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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 32

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 14, 2015

Papal praise for mothers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Mothers are indispensable to society and the church, showing the world what it means to generously give oneself for others, to respect life and to display tenderness and moral strength even in times of trouble, Pope Francis said. Speaking to some 4,000

people gathered indoors for his general audience Jan. 7, the pope continued his series of talks about the family, but also gave a second talk about beauty and harmony when he thanked circus performers at the audience.

Tying the theme of the family to the church's cele-

bration of the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1, and the Epiphany Jan. 6, the pope looked specifically at Mary's role in the Gospel accounts of Christmas.

"She gives us Jesus, she shows us Jesus, she lets us see Jesus," the pope said. Even though mothers are

often "exalted" with praise and poetry, he said, they often get very little concrete help and appreciation. In fact, he said, "the willingness of mothers to sacrifice themselves for their children is often taken advantage of in order to 'save' on social spending."

Men of Faith spend day in prayer

Father Mark Reilly of Massena was the featured speaker at an Advent mini-retreat for men held Dec. 6 at St. James Church in Carthage.

The day was sponsored by local Knights of Columbus Chapter #291 and organized by Grand Knight Michael Sliagar, and St. James parishioners Dave Haywood and Robert Renaud.

The program included Mass, Father Reilly's presentation, a recitation of the rosary and time for fellowship in the community room afterward.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

No paper next week

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Jan. 28

when we join the diocese to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

CELEBRATION OF THANKS AT TRINITY CATHOLIC



PHOTO PROVIDED

In recognition of Pope Francis' declaration of the Year of Consecrated Life, Trinity Catholic School in Massena held a special prayer service to celebrate the nine nuns and priests who currently serve the Massena community. From left are St. Joseph Sisters Maureen Sweeney and Judy Adams, Servite Sisters Juliana Fitzpatrick and Doris Durant, Father Tojo Chacko, Father Joe Elliott and Father Donald Manfred; not pictured, Father Mark Reilly and Atonement Sister Edward Tesario. All were honored and thanked for serving God and His people for a total combined time of 386 years.

TEACHING CHILDREN

To respect all human life



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Mary Burns of Ogdensburg and her sister Jamie Burns of Canton were two of the young adults who participated in last year's March for Life in Washington, D.C. In his Follow Me column this week, Bishop LaValley writes that "This March for Life has become an occasion for education, formation, and evangelization," especially for the tens of thousands of young people who take part. The bishop pointed out that "at the earliest of ages, our children must be taught that at every stage of life, each and every person is a divine gift from God and must be revered and honored as a unique child of God."

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The great gift of our Catholic faith

My mother has been gone a couple of weeks now and my brain is tangle of grief and grace.

Diagnosed more than two years ago with a frightening disease, she held on strong, still taking care of her husband until the very last days of her life.

It was in those days and the ones that followed that I was reminded again and again about the great gift we have in our Catholic faith.

As soon as we knew that the cancer was winning, I turned to all my most faith-filled friends and asked for prayers for her and for all of us.

As her pain and our anxiety

increased it was a comfort to know that friends were storming heaven on our behalf when I was too distracted to pray much myself.

Visits and blessings from her bishop and beloved priests were a constant reminder that she was not alone in those final days of her journey home.

And she found such comfort in her devotion to the Blessed Mother.

In one of her most desperate moments she asked me to pray with her: "Remember, O

most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided..."

Mary Lou
Kilian

When I hesitated over a word, she thought I better go find my husband who surely would know the Memorare perfectly! (He does.)

My mother died 49 years to the day after she gave birth to her youngest child. I was hoping that she would hold out until after midnight, but my sister would not hear of it.

Right after mom died, Jane put her arms around my father and said, "this is the day that I was born and this was the day that mom was born into new life."

This faith sustained us all through the challenging days to follow.

The funeral was a true Catholic celebration.

The altar was filled with clergy and the music was glorious.

Her son-in-law delivered a homily that captured the essence of a life focused on faith and family.

The church was filled with people who loved her and were sure she was in heaven.

One of my close friends wrote to me "there are few things the Catholic Church does better than its funerals." That was certainly true for our family.

Looking back, it was a week of pure evangelization as my mother's lived faith brought forth expressions of faith from everyone who came to offer their condolences.

