our lives is to reveal God to men. And only where God is seen does life truly begin. Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is. We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution.

"Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved,

each of us is necessary.

There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.

"The task of the shepherd, the task of the fisher of men, can often seem wearisome. But it is beautiful and wonderful, because it is truly a service to joy, to God's joy which longs to break into the world.

These simple, powerful words set the tone for a papacy of hope and joy despite all those wearisome tasks.

The shoes of this fisherman will not be easy to fill.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

Mary Lou
Kilian

FATHER BILL SAYS...

Reflecting on conclaves, then and now

This is a rather historic time in our Catholic Church. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict's retirement is something that hasn't been done in 600 years. So our Church is preparing for a new conclave.

I have been reading a new biography of Pope John XXIII, written by Greg Tobin in 2012, since before Pope Benedict's announcement. The conclave that elected Pope John XXIII was certainly one of the most unique in Church's history and shows how there can be many surprises when the Church meets in conclave.

Pope Pius XII died in 1958. At that time, Cardinal Angelo Roncalli (soon to be Pope John XXIII) was archbishop of Venice. He was certainly not considered a likely candidate to be elected Pope. In the biography, Tobin notes that an Italian publication printed the biographies of 20 cardinals likely to be chosen as Pope (in Latin, this is called "papabili") and Cardinal Roncalli was not included.

On October 25, 1958, the Cardinals (then 50 – now there will be 117) processed into the

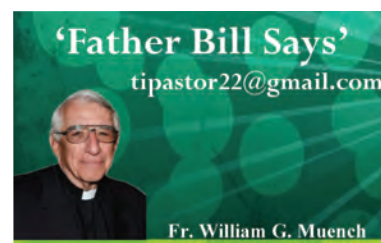
sector of the Sistine Chapel for the voting.

On the eleventh ballot, Cardinal Roncalli was chosen.

After, many surmised that he was chosen because he was older (78 at the time) and would not be Pope for very long, that his papacy would be sort of transitional. Later a more obvious choice would be elected. They didn't expect too much to come out of his papacy – God's surprises are wonderful, aren't they!

Once chosen, Cardinal Roncalli demonstrated that this was to be a unique decision. The tradition upon the election of one of the Cardinals is this: the College of Cardinals (at that time, it was Cardinal Tisserant) approaches the Cardinal that is elected and says, "Do you accept the election, canonically made, of yourself as Pontiff?"

Usually, the Cardinal elected simply says – "Accepto" (I accept). Cardinal Roncalli at that moment took from his pocket the Latin text over which he had worked through the long hours of the previous night (the voting trend was



such that he knew he would soon be the one elected) and he read this: "At the sound of your voice, I am made to tremble and I fear. For what I know will of my poverty and insignificance is enough to bring me to confusion. But seeing the votes of my brothers, the most eminent Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, the sign of the will of God, I accept the election made by them. I bow my head and my back to the chalice of bitterness and to the yoke of the cross. On this solemn feast of Christ the King, all of us have sung: 'The Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our King.' He will save us."

This is a powerful statement that truly indicates that, from the very beginning of this Pontificate, something special and wonderful would be happen-

ing. Then Cardinal Tisserant was instructed to ask – "Quomodo vis vocari?" (How do you wish to be called?)

When elected Pope, the Cardinal chooses a pontifical name.

Pope John then went into a very lengthy explanation of why he had chosen "John." It goes on for two pages.

Then – as we all know – began a short but very unique Pontificate that, I believe, changed our Church for the better.

The story is that after only five days Pope John began to talk of the idea of calling an ecumenical Council – the Second Vatican Council – the first in 90 years.

Those were exciting days for me as a young priest. It was also such a time of surprises. So, you never know, folks. The Holy Spirit may have some more surprises in store for us.

So, please join me as we pray to the Holy Spirit, first in gratitude for Pope Benedict XVI and then for a wise choice of Pope for the future. However, Holy Spirit keep us alert for your surprises.

FOLLOW ME

Promoting a culture of life in face of gun tragedies

When I first moved out of Mooers Forks and was stationed in Pensacola, I remember being shocked, and maybe just a little bit scared, when it seemed that every week there were murders taking place on the streets of my new home. Convenience stores seemed to be the preferred places where robberies and shootings occurred with regularity.

I grew up where we didn't lock the doors of our homes or our cars when we went to bed at night.

When I left home, it didn't take me long to learn that I "wasn't in Kansas anymore."

A few decades later, things have changed. In a couple of unrelated incidents, a few years ago, my tiny hometown came to know, first hand, the terrible effects of deadly violence. The lives of neighbors, family and friends with whom we grew up have been forever scarred by the violent death of loved ones.

Today, no one, no place, however remote, is immune from the violence human beings are inflicting on one another.



Bishop Terry R. LaValley

With deep horror and outrage we have seen the unspeakable massacres of little children and brave teachers in an elementary school in Connecticut and other tragic incidents that left innocent loved ones dead from a movie theater in Colorado, to a shopping mall parking lot in Tucson, to the college campus of Virginia Tech, to Columbine High School, to cite just a few.

As a community, state and as a nation we have all shared in the utter disbelief and profound grief at such horrific violence.

Particularly those of us who have grown up in the North Country appreciate, value, and insist upon our constitutional right to bear arms. (My oldest sister was more successful in the woods during hunting sea-

son than me. I remember that the only thing I got last time I went hunting was lost!)

We pray that our legislators seek God's wisdom and courage to find effective solutions to this complex and critical life issue

Our nation has a proud history of responsible gun ownership. However, while respecting our Constitutional rights, we need even greater vigilance to better protect our vulnerable children, indeed every person.

Clearly, we can and must debate and address the underlying issues that lead to such horror: violent movies and video games, mental illness, the breakdown of the family and inadequate school safety.

However, we would be seriously negligent not to look at the easy access to high-caliber, high-capacity weaponry that seems to be appropriate for military assaults, not personal use.

While I do not pretend to be a Constitutional lawyer

nor an expert on weaponry, my pastoral responsibilities dictate that I teach and promote a culture of life in the face of such tragedies.

There is no easy answer to the violence which has become common place in our culture of death.

However, if we are truly a pro-life people, we must do what we can to stop these horrific killings, just as we do all we can to save the baby in the womb or the elderly person threatened by euthanasia.

There are no sides to take in trying to find effective solutions to this urgent problem. We applaud all those lawmakers who work together, regardless of party

affiliation, in their efforts to assure that our liberties guaranteed by the Constitution are respected, while, at the same time, reaching an agreement that better ensures that those who suffer mental illness or who are at risk of criminal behavior do not have access to weapons of any kind.

We cannot become accustomed or resigned to the frequency of gun-related murders. You and I must continue to pray for those victimized by such senseless slaughter.

We pray that our legislators seek God's wisdom and courage to find effective solutions to this complex and critical life issue.

LENT, EASTER & DIVINE MERCY!!!

- NEW Bibles, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Medals, Year of Faith Items
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ST. MARY'S CAR RAFFLE




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

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

NAME _____
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 Telephone _____

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

NCC



Chrism Mass 2013
 All the Faithful of the Diocese of Ogdensburg are cordially invited to join
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg
 for the annual Renewal of Priestly Commitment, the Blessing of the Holy Oils, and the consecration of the Sacred Chrism for use in all the churches of the Diocese symbolizing that we are one family in Christ

on Thursday, March 21st at 11:00 a.m.
at St. Mary's Cathedral
in Ogdensburg, New York.

'A BLESSED DAY FOR THE CHURCH OF OGDENSBURG

RITE OF ELECTION

Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates held Feb. 24 at St. Mary's Cathedral



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Catechumens, who will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation during the Easter Vigil service in their parishes, are shown after signing the Book of the Elect. "Thank you for coming to our Cathedral Church this afternoon to be counted among the elect, joining us, your companions on this faith journey," Bishop LaValley told them. "Your presence here brings joy to all of us."



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop LaValley, who presided at the annual Rite of Election, greeted Kyle Aumell of St. Patrick's Church, Watertown; and his sponsor Ticia Marra. In his homily, the bishop told the catechumens and candidates, "With the guidance of your pastors, and the parish RCIA team and staff, please make these forty days of pilgrimage of faith a privileged time of personal encounter with the God who has loved you into existence."

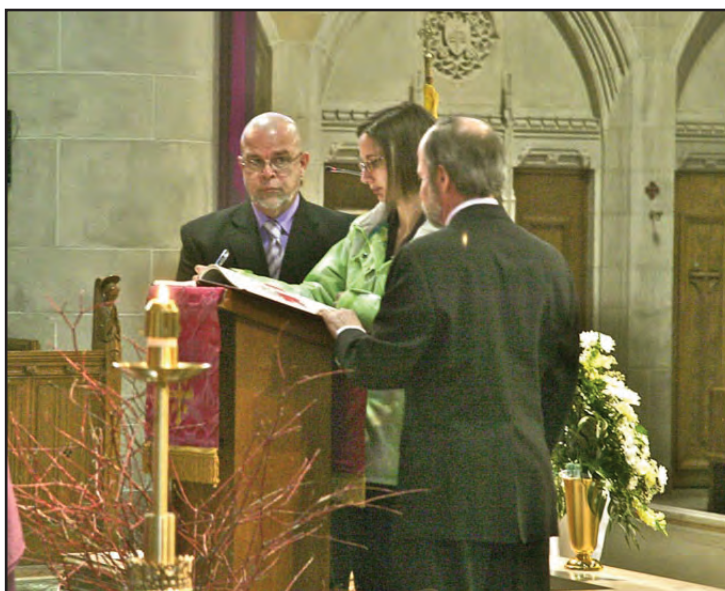


PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Alishia Whitman of the Malone Catholic Parishes signs the Book of the Elect as her sponsor, Brent Charland looks on. Michael Wagner, associate Christian Formation Director in Watertown, is at right.



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Pam Ballantine, associate director of Christian Formation in Plattsburgh, read from the scriptures during the ceremony.

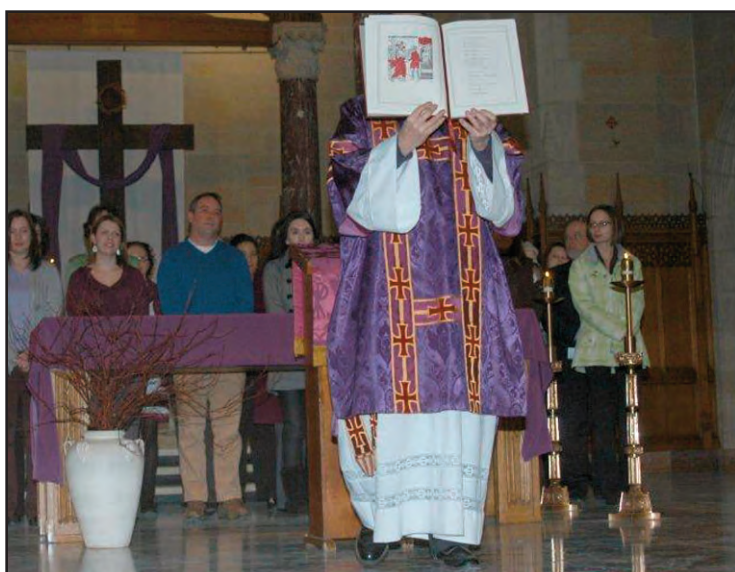


PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Deacon John White of St. Mary's Cathedral holds up the Book of Elect which had been signed by catechumens seen standing behind the altar



PHOTO BY ANN CHARLEBOIS

Bishop LaValley is shown with a group from St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga. From left are Michael Vice and Karissa Cook, candidates; Bishop LaValley, and Atonement Sister Carol Daul and Jean McKee, sponsors.

Why *you* should become a Knight

If you're interested in helping those in need, serving your parish, growing in your faith or having exclusive access to top-rated insurance protection for your family, then the Knights of Columbus is the organization for you.



Visit www.kofc.org/join and look for Knights of Columbus in parishes March 16 and 17



The Mission of Hope



PHOTOS SUPPLIED
Sam Politi s, one of 53 volunteers for the Feb. 18-26 North Country Mission of Hope trip to Nicaragua, speaks with some young elementary boys at San Luis School while a team was there to outfit a new kitchen for the school.



Dr. George Mitsoglou (r) selects a pair of glasses for one of the Mission guards, Chico, after an eye exam.



Master Gardener, Kathy Hall, instructs a young high school student on planting seedlings at Chiquilistagua Public School.

Volunteers 'touch one heart at a time'

By Shan Moore
Staff Writer

At one tiny home in Nicaragua, Sister Debbie Blow visited a girl battling tuberculosis; next door, three children had hepatitis.

"I'm having a very hard time today not to cry," the Dominican Sister of Hope said via cellphone from the Central American country on Feb. 25.

Those children - and others she met during the Feb. 18-26 mission that included a total 53 volunteers - "are just so wounded."

Since 1998, Blow has headed the humanitarian-aid organization that is headquartered at Seton Catholic Central School in Plattsburgh.

It doesn't get easier to witness the devastating poverty in the country adopted by the group after Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

While the mission's efforts bring aid to numerous schools, medical facilities,

orphanages and communities, the results can often seem but a drop in a bucket in the face of the never-ending need there.

"You can only touch one heart at a time, then one family, then one community ..." Sister Debbie reminds herself - and shares with missionaries veteran and new.

Being among the people

And as she attends vital meetings with government and church officials, with other aid organizations while on the ground in Nicaragua, she also knows she needs to find time to be among the people Mission of Home helps.

"I never want to lose touch with the people and ... with what we do," she said.

The people themselves see to that.

The girl with TB, Freidy, greeted Sister Debbie as an old friend, asking her 'How's Zach?'

Zachary Chase, who happens to be the nun's nephew and a past volunteer on mis-

sion, had given Freidy a yellow dress when she was just 3 - and she treasured the memory.

And before day's end, members of the group had given personal donations to help with the cost of medical treatment and nutrition drinks for Freidy and the three children with hepatitis.

Mission of Hope accomplished 95 percent of the projects planned for the February mission, Sister Debbie said, including putting on a health fair for hundreds.

February mission projects

The group helped build a dozen or so home shelters, the 10-by-10-foot three-sided structures of wood with tin roofs that bring a marked improvement in housing for poor families.

At a small school in the community of Granada, volunteers installed a kitchen so, when food is available, mothers of the students can cook them meals.

The mission turned an abandoned building into a

home for four Serviam Sisters whose poverty distressed the missionaries greatly.

"They have a mattress to sleep on, a working bathroom, a fan, a ceiling, a wall ..." Sister Debbie said.

"They are so happy."

The group had filled and sent three 40-foot shipping containers with medical equipment, supplies and other items to Nicaragua late last year, a massive undertaking in just three months.

Sharing donations

Much was distributed during the February trip.

Mary Bashaw, a parishioner of the Catholic Communities of Keeseville, was among the volunteers helping make sure those goods got where they needed to go and organizing the rest in the storage building at Mission of Hope's Nicaraguan compound, Ni-Casa.

"So after we leave, the clothing, medical kits and supplies can easily be found," she said in a phone

interview.

This was Bashaw's first mission, and her eyes were opened to poverty she had never before witnessed firsthand.

At Parajito Azul Disability Center, she asked how many of the 90 residents have family who visit them.

"Just four families come," she said. "Some of them are just left there."

She held and fed a little boy who'd been abandoned in a dumpster.

"He's two now," she said.

Brian Murray, a senior at Seton Catholic Central School, put in some time on the mission's last day taping two pencils each to notebooks for students at Nino Jesus de Praga and other schools assisted by the group.

"I think they're over 60 percent unemployed," he said of the country's population.

It meant a lot to him to see how students educated thanks to Mission of Hope sponsors were making the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Youth Rally 2013 is set

The 2013 Diocesan youth rally will be held April 27 at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh.

The theme for the day will be "Jesus - The Way, the Truth, and the Life."

The program is aimed young people in grades six through 12.

Chris Stefanick, director of Youth Outreach for YDisciple in Denver, will be the keynote speaker for the day.

Deacon Brian Dwyer, diocesan director of youth ministry calls Stefanick "one of the

most engaging young defenders of the Christian faith on the scene today."

The day will also include workshops, an interactive park, and Mass with Bishop LaValley.

Also, the winning video in the *Year of Faith* youth video contest will be announced and viewed. (Details of video contest will be announced in next week's *North Country Catholic*.)

Registration may be made through parish youth or catechetical leaders.

Bishop's Schedule

March 7 – 11a.m., Personnel Board Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg
6:30 p.m., IHC National Honor Society dinner in Watertown

March 8 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

March 9 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg
4 p.m., Lenten Parish Mission Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh

March 10 – 9:30 a.m., Plattsburgh Lenten Parish Mission at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh
11a.m., Plattsburgh Lenten Parish Mission at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

March 11 – 7p.m., Plattsburgh Lenten Parish Mission at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh

March 12 - 7p.m., Plattsburgh Lenten Parish Mission at St. John's Church in Plattsburgh

CORRECTION

The dates for **Family Guggenheim** were incorrect in the Feb. 27 issue of the *North Country Catholic*. The correct dates are: Session 1 August 15-18, Session 2 August 22-25, Session 3 Oct. 11-13.

Rest in Peace

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

March 6 – Rev. Louis F. Lussier, 1915; Rev. John G. Craven, 1921

March 7 – Rev. Alexander K. Klauder, 1934; Rev. Cornelius O'Mahoney, M.S.C., 1940

March 8 – Rev. William B. Nyhan, 1914; Rev. William J. Reilly, O.S.A., 1925

March 11 – Msgr. Edmund Charles M. J. DePauw, 1911

March 12 – Rev. Joseph L. Stickelmyer, 1984

Environmental Stewardship

WATER

"Water is a vital element essential to survival; thus, everyone has a right to it. Water is not an unlimited resource..." Pope John Paul II

- Give up bottled water this Lent. It wastes energy and resources to produce the 29 billion plastic water bottles we use annually; only 23% of them are recycled, and it takes over 700 yrs for plastic to decompose.
- Wait until the dishwasher is fully loaded before starting; skip the pre-rinse cycle.
- Take shorter showers. At 5 to 10 gallons per minute, a 10-minute shower can use as much as 100 gallons of water.

(Taken from www.lent45.org)

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 preregister 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.

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

March 13 - 6:30 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk

To Report Abuse

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

Mission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

most of those gifts.

A young man named Harvin, 17, was now at university, studying telecommunications. "We helped him become educated," he said.

And one day, Brian said, he hoped Harvin would return home to help others.

Alexis Guay, a senior at Chazy Central Rural School and parishioner at Sacred Heart in that town, saw how much the sponsors mean to the children, and not in respects to the financial help.

Jimmy Dumont of Chateaugay met the boy he'd been sponsoring, she said.

"You should have seen (the boy's) face when he saw his sponsor," she said. "Jimmy was the first one to make him smile.

It was so touching, she said.

First-time missionaries often find themselves experienc-

ing what the group has come to call "mission moments," when they suddenly come to understand in some way the vast chasm between American life and that of existence in a third-world country.

Mission moments

In doing so, there's a shift in perspective to a more global awareness.

Alexis had shed tears one night because she missed her family but then played with youngsters at an orphanage who exuded joy over the attention and small gifts like chewing gum.

"And these children don't even have parents," she said, feeling guilty for her sadness over not seeing her family for a few days more.

The challenge is to be able to process that and the many other sad situations the volunteers see in Nicaragua, and

Alexis did that with the help of a more veteran missionary.

"I was told these kids have a place to be, are well taken care of," she said. "At least they are safe.

"Definitely talking about things with other people who experienced them before made me look at things differently," she added.

As the group began its mission, Sister Debbie encouraged them to leave as light an environmental footprint on the country as possible; before they left, she asked them to "share what footprint that has been left on their hearts and what footprint they have left on hearts here.

"Your mission here this time around comes to a close," she planned to tell the volunteers.

"But your mission of hope continues."