Now we move forward in a strange world without her and we'll be needing all those prayers more than ever.

Rest in peace, my beautiful Momma.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Part of the Body of Christ, even as sinners

Jesus came to this world of ours to be with us people. Jesus accepted us all – even sinners – even when we were sinners.

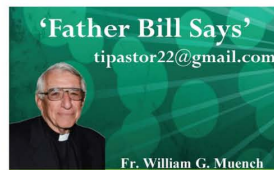
The Church's Christmas season is completed each year with the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus by St. John the Baptist.

On this feast day, we celebrate the image of Jesus' readiness to be with us all even sinners. He even allowed himself to be considered by some to be a sinner himself.

John the Baptist was a bold, challenging preacher; he led people to realize that they could and should become better than they are. His message is still full of meaning in our day.

John called sinners to change, to go through a personal conversion. The Gospels tell us that many came to listen to John. His message was attractive and full of meaning so many made a decision to change, to discover conversion.

John the Baptist was truly clever. He wanted those who made a decision to change to



remember the moment. So, when someone was ready to make a change in life, John invited them into the water of the River Jordan with him and he would plunge them under the water – a baptism.

We are told in the Gospel that one day Jesus joined those who stepped forward to be baptized by John. John was surprised – John wanted to refuse as he recognized that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. Yet, Jesus still asked to be baptized – just like those other sinners.

Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist was marked by a voice from Heaven. The voice speaks in recognition and honor of Jesus – "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

It was a rather unique and

curious moment. Jesus united himself with sinners and joins with those who had decided to find conversion. He wants to stand in support with them – even a sort of friendship.

He still comes to support all of us, sinners. He is always ready to show us the way. He continues to be willing to be our friends even in our smallness, our sinfulness.

John told the people that his Baptism was a Baptism of water – a Baptism of repentance – but there will be one to come who would Baptize with the Holy Spirit.

We, Catholics, are baptized through Jesus, baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is who we are. We have been chosen by the Lord: through our Baptism our life matters.

As baptized disciples of the Lord we are challenged to make the world a better place by the way we live our lives.

I looked back to the Second Vatican Council in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium) for our understanding of Baptism:

"Through baptism we are formed in the likeness of Christ: 'For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. (1 Cor 12:13)' In this sacred rite fellowship in Christ's death and resurrection is symbolized and brought about: 'For we were buried with him by means of baptism into death'; and if 'we have been unite with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be so in the likeness of his death, we shall be so in the likeness of his resurrection also.' (Rom 6:4-5)

Baptism unites us to Jesus in such a complete way that we speak of being part of the Body of Christ, the Mystical Body of Christ.

The Council reminds us that in Christ's body a diversity of members and functions is engaged. As the baptized we have been gifted – each with our own talents – and challenged to bring Christ's love and spirit into our world.

The unique part of this message is that we are welcomed into the Body of Christ – even in our sins.

FOLLOW ME

Respect for life and faith formation

As you know, a key priority that has been established for our Diocese is *Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life*. Parents are the primary and powerful force for faith growth and development in the family. They need our support and assistance, particularly in life matters. The more faith activities that young people are exposed to and participate in, the more that faith 'sticks.'



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley

Every January, tens of thousands of pilgrims, many of whom are our youth, travel to Washington, DC to pray together for an end to abortion at the National Prayer Vigil for Life. This March for Life has become an occasion for education, formation, and evangelization.

The theme for this year's March for Life is "Every Life is a Gift." Sadly, many reject

the gift. According to the latest statistics, one out of every five babies in the United States is aborted annually.

For certain populations of developing babies, the statistic is even more tragic. A number of studies have shown that preborn babies with disabilities are aborted at rates from 60 percent to as high as 90 percent! Such precious gifts of God are being thrown away literally.

Jeanne Monahan, President of *March for Life*, commented: "There is an underlying sense that if a life is not normal or perfect or it is somehow different than what one anticipated, it is not a happy, fulfilling or even worthwhile life."

One is deemed disposable if he or she is unable to function as someone thinks he or she should, to be productive and of use to soci-

ety. Preference of the sex of the preborn has also become a determining factor of the decision to let one live or die.

Pope Francis has frequently referred to ours as a throw-away society where everything and everyone has become disposable. In making the argument that every life matters, one risks being dismissed as a 'fanatic.'