Listening Sessions for *Mutually Shared Vision*

Catholics from across the diocese are encouraged to participate in one of these listening sessions as part of the diocesan envisioning process to discern priorities and goals for the Church in the North Country

DATE	LOCATION	AUDIENCE (deanery)
1 Tue, May 14, 2013	2pm at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg	Chancery Staff
2 TBD (May 20-23)	Time TBD in Alexandria Bay, NY	Presbyterate
3 Wed, May 29, 2013	at 6:30 pm in Saranac Lake	Permanent Deacons/Wives
4 Thu, May 30, 2013	6:30pm at Immaculate Heart Central, Watertown	Jefferson
5 Wed, June 5, 2013	6:30pm in Lowville	Lewis
6 Thu, June 6, 2013	6:30 pm at St. Mary's School, Canton	St. Lawrence
7 Tue, June 18, 2013	6:30pm either in Port Henry or Ticonderoga	Essex & Hamilton/Herkimer
8 Wed, June 19, 2013	6:30pm in Plattsburgh	Clinton
9 Tue, June 25, 2013	6:30 pm at Holy Family School in Malone	Franklin & Adirondack

'Viva il papa'

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, ITALY (CNS) - Benedict XVI, who began his papacy describing himself as a "humble servant in the Lord's vineyard," described his retirement as a time of being a "simple pilgrim, who begins the last stage of his pilgrimage on this earth."

Crowd in Castel Gandolfo welcomes Pope Benedict XVI as he ends his pontificate

The 85-year-old pope arrived in Castel Gandolfo Feb. 28 about two-and-a-half hours before the end of his pontificate.

He planned to spend about two months at the papal villa south of Rome before moving into a former monastery in the Vatican Gardens.

The pope arrived in a helicopter from the Vatican and rode by car through the fields and formal gardens of

the papal villa before reaching the residence.

Hours before he arrived, townspeople, pilgrims and visitors began filling the main square outside the papal residence. As they waited for the pope, they prayed the rosary.

As soon as he entered the residence, the pope went upstairs and, standing on the balcony overlooking the main square, he greeted the crowd.

"Dear friends, I am happy to be with you, surrounded by the beauty of creation and by your friendship, which does me such good," he told them.

"You know that for me, today is different than the days that have gone before. You know that I am no longer supreme pontiff of the Catholic Church -- until 8 o'clock I will be, but not after that."

"I am a simple pilgrim who begins the last stage of his pilgrimage on this earth," he told them. "But with all my



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI greets a crowd gathered for his arrival in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Feb. 28. It was his final public appearance before he drew to a close his papacy. "I am a simple pilgrim who begins the last stage of his pilgrimage on this earth," he said.

heart, with all my love, with my prayers, with my reflection, with all my interior strength, I still want to work

for the common good and the good of the church and humanity," he told them.

Pope Benedict thanked the people for their support and asked them to continue to pray and work for the good of the church, too.

"With all my heart, I impart my blessing," he told them, before giving a simple blessing, in Italian, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Enzo Romagnoli, who runs a deli near the papal villa, told Catholic News Service he was born during the pontificate of Pius XI. "Since then, I've seen all the popes here."

"It both sad and beautiful" to have Pope Benedict in town as he retires, he said. "But we are honored to have him here."

Romagnoli said when he travels and people ask him where he's from, he responds "Castel Gandolfo," and everyone knows where that is, which is an honor for such a small town.

Even half an hour after the

pope had gone inside, a man dressed in a suit stood near the entrance to the villa with a sign, "Dear Pope, we are with you and we will miss you."

Mauro Giovannucci, who runs a butcher shop in the main square, told CNS: "This is a unique event, a new experience of enthusiasm and joy. When the pope is here, even the air is more pleasant."

He prayed that God would help Pope Benedict; "We all love him."

As the pope arrived, two Swiss Guards stood at the main doors of the residence and two more stood just inside. Just after 8 p.m., when Pope Benedict's papacy officially ended, they moved inside; the guard carrying the medieval halberd hung the weapon, and they closed the doors to the papal villa.

As the massive doors swung shut, people in the square shouted, "Viva il papa" ("Long live the pope") and began applauding.

And Pope Benedict begins his emeritus life...

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- After Pope Benedict XVI officially became pope emeritus, he ate dinner, watched the television news and strolled through the lake-view rooms of the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said he spoke March 1 with Archbishop Georg Ganswein, the retired pope's secretary, who said the mood in the villa after the pontificate ended was "relaxed" and his boss slept well.

After watching two news programs, Pope Benedict expressed his gratitude to the media, because he said the

coverage of his last day as pope helped people participate in the event, Father Lombardi said.

The papal secretary said Pope Benedict celebrated Mass at 7 a.m. March 1 as normal, read his breviary, had breakfast and then began reading more of the messages he had received in the last days of his pontificate. He expected to stroll through the villa gardens, praying his rosary, in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, back at the Vatican, officials from the College of Cardinals had a series of tasks to perform at the beginning of the "sede vacante," the period when there is no pope.

The most symbolic tasks were carried out by Cardinal

Tarcisio Bertone, the camerlengo or chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, and his assistants. During the sede vacante, the chamberlain is charged with administering and safeguarding the temporal goods of the church.

Gathered with others in the offices of the "apostolic chamber," Cardinal Bertone asked the time. At 8 p.m. exactly he was handed a "ferula," a red velvet-covered scepter, as a sign of his authority.

The cardinal led the staff in a brief prayer to God: "Give your church a pope acceptable to you."

Carrying the ferula, he and his aides went into the private papal apartments. They made sure the door to the small private elevator was

locked, then stretched tape across the elevator door and stamped it with seals.

Withdrawing from the apartment, they dead-bolted the main door with a large key, then strung a red ribbon through the handles. An aide, using a glue gun, sealed the ribbon's knot.

The next day, Archbishop Pier Luigi Celata, vice chamberlain, went to the seldom-used papal apartments at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the pope's cathedral, and sealed those as well, Father Lombardi said.

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, wrote almost immediately after 8 p.m. to Vatican nuncios and other diplomatic representatives around the world, officially

informing them of the sede vacante.

In one of his first acts as dean March 1, Cardinal Sodano wrote to each of the world's 207 cardinals - including those over age 80 and ineligible to vote in a conclave -- notifying them of "the vacancy of the Apostolic See because of the renunciation presented on the part of Pope Benedict XVI."

He also asked them to come to the Vatican to begin the pre-conclave meetings, known as general congregations, March 4 at 9:30 a.m.

The general congregations will continue until all the cardinal-electors are present in Rome, "and then the College of Cardinals will decide the date to enter into conclave" to elect a pope, he said.

In honor of a holy, courageous man

Homily for Mass for Pope Benedict XVI on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter Feb. 22

By Bishop Terry R. LaValley

I remember when Bishop Barbarito returned to Ogdensburg the day before his successor, Bishop Cunningham, was to be installed as our thirteenth bishop. We were sitting at the dining room table over in the rectory when Bishop Barbarito asked if it was ok (as only Bishop Barbarito would seek permission) if we'd unlock the cathedral so that he could come over and sit one last time, on his cathedra, his bishop's chair, before his successor would claim it as his own.

I thought it appropriate on this Feast Day, that I preside here at our cathedral, as I always do, from my chair, at this special diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI who has occupied that Chair in Rome for the last eight years and who will retire as the Bishop of Rome and Successor of St. Peter

It was really a poignant moment for Bishop Barbarito. The Bishop's chair, seat, throne, cathedra is a rich symbol of the sacred responsibility that a bishop has to teach his people the Catholic faith in the line of the apostles.

As you know, normally, there is only one cathedral in a diocese. There is only one diocesan bishop - the shepherd who teaches his people with the authority of the apostles from his cathedra. Most often you will see the pervading theme or focus of the bishop's teaching in his episcopal motto stated at the bottom of his coat of arms - mounted over his cathedra, much like mine located here over my head.

Each year, on February 22nd, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. Now, the Church isn't focusing here on a piece of furniture, however ornate or simple, but on the Apostle Peter, the first leader of the Universal Church.

I thought it appropriate on this Feast Day, that I preside here at our cathedral, as I always do, from my chair, at this special diocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for Pope Benedict XVI who has occupied that Chair in Rome for the last eight years and who will retire as the Bishop of Rome and Successor of St. Peter next Thursday.

With this decision, this holy, courageous, deeply humble and master teacher has set the



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley delivered his homily from the bishop's chair - the cathedra - in St. Mary's Cathedral in recognition of the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. Bishop LaValley celebrated the Mass for the intentions of Pope Benedict a week before he stepped down as pontiff.

stage for you and me to truly engage in the New Evangelization, a sacred time of renewal and hope in Church life.

When he proclaimed this *Year of Faith*, the Holy Father urged all of us to take a close look at our personal relationship with Jesus Christ; to learn more about what we believe with special attention to the Creed and to the teachings of Vatican II; to celebrate the Sacraments with renewed devotion; and to pay closer attention to the needs of sisters and brothers around us.

After much deep prayer and searching of his conscience, the Holy Father determined that it

was time for him to make way for a new successor of Peter the Apostle, handing the baton, or keys, if you will, over to a person selected by the Cardinals of the Church under the inspiration of God's Spirit, to teach us, in the tradition of the Apostles, and to lead and encourage us with hope-filled joy to proclaim and to give genuine witness as disciples of Jesus Christ.

With this decision, this holy, courageous, deeply humble and master teacher has set the stage for you and me to truly engage in the New Evangelization, a sacred time of renewal and hope in Church life

Because Pope Benedict XVI firmly believes that the Church belongs to Christ, not to any one man or woman, not even a Pope, he determined that he did not have the personal stamina to lead with the vigor and energy that the leader of 1.2 billion Catholics demands at this time in human history.

As you know, I personally, have great respect and affection for the man who appointed me shepherd of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. In fact, tomorrow is the third anniversary of that announcement here in Ogdensburg.

In my last extensive conversation with him - I suppose I should say in my only extensive conversation with him - on Thanksgiving back in 2011 (when he gave me this Pectoral Cross that I'm wearing today), the Pope challenged me to build up and strengthen the families of our beloved North Country.

By his decision to retire as our Pope next Thursday, he hopes to build up and further strengthen our family of faith, the Church Universal which he has so ably lead these last eight years as our Pope.

Upon his retirement, his life of prayer and reflection will be a tremendous gift to the Church.

Each of us will be greatly blessed if we spend time reading his profound writings. They are easy to read, at least much easier to read than other Church documents, inspirational testaments of his love for Jesus and of His Body, the Church.

Let us honor Pope Benedict XVI with continued prayers for him and, indeed, for the whole Church at this historic moment in the life of the Catholic Church, indeed, of the whole world.

May God be praised...forever may God be praised!

Servant of the servants

By Father Joseph Giroux
Pastor, Malone Catholic Parishes

During my studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical North American College (the United States' Catholic seminary in Rome), I had the unique privilege of being ordained a deacon with thirty of my classmates at Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on October 7, 1999.

The ordaining Bishop went by a different name back then: Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

Even before his 2005 election to the papacy, it was pretty intimidating that this man was the one before whom I first made my promise of obedience, given his previous role as the Church's "grand inquisitor." I'll never forget the moment in the rite when he turned to the seminary rector (then Msgr. Timothy Dolan, now the Cardinal Archbishop of New York) and asked in his German accent, "Do you judge them to be worthy?"

Even though his manner was so genuine and gentle, the question still had us all

shaking in our boots!

The future Pope's homily at the ordination was (not surprisingly) quite powerful, and still provides me with much food for thought today.

"We understand authority and service in the Church only in the light of the mystery of the incarnation and the Cross," then-Cardinal Ratzinger said. "If we truly wish to be followers of the Lord and his ministers in the Church, we must seek to imitate his example of service, his example of self-emptying."

"We must want to imitate the one who came not to be served but to serve, the Incarnate Lord who in the silence of Nazareth lived and worked as a humble carpenter, who at the Last Supper knelt as a servant before his disciples to wash their feet, and who dies on the Cross condemned as a criminal," he told us. "And that is why the credibility of the Church's ministers - that which makes them truly convincing to others especially in today's world - is found above all in the radi-

ance of their desire to take the lowest place, to truly follow in the footsteps of Christ."

Those were powerful words, indeed, from one who would later (unbeknownst to either him or me) bear the papal title of "the Servant of the Servants of God."

And what a credible witness to such self-emptying humility His Holiness Benedict XVI, now the Church's Pope-Emeritus, has given the world in the final days of his pontificate.

I remember well the excitement I felt on April 19, 2005, when on the TV screen I saw a familiar face emerge out onto the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica - a face I had seen up close inside that same majestic church only few years before.

Now, along with fellow Catholics the world over, I anxiously await the news of the election of the 266th Bishop of Rome...knowing the chances are really rather slim that I'll have such a personal connection with our next Pope, too.



Father Joseph Giroux, now pastor of the Malone Catholic Parishes, was ordained a transitional deacon by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger Oct. 7, 1999, five years before the cardinal was elected pope.

A 'saintly, scholarly, and utterly paternal' pope

By Suzanne Pietropaoli
Staff writer

It seems only yesterday that I prayed, tearfully, in front of the Tabernacle as Pope John Paul II endured his final agony.

Of all the things I grieved for that day, on one point I was proved utterly mistaken: who, I wondered then, could possibly take the place of the beloved Polish Pontiff whose charisma had charmed the entire world—and whose holiness was so real that he was beatified a few scant years after his death?

God answered that question with the rapid election of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger as Pope Benedict the XVI, whose historic resignation becomes effective

as I write these words. Once again, the deep sense of loss mingles with concern for the future; once again there is awe, and gratitude for having had such a Holy Father—saintly, scholarly, and utterly paternal.

Once again I find myself pondering my attachment to a man I have never met.

A few months ago, I was privileged to join the crowd in St. Peter's Square gathered for the Sunday Angelus: Pope Benedict was a distant tiny figure in the window of his Vatican apartments - but his voice was sure and surprisingly strong as he led the huge crowd in prayer and then offered thoughtful greetings in six different languages.

As I listened to his English greeting, empathizing over the Newtown, Conn.,

tragedy of a few days earlier, the word "universal" came to mind: not only was this octogenarian responsible for a billion Catholics, he chose to know the sufferings of all—and to be present to them in prayer and in love.

This was a father who suffered with his children, and who offered them the consolation of their Father's love.

Clearly this is nothing unusual for the man who wrote that, "The Chair [of Peter] represents [the pope's] mission as guide of the entire People of God. Celebrating the "Chair" of Peter means attributing a strong spiritual significance to it and recognizing it as a privileged sign of the love of God."

I remember the joy of

reading Benedict's first encyclical, DEUS CARITAS EST, with my husband and some of our adult children.

In it, this scholar and author of 65 books writes clearly and beautifully "of the love which God lavishes upon us and which in turn we must share with others."

There is nothing dry or detached in his approach to his subject. "Love grows through love," he points out as he describes the importance of constant contact with the God who has first loved us.

"Love is divine because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a 'we' which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is all in all," he wrote.

When later our family

read SPE SALVI, we found to our delight that it was equally accessible; in fact, there was something particularly powerful in Benedict's choice to focus attention on the theological virtues.

Who could not be moved by a Pontiff who urges us toward that "encounter with God, who in Christ has shown us his face and opened his heart for us?"

Himself singularly rich in faith, in hope, and in love, Pope Benedict understood that, "Evil, too, will always be part of the mystery of the Church."

Amid the storms of abuse scandals that confronted the Church during his papacy, Pope Benedict's wise and fatherly response touched my husband and me in a very personal way.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

22 minutes

By Father Bryan Stitt
Diocesan Vocation Director

Shortly after the shocking announcement of Pope Benedict's abdication, people started noticing all the signs that he had given us that this day would eventually come.

Three signs that come readily to mind:

1) Work on the old monastery in the Vatican which will serve as Benedict's retirement home has been going on for months.

2) The Holy Father made not one but two visits to the tomb of Pope Celestine V - the last pope to freely abdicate the See of Peter back in 1294.

3) In his book length interview with Peter Seewald in 2010, Benedict said: "If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right and, under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign."

It's hard to imagine it getting more clear signs than these. However the following is another sign, albeit more subtle, that this day would come. Pope2008.com tells of Joseph Ratzinger/Benedict XVI's great love of timing.

The Associated Press gave details of the Pope's early arrival at the United Nations headquarters [in 2008]:

"Germans, by tradition, put great importance on punctuality. Delays of even a few minutes for work or social engagements are considered impolite, especially among Germans of Benedict's generation—though early arrivals are also considered poor etiquette. But the Pope's travels were not in

his hands. ..." Planned arrival time: 10:45. Actual arrival time: 10:23. Difference: 22 minutes. The word got to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim and their wives. They rushed to the curb to greet the Pope. Even Ban, who has met the Pope before, was excited by the papal visit. "Great day! Greatest day!" he is quoted saying.

The Pope signed the guest book in Latin. His message: "The effect of justice will be peace." "Still well ahead of schedule, Ban and Benedict headed to the General Assembly, where the diplomats rose and applauded as he entered the horseshoe-shaped hall."

Then came the ceremonials and remarks. Then the departure. Planned departure time: 1:45 p.m. Actual departure time: 1:23. Difference: 22 minutes.

It would seem that, once in the building, with more control over his own movements, the punctual Pope kept to his planned schedule precisely.

His "inner clock" has all the precision of the fancy Junghans wristwatch which was left to him when his sister died. But it is my firm belief that there is also a profound spiritual dimension to His Holiness' "internal clock".

As it says in Ecclesiastes, "there is a time for every affair under the heavens." Pope Benedict discerned not only when the Lord called him to enter the essential ministry of the papacy, but also when to exit it. He believes that the Spirit is intimately involved in the day to day running of his life. May each of us be so open to the promptings of the Spirit. And may we strive to be as "timely" in discerning the Eternal Truths.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL



PHOTO BY THERESE MOEN O'GRADY

More than two dozen young people from the Diocese of Ogdensburg enjoyed a unique encounter with Pope Benedict XVI during the 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain. Above, he arrives in his popemobile in Plaza de Cibeles Square in Madrid.

Saintly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Our oldest son, now a priest, entered the Legionaries of Christ in 2000. The order was not one we would have chosen for him, and we struggled with the unbearably strict separation that it imposed upon our family.

When the scandalous double life of the order's founder was made public, it seemed to confirm all our long-standing negative impressions—and we of course wondered what would come next. Our rare visits with our son were a bit soured as we sought answers he did not have.

Pope Benedict moved quickly to conduct an apostolic visitation, and appointed a Papal Delegate to assist in the necessary reforms.

Obviously this was a step in the right direction, but the struggle to make sense of it all continued.

It was not until our son directed us to BENEDICT XVI: LIGHT OF THE WORLD that light began to dawn for us.

How consoling to read that even the Pope was baffled by the contrast between the "twisted life" of the founder and the "dynamism and strength...of the Legionaries"!

He noted that, "by and large the congregation is sound." He remarked on the spirit and enthusiasm of its young members while promising them the guidance necessary in their service to the Church.

He noted the "remarkable paradox that a false prophet could still have a positive effect."

Our Holy Father's wise words helped to calm our fears and heal our hearts; we have been blessed to see with our own eyes some of the fruits of his paternal care for the Legionaries of Christ - and we are enormously grateful.

Yes, it is still a bit sad that Benedict XVI is no longer our Pope. But how consoling that his fatherly love does not end today!

"I feel that I carry every-

one in prayer in a present that is God's," he said in his final General Audience. "... In the service of prayer I remain, so to speak, within St. Peter's bounds."



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Pope came to NYC with message of hope

By Sister Ellen Donahue, SA
Episcopal delegate for religious

As Episcopal Delegate for the 19 religious communities living and ministering in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, I was invited by Bishop Cunningham to attend the Liturgy at St. Patrick's Cathedral on April 19, 2008, celebrated by our Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI.

Reflections on the pope's visit to New York City in April 2008

It was a great honor for me and I thank Bishop Cunningham for this privilege.

On April 19 at 8:30 am, St. Patrick's Cathedral was filled to capacity with bishops, priests, deacons and religious waiting in anticipation for the doors to open and the one who represents the unity of our consecrated life in Christ to begin his walk among us down the middle aisle to the main altar to celebrate the Eucharist which makes of the many one.

The doors burst open and a radiant Pope Benedict bathed in sunlight entered what seemed a dark edifice before his entrance.

Cardinal Egan, Mayor Bloomberg and Senator Schumer entered behind him to a roar of street applause from the 5000 people who had waited in the streets for hours to catch a glimpse of the Pope.

Many of the faithful were in the crowd but also many people for whom the pope was not their denominational spiritual leader had



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI

Pope Benedict XVI elevates the chalice during an April 19, 2008 Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, episcopal delegate for religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, was present for the Mass and writes about the experience here.

gathered to see a world recognized leader who was bringing a message of hope.

From the time the pope entered until the doors closed behind him, Pope Benedict exhibited a presence of light and hope.