Therefore, at the earliest of ages, our children must be taught that at every stage of life, each and every person is a divine gift from God and must be revered and honored as a unique child of God.

We need a sense of urgency for change. Parents, with our help, must explore with their children how every life is a gift. This is an example of how we can strengthen faith formation in family life.

Too often our words and actions say human life is a burden and can be disposed of. Our language about an-

other often tears down, rather than builds up a person. The human person is demeaned.

At the earliest of ages, our children must be taught that at every stage of life, each and every person is a divine gift from God and must be revered and honored as a unique child of God

No culture of life has a chance of flourishing when we hear people, instead of affirming and congratulating parents who are blessed with large families, ridicule and even condemn them.

Not everyone can participate in the March for Life, but we can all contribute to our Church's effort in building a culture of life by being, as St. Peter writes "stones that live and breathe" (1Peter 2:5).

By being united in prayer, we become living stones

upon which a culture of life can be built.

During these days of prayer, penance and pilgrimage for life, why not set aside an hour to pray for those who are struggling with a decision of life or death for their unborn child?

Use social media to post something that supports, embraces and celebrates the gift of life. Write to someone who is lonely or needing some encouragement. Spend time at the bedside of someone you know who is suffering.

Living stones are essential for our family of faith to grow. Resolve today to make your home a school for life, a place where every human life: the preborn, the healthy, the hurting and the infirmed is honored, supported, and embraced.

Let us pray for and lend support to our moms and dads as they respond to their vocational responsibility in the faith development of their children.

Diocese to join in 'Nine Days for Life'

Bishop Terry R. LaValley has encouraged parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to participate in an initiative by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in conjunction with the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

"Nine Days of Prayer, Penance and Pilgrimage" will take place Jan. 17-25 across the United States.

A message on the bishops' website reads:

On January 22, our nation will remember the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the U.S.

"Since that tragic decision, more than 56 million children's lives have been lost to abortion and many suffer that loss - often in silence.

Join thousands of Catholics across the country coming together in prayer for a "culture of life" from Saturday, Jan. 17 to Sunday, Jan. 25.

Suggestions and resources for this time period can be found at www.9daysforlife.com.



Religious communities to hold open houses Feb. 8

WATERTOWN - Four religious community houses in Watertown will hold open houses Feb. 8 as part of their observance of the Year of Consecrated Life.

The Congregations of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Cross, Sisters of the Precious Blood, and the Sisters of St.

Joseph will hold open houses in each of their Community Houses from 1 p.m. to 4.

All are invited to visit each of the communities to learn more about the history, the mission and work of the Sisters in their Congregations. Opportunities for a tour through each

Community house will be offered. Refreshments will also be available at each place.

"Let us continue to pray for more vocations to the Consecrated Life, said St. Joseph Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, major superior. "We look forward to your visit with us."



Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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



Find us on Facebook!



PHOTOS BY KRISTINA DEAN

Father Mark Reilly, left, pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Massena, was the featured speaker at an Advent mini-retreat for men held Dec. 6 at St. James in Carthage. Pictured, center, are three men from Holy Family

Church in Watertown who traveled to Carthage for the day, Jim Fraser, William Beirman and Keith Caughlin. At right, Father Reilly is shown with Bob Renaud, one of the organizers of the retreat; and Father George Maroun, pastor of St. James.

Men of Faith

Advent mini-retreat brings men to St. James Church in Carthage

By Kristina Dean
Staff Writer

CARTHAGE - Calling himself a "spiritual mutt," Father Mark R. Reilly encouraged the 40 men at a Men of Faith Advent mini-retreat at St. James Catholic Church to pray the rosary and meditate upon the life of Christ and his mother, Mary.

The pastor of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Churches in Massena, Father Reilly said he is drawn to many forms of spirituality, specifically mentioning Carmelite, Jesuit, Ignatius, Franciscan, and Dominican aspects.

As the men prepared to say the rosary together, Father Reilly spoke to them about pairing scripture readings with praying. He also encouraged them to follow the practice of St. Ignatius of Loyola in using their imagination to place themselves within a specific mystery of the Rosary.