He was addressing 3000 bishops, priests, deacons and members of religious congregations from 195 dioceses and archdioceses in the U.S. These religious have seen large diminishment of members, the reality of aging members who remain in religious congregations, the lack of vocations in the present American culture and the shadow of the sexual abuse in the church.

In the midst of all these realities Pope Benedict

brought the message "the hope that never disappoints you is Jesus Christ".

"This is the message of hope we are called to proclaim and embody in a world where self-centeredness, greed, violence and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people's hearts," he said.

In his homily, the pope described St. Patrick's Cathedral, its windows and architecture, as symbols of the Church in relation to the world.

He underlined the darkness of the stained glass windows that appear from the outside to be dark and heavy but from the inside reflect the light passing through the edifice.

He compared it to the church when one enters it, one can "see the Church as she truly is: flooded with grace, resplendent in beauty, adorned by the manifold gifts of the Spirit."

God has graced this 81-year-old leader with the youth of His eternal grace. He is unafraid of proclaiming the mandate to "Choose Life".

"Perhaps we have lost

sight of this: in a society where the Church seems legalistic and 'institutional' to many people, our most urgent challenge is to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God's love," he said.

The pope did not forget the need to invite more members to follow the personal call they may have to generously discover the beauty of a life given completely to the Lord and the Church.

He addressed an invitation "to the seminarians and young religious present to be generous in responding to the call to carry on, with all the enthusiasm and joy that the Spirit has given you, a work that others have begun, a legacy that one day you too will have to pass on to a new generation."

"The example of the saints invites us, then, to consider four essential aspects of the increase of our faith: personal prayer and silence, liturgical prayer, charity in action, and vocation," Pope Benedict said. "What matters most is that you develop your personal relationship with God".

"Have we perhaps lost

something of the art of listening? Do you leave space to hear God's whisper, calling you forth in goodness?"

"Dear young people, finally I wish to share a word about vocations," he said. "First of all my thoughts go to your parents, grandparents and godparents. They have been your primary educators in the faith. By presenting you for baptism, they made it possible for you to receive the greatest gift of your life.

"On that day you entered into the holiness of God himself," he said. "You became adoptive sons and daughters of the Father. You were incorporated into Christ. You were made a dwelling place of his Spirit.

"Let us pray for mothers and fathers throughout the world, particularly those who may be struggling in any way-socially, materially, spiritually," the pope said. "Let us honor the vocation of matrimony and the dignity of family life. Let us always appreciate that it is in families that vocations are given life."

Pope Benedict embraced his religious family by walking down the middle aisle and circling all within the church by returning up the side aisle to a thunderous applause.

The young seminarians chanted "Benedicto" as he passed by their waving hands and prepared to return back to the streets.

There he faced the throngs now swelled beyond 5000 as he rode in his popemobile up Fifth Avenue from 50th Street to 72nd Street headed to a youth rally of 25,000 in Yonkers.

Leaving St. Patrick's Cathedral, we couldn't help but recall the Pope's words, "The spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral are dwarfed by the skyscrapers of the Manhattan skyline, yet in the heart of this busy metropolis, they are a vivid reminder of the constant yearning of the human spirit to rise to God."

Our prayer and gratitude go with you Pope Benedict.

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VATICAN LETTER

Between popes, a time of speculation and suspense

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The period immediately following a pontificate is one of excited speculation, more or less loose, about the identity of the next pope.

Though secrecy rules do not forbid cardinals from naming their preferences, custom and prudence effectively do. In any case, as history shows, once the electors get behind locked doors, their deliberations take on a dynamic impossible to forecast or affect from outside.

Such uncertainty makes a journalist's job hard in one sense and easy in another, since practically any outcome is at least marginally plausible. That is especially the case this time, in the wake of an event - Pope Benedict XVI's resignation - which a few weeks ago most observers would have dismissed as far-fetched.

Some conjecture about "papabili" is disinterested; much reflects a desire to provoke or entertain; and a fair amount is clearly wishful thinking. And then there are those who use the press to influence the cardinals, who read newspapers like everyone else and, in most cases, know little about each other as they arrive in Rome.

For members of the church, the interregnum is inevitably a time of suspense and even anxiety. A fear that the conclave might not choose the right man does not necessarily reflect a lack of faith.

In 1997, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger told an interviewer that the Holy Spirit does not "dictate the candidate for whom one must vote."

"Probably the only assurance he offers is that the thing cannot be totally ruined," the future Pope Benedict said. "There are too many contrary instances of popes the Holy Spirit obviously would not have picked."

The almost unprecedented way in which Pope Benedict brought his own pontificate to an end has increased apprehension among some. In Italy and elsewhere, observers have suggested that his resignation was precipitated by the Vatican's internal problems -- if not the rumored wars among bureaucratic factions, then the corruption

and mismanagement sensationally documented in the 2012 "VatiLeaks" of confidential correspondence. In this view, the former pope is not the only one who needs replacing.

Even if Pope Benedict had not left behind a Vatican surrounded by such controversies, his way of leaving was bound to create disquiet.

"One pope dies, you make another," runs an Italian proverb, with the reassuring message that life goes on. But this time, the fact that life goes on makes things more complicated. The historic anomaly of a living former pope presents no theological or canonical difficulties for the church, but it will require an emotional adjustment from many of the faithful.

Pope Benedict has recognized that his resignation is unlike that of any other leader departing the scene. In the last two days of his pontificate, he pledged obedience to his successor and noted that he was leaving the "active exercise of the (Petrine) ministry." He also said he was "not returning to private life" but would belong "always and totally to everyone, to the whole church" and "remain, so to speak, within St. Peter's precincts." Many will find these assurances both consoling and mysterious.

Catholics, whose ecclesiology calls for a pope to help preserve their unity, are in a sense orphans during a papal interregnum. And this time they have had no cathartic process of mourning and burial to help purify the complex emotions children feel upon losing a parent.

The Vatican has not said whether Pope Benedict, despite his promise to remain "hidden" in retirement, will take part in his successor's Mass of installation. Were he to do so, it might add a new dimension to that liturgy -- a symbolic passing of the keys -- which might make the papal transition feel more complete.

Otherwise, until Pope Benedict's funeral Mass -- which one assumes the next pope will celebrate, in yet another dramatic innovation of papal tradition -- the closest thing to ritual closure of the last pontificate will remain a moment shortly after 8 p.m. Feb. 28, when Swiss Guards at Castel Gandolfo slowly shut a pair of massive wood doors.

Pope Benedict: I am not abandoning the church

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In one of his last public appearances, Pope Benedict XVI told an overflow crowd in St. Peter's Square Feb. 24 that his upcoming retirement does not mean he is abandoning the church, but that he will be serving it in a new way, through prayer and meditation.

At noon, the pope appeared at his window in the Apostolic Palace to pray the Angelus, a papal Sunday ritual that will not be repeated until after the election of a new pope.

Despite the blustery weather, turnout was several times the usual for such occasions -- easily more than 150,000, with some estimates as high as a quarter of a million. The crowd filled the square, except where prevented by barricades, and spilled out into the Via della Conciliazione.

Many groups held signs expressing gratitude and affection -- "You are not alone," one read -- and national flags from countries as far away as Brazil.

Benedict was the "the rock: solid, strong and unwavering and yet kind and compassionate and loving at the same time," said Baltazar Aguirre of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Daly City, Calif. He and his two sisters took time off from work to come to Rome for the pope's last week as the

head of the universal church.

"Prayer doesn't mean isolating one's self from the world and its contradictions," the pope said, in his commentary on the day's Gospel reading (Lk 9:28-36). "Prayer leads one back to the path, to action."

"Christian existence," he said, "consists in a continuous climbing of the mountain for an encounter with God, in order to descend again bearing the love and strength derived from it, so as to serve our brothers and sisters with the same love of God."

If the relevance to his Feb. 28 resignation was not already clear, the pope made the connection explicit:

"I feel that this word of God is directed in particular to me, in this moment of my life. The Lord calls me to 'climb the mountain,' to dedicate myself even more to prayer and meditation. But this does not mean abandoning the church; on the contrary, if God asks this of me it is precisely so that I may continue to serve (the church) with the same dedication and the same love with which I have done so till now, but in a way more suited to my age and strength."

Speaking these words, Pope Benedict was interrupted twice by applause, and afterward received an ovation 30 seconds long. He smiled broadly, thanked the crowd, and added, "Let us thank God for the bit of sun he has granted us."

In next week's NCC

Annual diocesan Report of Special Funds released by the diocesan fiscal office



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Three US cardinals discuss papal candidates, process of choosing the next pope

ROME (CNS)— After Pope Benedict XVI left the Vatican and began the last hours of his papacy, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago told reporters he already was considering the qualities of certain cardinals and what kinds of pope they would make.

"I would imagine each of us has some kind of a list of primary candidates and other secondary and tertiary," the cardinal told reporters in Rome Feb. 28 as he and fellow U.S. Cardinals Sean P. O'Malley of Boston and Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston met the press.

Because Pope Benedict had announced his intention to resign Feb. 11, Cardinal George said, the cardinals already had begun thinking of individuals they consider good candidates.

"There's a likely list at this point --it isn't winnowed yet - of people who might be considered candidates," he said.

In addition to the general meetings of the cardinals where the needs of the church are discussed, Cardinal George - who participated in the 2005 conclave that elected Pope Benedict -- said there are "smaller, more intimate conversations" where the cardinals ask each other about specific cardinals they know or want to know more about.

He said they ask questions like, "What do you know about this candidate? And could you tell me how he would react to this? And



CNS PHOTO/CHRIS WARDE-JONES

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston talks with members of the media at the Pontifical North American College in Rome Feb. 28, following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

what sort of person is he, what's his personality?"

Cardinal George said the cardinals being named possible candidates in the news - "all of them that I've seen, unlike last time - are, in fact, good candidates."

Asked whether Pope Benedict's resignation at 85 would cause the cardinals to look for younger, healthier popes than they may have in the past, Cardinal O'Malley said, "I think it's a little early to say what the long-term effect is going to be."

He said the conclave could elect "an older man, realizing that he's not going to have to carry on this burden into his

90s" because it would be easier to resign now that Pope Benedict has.

"Certainly, it's a whole new ballgame after this resignation," the Boston cardinal said.

The papacy is "an extremely demanding job," he said, so it also "could result in the conclave choosing a younger man."