He informed the men that they would focus on the Dominican method of praying and meditating on the Rosary while exercising the Ignatius practice of using their imaginations to place themselves within a specific scripture passage.

Naming the Dominicans a "great teaching and preaching order," he said the men of the order, after entering a town and teaching catechism, would pray a decade of the Rosary and meditate.

"It's a beautiful practice, taking something from the life of Christ and the Blessed Mother, and meditating on the life of Christ as a mystery," he said. "Let's pray a decade of the Rosary, and ask the Mother of God to help us know her Son, and therefore to know ourselves better."

Father Reilly led the men through praying the Glorious Mysteries, stopping between each decade and sharing personal stories as an example

of making the meditations more fruitful and meaningful.

He spoke of the John 21:15 scripture passage when Jesus appears to the Apostles on the shore after His resurrection and before His ascension.

According to the priest, Christ gave Peter a chance to undo his threefold denial with a threefold profession of love.

Father Reilly asked the men to think of a time when they have failed to "tend their flock."

"Brothers, we are all given the task to tend the flock, married or not, in one fashion or another," he said. "We are like Peter because we are all members of the fallen human race.

"We fail at it from time to time," he said. "In humble, prayerful meditation through our Rosary, it is a good time in a safe place in the presence of Christ, holding the hand of His mother

and yours, to think of where you may have denied Him. Think about where His lambs have not been well attended by the shepherd."

When speaking of the third mystery, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, Father Reilly encouraged the men to be open to the Holy Spirit and not afraid.

"A lot of times I think we're afraid of those things we don't want to do, people you don't want to meet, jobs you don't want to do," he said. "These are the things that make you into fathers, shepherds, laborers in His vineyard. It's the forge that's refining you.

"We need to continually receive that gift anew," he said. "Mary received it over and over.

"Don't ever get the attitude of 'been there, done that.'" he said. "We are sieves, and it (the Holy Spirit) continually flows out of us."

The priest said the life force of the Holy Spirit is

what makes men the sons of God, helps them to be pleasing to Him and to respond to His call.

"Pray for that gift. Pray for every opportunity of expanding the renewing gift of the Holy Spirit," he said.

The Dec. 6 event opened with a Mass concelebrated by Father Reilly and St. James pastor Father George Maroun.

Sponsored by local Knights of Columbus Chapter #291 and organized by Grand Knight Michael Sligar, and St. James parishioners Dave Haywood and Robert Renaud, the gathering also provided fellowship in the community room afterward.

Father Reilly encouraged the men to continue to gather together, citing the opportunities to attend the IGNITE Men's Catholic Conference in Syracuse March 21 as well as the annual Rosary Crusade at St. James, organized by Mr. Renaud and scheduled for May 15.

A story of friendship at Mercy Care

By Donna Beal, Executive Director
Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

LAKE PLACID—Jane Eagan and Bernie Clarke are friends. They became friends when Jane requested assistance from Mercy Care for the Adirondacks to help her age in place more successfully. Jane needed some help. As she aged, she became visually impaired.

Bernie is a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer and began assisting Jane about five years ago, and they have been friends ever since.

Jane and Bernie shared their friendship story with Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings, Director of Friendship Volunteer and Volunteer Parish Nurse Programs for Mercy Care for the Adirondacks.

Sister Catherine sat down separately with Jane and Bernie to talk.

Jane began by saying, "I agree with my son who said to me, 'How lucky I am to have a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer.'"

"Bernie will do anything for me," she said. "She helps me with things others can't help with. For example, she helps me communicate with my insurance company about health insurance. She helps me remember all the questions I need to ask.

"I can't read the newspaper, except the headline," she said. "I save the articles I want to read, and Bernie reads them to me when she visits once a week. Often times, Bernie and her husband, Carmine, look up programs or music I would enjoy on TV and let me know when and what channel to tune to."

Jane continued, "Bernie comes every Wednesday and we go to the bank, to the library where I select books on CD, and run other errands.

Sometimes, we just ride around the Lake and around town where Bernie points out anything that's new. Bernie brings me the church bulletin, which we read before we go out. I have gotten to know Bernie's family and Bernie has gotten to know my family."

When Sister Catherine sat down with Bernie, she asked her about the most effective way to help Jane.