Cardinal DiNardo said the cardinals are just coming to grips with the idea that a pope actually could resign, even though it always has been a possibility according to canon law.

At the same time, he said, the cardinals are not in the kind of rush news outlets are in and "it worries me intensely that people are making all kinds of judgments already when we're really only at the beginning of this. I think we need to be patient. The church is patient."

Cardinal George said the question on his mind and probably the minds of most other cardinal-electors is who would be best suited for the papacy.

"The question of where he might be from or even his age follows after that, it's secondary, not determinative," he said.

As for how Pope Benedict's resignation might change people's understanding of the papacy, Cardinal George said it is too early to know.

In a family, the father is still the father even when he is old or ailing, he said.

"Function doesn't count in a family, relationships do," he said. "And the church is a family, the family of God."

Whether a person can function in the office of pope "now becomes a more important question than it was before," he said, although it remains to be seen if that question will have a lasting impact on people's understanding of the papacy.

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Cardinals' Catch-22: eager for conclave, but need time to choose well

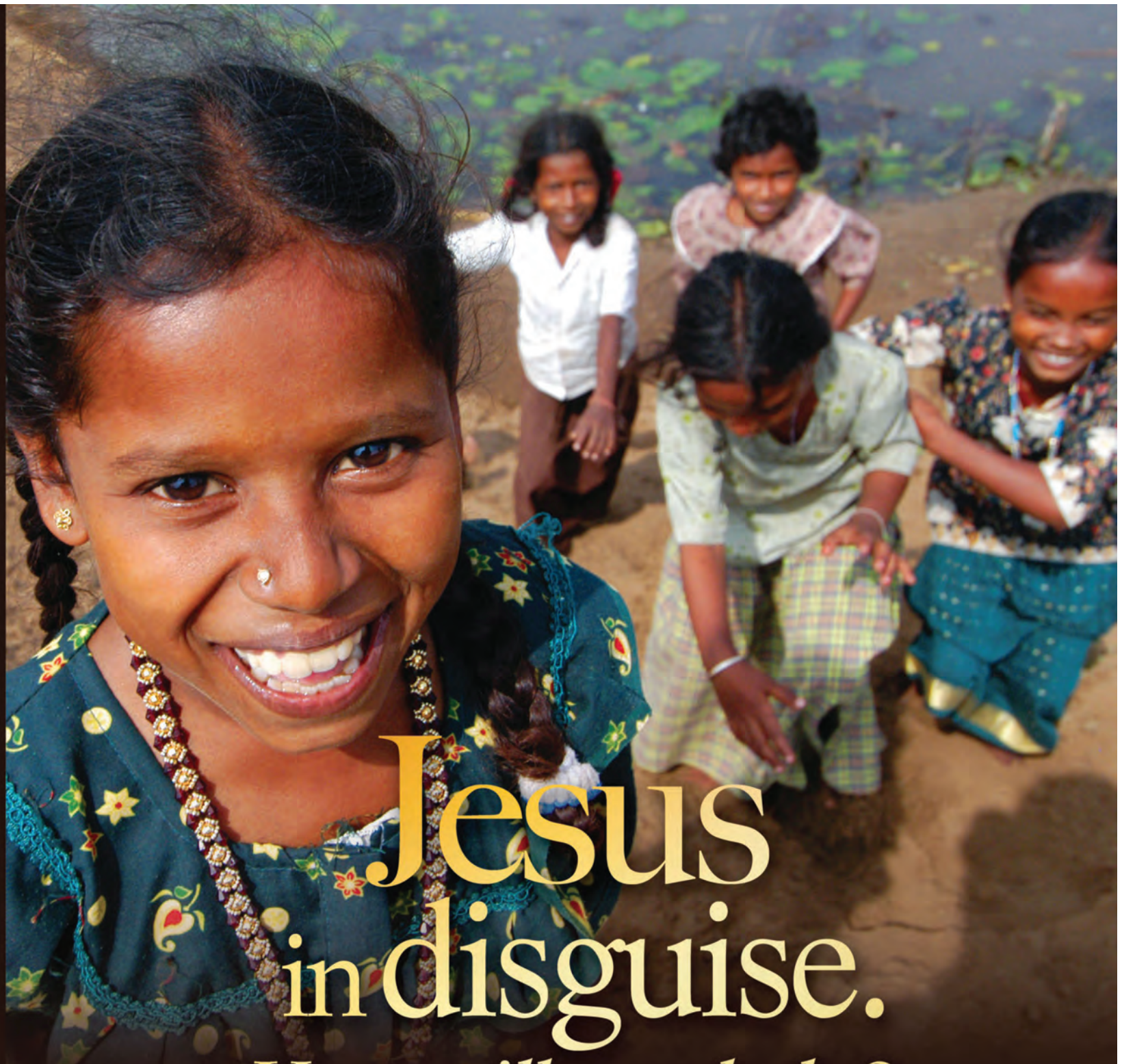
VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Cardinal-electors are caught in a Catch-22. They are eager to give the world a new pope; however, they need time to pick the right leader, said South Africa's cardinal. "There might be a need for a long delay" as the cardinals try to gauge how much they do or don't know enough about each other, Cardinal Wilfrid Napier told Catholic News Service March 1, the first day of the "sede vacante." No church leader wants to be away from his diocese for too long, he said, and no one wants to miss Easter, March 31. "Yet no cardinal, on the other hand, wants this process to be fouled up by ill-considered actions" and haste, he said. Because there will be no mourning period, which usually lasts at least 10 days after the death of a pope, he said there may be many cardinals here in Rome who are thinking "If we're all here, why should we delay it? There's a whole church out there that needs to get an answer, and I'd say sooner rather than later, but they want the right answer," he said. The quandary is: "Are we going to get the right person if we hurry things up? Will we get a better person if we slow things" down, he asked. One part of the process begins March 4 with the general congregations, daily meetings in which the cardinals prepare for a conclave, discuss the needs of the church and handle more serious church business that must be attended to between popes. Cardinals over 80 may participate in these meetings, but they are not required to. The general congregations end when the cardinal-electors enter into conclave.

Cardinal welcomes opportunity to discuss concerns with Obama

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan in a letter to President Barack Obama accepted a White House offer to continue discussing the Catholic Church's concerns about abortion, traditional marriage and federal rules governing implementation of the Affordable Care Act. "We accept your invitation to address these areas together, always with the civility we have both encouraged in public discourse," the president U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in the letter Feb. 22. "We welcome specifically an opportunity to resolve the perplexing issue of the redefining of our religious ministries," Cardinal Dolan wrote. "Surely we should be able to find some ground where neither of us is asked to compromise conscience." In response, a White House official said Feb. 28 that Cardinal Dolan's warm wishes were welcome and that the president "looks forward to continuing our respectful collaboration." The cardinal also renewed good wishes and offered prayers for Obama as he prepared to tackle a long list of goals for his second term that were outlined in his inaugural and State of the Union addresses. Recalling a meeting with Obama at the White House, Cardinal Dolan pointed to the president's stated desire "to cooperate with us for the good of our beloved country," particularly in the church's educational, charitable and health care services.



COLLECTION WEEKEND
MARCH 9 & 10, 2013



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SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

A very different kind of Laetare Sunday

"Rose Sunday" or Laetare Sunday will be very different this year in Rome. Since Benedict XVI is no longer Pope, there will be no one to send a Golden Rose to Catholic kings and presidents.

There is not the same reason to rejoice as in recent years, for now we await the election of a new Holy Father to shepherd the Church.

Nevertheless, we will still see many celebrants dressed in rose vestments

to reflect the tone of the readings. "Rejoice", we sing,



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

In the first reading from Joshua, Joshua bids the Israelites to be glad, because God has removed their shame at being slaves in Egypt.

They have arrived in the Promised Land.

God wants not only the Israelites, but all His people down to the present day to live lives of peace and prosperity,

The Gospel today is an all-time favorite. It's the

story of the Prodigal Son.

He had made a very self-ish decision to take his father's patrimony early in life.

Then he squandered it on foolish and sinful living. Finally, when his money has run out, he decides to home.

Hunger and poverty brought him to his senses, and he carefully rehearses his speech.

As soon as he comes into sight of home, his father spots him, and extends lavish forgiveness and mercy to this wayward son of his.

The older brother is furious at all this, and refuses

March 10

Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS

Joshua 4:9a, 10-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:13, 11-32

to extend his friendship to the brother.

How many of us identify with the older brother? We certainly sympathize with his point of view, mainly because of our own difficulty in forgiving those who offend us.

Even though we soon rec-

ognize that the father in this parable is really God, we still find it difficult to believe He could be so lavishly merciful to those who offend Him.

Indeed, we have every reason to rejoice in the readings this Sunday.

Let us resolve this Lent to do really sincere penance for all of our sinfulness and ingratitude. We'll never really deserve the Father's merciful forgiveness, but we can at least try to come closer to His love.

And pray hard for the Holy Spirit to be with the Conclave of Cardinals in Rome.

OUR READERS WRITE

More than lip service needed

It was a nice headline in this week's *North Country Catholic*, "Poll: New Yorkers reject abortion expansion".

However, if that were true, we wouldn't have messages in our church bulletins this week about Governor Cuomo's support for "an extreme bill" that would "greatly expand abortion in NYS" through the "Reproductive Health Act".

Catholics give lip service about being against abortion, but they don't bring that belief into the voting booth.

You can't vote for a President or Governor who is strongly pro-abortion and expect anything other than what we are getting from them.

Instead of saying "I will vote for the candidate that I think will be the biggest advocate for the poor, and I will pray to end abortion." You should vote "pro-life" and pray for the poor.

CALVIN CASTINE
CHAMPLAIN

and their organizations for support. You also mentioned that he headed "Faith United against Tobacco."

In reading up on Mr. DeMarco, I find that he has an admirable record as a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and organizing public will into political power. He not only has led the above groups, but also a Health Initiative group in Maryland, especially for children.

If only pro-life groups had the benefit of his organizing success!

In spite of all his success, I must urge caution. Especially since the embarrassment of Church support for ACORN a number of years ago, clergy and congregations need to be prudent as to where to give support. We must be very careful not to get involved with groups or individuals that are using us for their gain or worse.

BONNIE P. FRANZ
OGDENSBURG

Be careful about outside groups

In a recent issue you reported that "Faith groups begin to muster support of gun controls," and stated that a Vincent DeMarco was organizing faith leaders

Why I Love the Mass

I am old enough to remember the Latin Mass prior to Vatican II. In our church in Hopkinton, where I was an altar boy, from age 8-16, most of our parishioners were not young and had been attending church for years. There were a lot more spectators than participants. Most didn't sing or respond and the atmosphere at Sunday Mass was about the same as a funeral.

We had a young priest who was as-

signed to our parish, who tried to convince the congregation that Mass was supposed to be a celebration, if he told something humorous in his homily to make a point, no one laughed or even smiled.

The whole idea is to give glory and honor to God and to come as close to Jesus as we can, even to imitating His love for other seven days a week.

At every Mass, no matter what language, we have an opportunity to encounter Jesus in three ways. He is present in the word of God and He is present in the people gathered there (The Body of Christ), and of course in the Eucharist.

Jesus initiated the Eucharistic celebration among the Jewish people.

He held no office, not a Pharisee or a Sadducee and He didn't hold the office of Priest but He was a member of the laity among His people. To me this is very encouraging because I am a lay minister too.

I have read the Bible several times and have never found where Jesus told anyone not to touch Him because they were not Holy enough or pure enough. In fact He came to touch sinners, lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes and you and I with His pure love.

The Bible says, all have sinned and need forgiveness that includes our Priests. I love and respect a lot of Priest but I refuse to put them on a pedestal, they face temptations every day and

they struggle to do God's will just as everyone else does.

Our church is a universal church and each one of us relates differently, and has a different idea of who God is and who Jesus is and how we can best worship Him

The traditional Latin Mass helps you to encounter the presence of Jesus; I pray that you will attend that Mass.

Others love Mass in the vernacular, some are very charismatic, others are not. Isn't it encouraging that there is room for diversity in our church?

I believe this is one more proof that God can and does work in any situation to bring His grace and love to His people.

The Eucharistic, no matter how we receive it, whether from a Priest or a Eucharistic minister, it cannot be diminished or made greater, no matter who touches it or how you receive it.

Reverence comes from the heart and cannot always be seen, however, our conduct should always be respectful and appropriate. Whether we are talking about the Word of God, before the Body of Christ (the people we worship with), or the Eucharist.

ANDY BURNETT
POTSDAM

Thanks to the diocese

At the Holy Father's direction, I am writing to acknowledge the sum of \$26,023.80 which you kindly forwarded to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's

Pence offering of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for the year 2012.

His Holiness thanks you and your people for this charitable contribution, which assists him in the exercise of his ministry. He deeply appreciates your willingness to share in his concern for the needs of the universal Church.

Praying that Almighty God will grant joy and peace to you and to all those entrusted to your pastoral care, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I remain
YOURS SINCERELY IN CHRIST,
ANGELO BECCIU
SUBSTITUTE
VATICAN CITY

Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

•Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.

•We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

•Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to news@northcountrycatholic.org
•Join the conversation!



AT THE MOVIES

SNITCH

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

How should society balance the government's need to combat drug use - and its attendant evils - against the right of a citizen to be judged and punished according to the individual circumstances of his or her case? If the fact-based film "Snitch" (Summit) is any evidence, the current use of mandatory sentences as a weapon in narcotics cases has those two competing interests thoroughly off-kilter.

Director and co-writer (with Justin Haythe) Ric Roman Waugh invites us to sympathize with the fate of naive suburban teen Jason Collins (Rafi Gavron). After he foolishly agrees to accept delivery of a shipment of illegal pills on behalf of a

friend, Jason is promptly busted and faces a compulsory 10 years behind bars.

The only path to a lesser doom is to testify successfully against others, something Jason's so-called pal is already doing to him. But, since Jason has no real involvement in the world of drugs, he can only obtain mercy by entrapping people. Despite encouragement from his lawyer to pursue this option, with admirable fortitude, Jason refuses.

Jason's divorced and estranged father, John (Dwayne Johnson), however, is not ready to give in so easily. Guilt-ridden over his neglect of the lad, John struggles to come up with a solution to Jason's dilemma.

John's persistence eventually convinces Joanne Keeghan (Susan Sarandon), the federal attorney prose-

cuting Jason's case, to make a deal with him: If John can infiltrate a local narcotics cartel and garner sufficient evidence to convict its boss, a petty hood named Malik (Michael K. Williams), she'll reduce Jason's time.

John has already been given an introduction to Malik by one of the employees of his successful trucking business, ex-con Daniel James (Jon Bernthal).

Daniel's situation is almost as poignant as Jason's: Despite his past, he's a dedicated husband and father determined to make a fresh start through honest work. But, with Jason's prospects worsening rapidly -- he's repeatedly beaten by his tougher fellow inmates -- John successfully wears Daniel down, convincing him to revisit his former life long enough to make the



CNS PHOTO/SUMMIT

Dwayne Johnson and Melina Kanakaredes star in a scene from the movie "Snitch."

connection with Malik.

John then uses his fleet of vehicles as a lure, pointing out to Malik the advantages they would offer in transporting large cargoes of illicit goods.

The damaging effects of divorce, the ethical and physical courage displayed, respectively, by Jason and John, the moving spirit of reconciliation and mutual forgiveness between father

and son -- all add heft to what might otherwise have been an easily dismissed series of shootouts and car chases.

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

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

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC



'As the *Year of Faith* continues through 2013, I hope that we will all proclaim, even more boldly, the gift of our precious Catholic faith. Our diocesan newspaper, the *North Country Catholic* is a vital means that we have to help us embrace this lifelong mission.'

~Bishop Terry R. LaValley



Photo by Betty Steele

Call our office at 315-608-7556 or visit our website to sign up or renew at your parish during our campaign Feb. 23 & 24

www.northcountrycatholic.org



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ADIRONDACK

LENTEN FISH FRIES

Bloomingdale – St. Paul's parish will be having a Lenten Fish Fry.

Date: March 15

Time: 5 p.m.

Place: Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children, \$6

CLINTON

FISH FRY

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring their all you can eat Annual Fish Fry.

Date: March 8

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30

Cost: Adults and all take-outs, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5

Features: Fried perch, macaroni and cheese, tater tots, cole slaw, dessert.

TAIZE PRAYER

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish will gather for "Taize Prayer Around the Cross."

Date: March 22

Time: 7 p.m.

Features: Taize prayer includes song, silence and Sacred Scripture in an atmosphere of quiet reflection. The music is simple, with brief refrains repeated in the manner of the mantra of the Eastern Church or the rosary of the Western Church. You will be invited to participate by approaching the cross—spending some quiet time in adoration before it, bowing down, kissing, or touching the sacred wood.

CORNEBEEF DINNER

Peru – Court St. Monica of St. Augustine's is having its annual Corned Beef Dinner.

Date: March 16

Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine Parish Center

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

Entertainment: Don-Yo DJ Service

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Plattsburgh – The Elizabeth Seton Chapter of the National Honor Society will host a spaghetti and meatball dinner.

Date: March 23

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: Seton Academy

Cost: Adults, \$7; children under 12, \$5

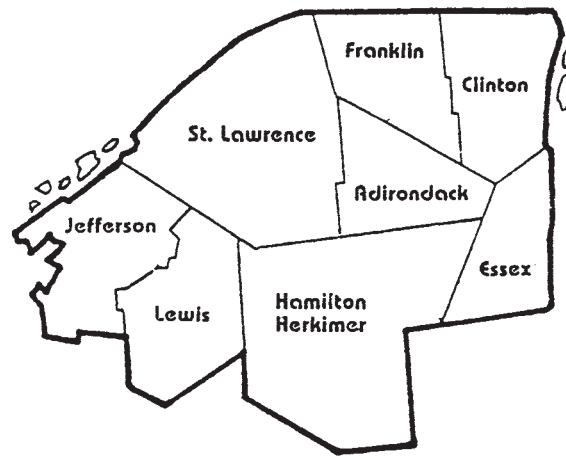
Features: All profits will go toward the Seton Catholic "40 Days of Hope" project.

SOUP-SALAD-BREAD

Altona – Holy Angels will hold Soup-Salad-Bread Wednesdays during Lent.

Place: Parish Hall

Time: 5:15 p.m. to 6:30; 6:30-7 pray before the Blessed Sacrament with Sta



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.

tions of the Cross; 7 p.m. Celebrate Mass.

Contact: Sandy or Fr. Gilbert, 236-5848

TAG SALE

Mooers Forks – The Mooers K of C Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Tag Sale.

Dates: March 8, 9 & 10

Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: St. Anne's Church Hall

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

West Chazy – St. Joseph's Men's Club present their Annual All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast.

Date: March 10

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children 6-10, \$3; under 5, Free

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer will offer a Lenten Bible Study Program.

Dates: 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

toolaprayehouse@gmail.com

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.

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

LENTEN ADORATION

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's will offer week-day adoration during Lent through 7 PM on Wednesday of Holy Week.

Schedule: Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. after 7 a.m. Mass until 7 p.m.; Mon. only After 7 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m.

Contact: To sign up for one hour a week of adoration or for more information, call the rectory at 563-1692 or email kjeshouse@verizon.net.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Keeseville – The Keeseville Altar Rosary Society will sponsor a Sunday weekly Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament.

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

SOAKING PRAYER

Plattsburgh – Soaking Prayer is offered every second and fourth Wednesday of the month under the direction of the Living Water's Healing Ministry.

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30

Place: Upper room at St. Peter's
Features: A quiet prayerful environment, to be soaked in God's love

PRAYER MEETING

Plattsburgh – A weekly prayer meeting will be held every Wednesday (except the first Wednesday).

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church, St. Brother Andre' Chapel.

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

ESSEX

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Elizabethtown – St. Elizabeth's will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day dinner.

Date: March 17

Time: 2 p.m. to 6

Place: Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$11; children under 12, \$5
Features: Corned Beef or Ham, cabbage, carrots, potatoes with drink and dessert. Take-out available after 1:30 p.m. Tickets for a cash raffle and other items

LIVING OUR FAITH

Schroon Lake – As part of the Year of Faith program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Saint Joseph's Church, "Living Our Faith": The Catechism of the Catholic Church will be presented

Schedule: Fridays at 4:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, Olmstedville; Sundays at 4:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes, Schroon Lake.

Features: A summary of the catechism, known as YOUCAT, is available at \$11.25. Contact: For further information, call (518) 532-7100.

FRANKLIN

LENTEN MISSION

Chateaugay – Father Ray Moreau will lead a Lenten Mission

Dates: March 9-13

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Schedule: Weekend Masses 4 p.m., 11 a.m. (St. Patrick) and 9 a.m. (St. George), each evening at 7 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY

Bombay – Father Howard Venette will celebrate and be Homilist at the St. Joseph Feast Day Mass.

Date: March 19

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Church

Features: Meatless covered dish dinner follows at the parish hall.

LENTEN CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

Malone – The Malone Council 308 of the K of C will be hosting their annual Lenten Chicken and Biscuit dinner.

Date: March 6 & 20

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: K of C Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; children under 5, Free
Features: Supports charitable commitments of the council.

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

LENT 4.5 PROGRAM

Watertown – "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus, embracing Christian Simplicity," this six week program explores ways of living in harmony with Creation, God and the whole human family.

Date: March 7, 14, 21; April 10, 17, 24

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11 OR 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Hearthside Hospitality Center at Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse

Cost: \$5 per session for materials and light refreshments

Contact: 324-5718 or 782-3460;

www.lent45.org for more information

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – A spaghetti and meatball dinner will be held to benefit Indian River Knights of Columbus

Date: March 9

Time: Serving starts at 4 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Prices: \$7, adults; \$6, senior citizens; \$5, under 12; and free, children under 5.

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: March 21

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 \$7.5

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

CATHOLICISM SERIES

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

Dates: March 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30

Place: Hearthside Center at the Motherhouse SSJ

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

DOLLAR DINNER

Watertown – The Knights of Columbus Watertown Council #259 will be having a Dollar Dinner.

Date: March 20

Time: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: IHC Intermediate School

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

God bless the pope

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

The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg joins the prayers of Pontifical Mission Societies worldwide in gratitude for Pope Benedict XVI's love of the poor.

As Pope, he has zealously reminded the faithful of our baptismal call to mission.

His example of love for the developing countries has continued to gather prayers and financial support for more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Pacific Islands and Latin America.

A highlight of Pope Benedict's World Mission Sunday 2012 message in the Year of Faith, was "I remember and thank the Pontifical Mission Societies, instruments for cooperation in the universal mission of the Church across the world. Through their action, the proclamation of the Gospel also becomes an intervention on behalf of one's neighbor, justice for the poorest, the possibility of education in the most remote villages, medical aid in isolated places, emancipation from poverty, the rehabilitation of the marginalized, support for the development of peoples, overcoming ethnic divisions and respect for life in all its stages".

As our Holy Father retires to quiet prayer may he find consolation in prayer of the many lives known and unknown that he brought closer to the Lord's peace and love. In this period of transition, we pray for the Church, confident that the Lord remains close to us.

God Bless the Pope!

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

Brownville – Blanche Elle Gunn Whalen, 75; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2013 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Cadyville – Allan J. Brideau Sr., 87; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2013 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Canton – Lawrence E. Lafave, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Champlain – James Amasa Daily Jr., 80; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2013 at St. Mary's Church.

Croghan – Lucille Martha (Ritz) Chartrand, 89; Funeral Services March 1, 2013 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

DeKalb Junction – Demetrius Alexander Walter, 2; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2013 at the Allen-Denesha Funeral Home.

Ft. Covington – Philip L. Leroux, 71; Funeral Services March 2, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in new parish cemetery.

Hogansburg – Annie E. Jock, 93; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2013 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Lake Placid – Elizabeth "Betty" (Wharton) Fortune, 91; Funeral Services March 5, 2013 at the Reiss Memorial Chapel; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Malone – James E. Andrews, 52; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2013 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Massena – James A. Watson, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 25, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mooers Forks – Floyd Clarence Guerin, 70; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2013 at St. Ann's Church.

Morrisonville – Margaret "Aggie" B. (Stacy) LaVene, 92; Funeral Services March 1, 2013 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk – Paul E. Collier, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2013 at the Buck Funeral Home; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norfolk – Kim A. Grady, 55; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2013 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Leon "Joe" LaFave, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2013 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Madeleine H. "Luvy" (Martineau) Bechard, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2013 at the Brown Funeral Home.

Plattsburgh – Tammy Mitchell – Engles, 53; Memorial Services Feb. 23, 2013 at Our Lady of Victory Church.

Plattsburgh – Gloria M. (LaGoy) Tourville, 76; Funeral Services March 1, 2013 at the R.W. Walker Funeral Home.

Saranac Lake – Luc R. Niro, 50; Funeral Services Feb. 23, 2013 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Jane M. (McIntyre) Hitchcock, 92; Funeral Services March 1, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in the Valley View Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Robert Russell Towndrow, 88; Funeral Services Feb. 28, 2013 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

West Chazy – Kenneth Robert Gonyo Sr., 72; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church.

Watertown – Leo P. Canale, 93; Funeral Services March 2, 2013 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Ann M. (Adams) Chapman, 69; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2013 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

West Chazy – Douglas E. Vassar, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 26, 2013 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Willsboro – Genevieve M. (Mitchell) Blaise, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 27, 2013 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM



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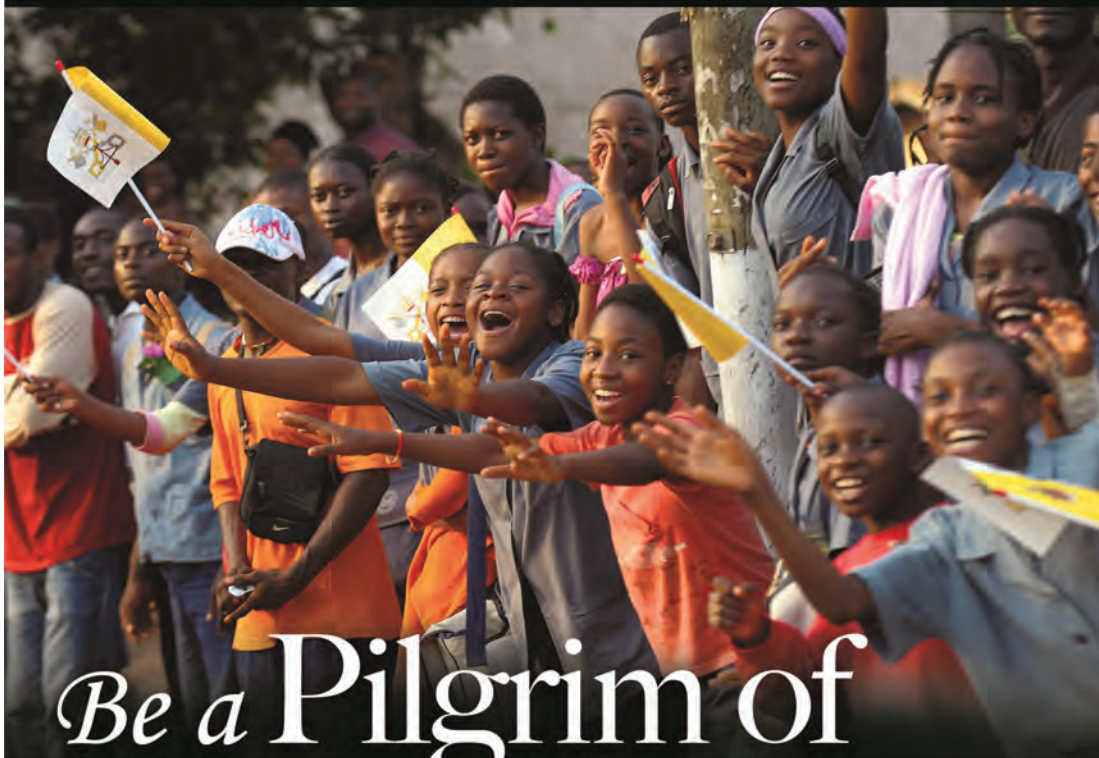
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**COLLECTION WEEKEND:
MARCH 9 & 10**

Around

LEWIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Harrisville – St. Francis Solanus Church will be having a St. Patrick's Day Dinner.

Date: March 9

Time: 4 p.m. to 6

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 12-5, \$6; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available after 4

PARISH MISSION

Lowville – St. Peter's Church will be hosting a Parish Mission, "Renewing our Baptism to Jesus through Mary".

Dates: March 11-13

Time: 7 p.m.

Speaker: Fr. Roy Tvrdik, SMM

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

Heuvelton – IHC Mystery Players will present a Mystery Play on the Stations of the Cross.

Date: March 24

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: St. Raphael's Church

ST. LAWRENCE

MARCH 17 BRUNCH

Brasher Falls – A Buffet Brunch will be held.

Date: March 17

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Place: K of C Hall

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

VIRTUAL TOUR OF ST. PETER'S

Ogdensburg – Father Bryan Stitt will lead a virtual tour of the Basilica of St. Peter

Date: March 14

Time: 7p.m.

Place: Bishop Brzana Memorial Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral

Program: This "Virtual Tour" is offered as part of the Year of Faith to help people taste again for the first time the joy of Pilgrimage. Father Stitt, who currently serves as diocesan vocation director work as a tour guide at St. Peter's Tour guide from 1999 to 2001.

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: March 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

LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Massena – The Catholic Community of Massena/Louisville will host a Lenten Parish Mission.

Schedule: March 11 – 13

Time: 7 p.m.

Features: Fr. Doug Lucia Will speak on the theme "Tools for Beginning A New Life."

Contact: St. Mary's Parish Office at 315-764-0239 or Sacred Heart Parish at 315-769-2469

FISH & SHRIMP FRY

Gouverneur – St. James School will be having a Fish & Shrimp Fry every Friday during Lent.

Date: through March 29

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$5; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available, phone ahead for faster service, 287-0130. For deliveries call 287-0130

CATHOLICISM SERIES

Norfolk – The Church of the Visitation's Catholicism program has begun for the Lent and Easter season.

Schedule: Tuesday mornings – 9 a.m.

Mass followed by a light social; 9:45 a.m. DVD presentation by discussion.

Wednesday evenings – 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by a light social; 6:30 p.m. DVD presentation followed by discussion.

Contact: 315-384-4242

FISH DINNERS DURING LENT

Star Lake – St. Hubert's Church will have fish dinners every Friday during Lent.

Date: through March 22

Time: 5 p.m.

Costs: Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8

Features: Deep fried or oven baked. Take-outs call 848-3612

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., 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