"It is important for Jane to remain in charge and make her own decisions," Bernie said. "As an example, rather than select the books on tape for Jane, I read the jackets of several tapes so Jane can choose what she would like to have for that week."

Bernie sees her role as helping Jane to "keep control of her life."

"My Mercy Care Volunteer experience has been very positive and my friendship with Jane helps me to learn and grow—to think about



Jane Eagan, left, and Bernie Clarke - Mercy Care friends

someone else," she said.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled Friendship Volunteer Training Program training classes in Tupper Lake on Feb. 3 and Feb. 10 and in Lake Placid on Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. The training sessions will be held

from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Both mornings are required to complete the training).

Mercy Care's Friendship Volunteer Training Program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. Registration information is available from Sheila Schneck by calling 523-5583.

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 24-25**

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

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need. Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

www.rcdony.org/pro-life

Jan. 24-25 collection aids pro-life work in diocese

The second collection in parishes of the diocese during the weekend of Jan. 24-25 will support ongoing respect life efforts in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"Last year, the diocese funded 27 grants totaling over \$82,000 to help build a culture of life in the North Country," Bishop LaValley said in a letter about the appeal. "This was a significant increase from the previous year's appeal."

Those receiving grants supported local pro-life efforts such as the Gabriel Projects in Gouverneur, Potsdam, Brasher Falls, Massena, Plattsburgh and Canton. These parish-based crisis pregnancy apostolates provide spiritual and material help to single mothers and families.

Also receiving grants: Malone Catholic Charities' counseling services; Plattsburgh's

Birthright which supports women in distress with an unplanned pregnancy, offering alternatives to abortion and free pregnancy tests; and Carthage's Brook Haven House, a Christian home for unwed mothers

These grants also supported educational efforts such as: funding for five buses for the March for Life in Washington, DC (three buses transporting 150 youth and two 'family' buses for 100 marchers); a Pro-Life media campaign; and a USCCB Respect Life Month informational packet for pastors. The End of Life Issues Conference led by Fr. Tad Pacholczyk held at Wadhams Hall, was also a recipient.

Liferight of Watertown, Lewis County Right to Life and the St. John XXIII Newman Center received grants for educational materials. The Diocesan Offices of

Evangelization and Natural Family Planning were able to provide informational materials purchased through grants made available by this collection.

"With much appreciation for your past contributions, I seek your generous response to this year's Respect Life Appeal," Bishop LaValley said. "As you see, your generous response last year has enabled us to promote and support, in various ways, efforts that build up a culture of life in our North Country. God bless you for your continued assistance."

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate in this training. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440.
Upcoming programs:
Jan. 17 - 9 a.m., St. Mary's Church, Clayton
Jan. 22 - 8 p.m., SUNY Potsdam

Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 22 - March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Jan. 25 - 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 26 - New York State Catholic Conference Board Meeting in New York City

Jan. 28 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 14 - Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M.Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000
Jan. 15 - Msgr. James J. Lacey, 1942
Jan. 16 - Msgr. James A. Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M.Conv., 1996
Jan. 17 - Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009
Jan. 18 - Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980
Jan. 19 - Rev. Benjamin Desroches O.M.I., 1908; Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974
Jan. 20 - Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Ponture, 1940
Jan. 21 - Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001
Jan. 22 - Rev. James Edward Joy, 1950
Jan. 23 - Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909
Jan. 24 - Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924
Jan. 26 - Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thameling, O.F.M.Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002
Jan. 27 - Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009

Environmental Stewardship

What is the greatest world problem?

When asked what the world's greatest human problem is today and what the world's greatest environmental problem is today, one world leader responded, "Poverty."

Pope Francis affirms this in his encyclical "Evangelii Gaudium: Work for Justice at the Heart of Discipleship" when he states: "The need to resolve the structural causes of poverty cannot be delayed."

As we move from the Christmas season into Ordinary Time (which is NEVER ordinary), we are challenged to become the light of Christ's love in the world around us.

How can our lives bring Light into the darkness caused by poverty?

What will it cost us?

One way might be to see how the decisions we make to conserve, protect and reverence the natural environment can have profound effects on the lives of all people - both now and in the future.

We know a lot of facts about environmental issues and what we can do, but, like the college student in Freshman seminar class said about study skills, "...we know all that stuff; we just don't do it!"

Perhaps, if we could see better how our small daily decisions really are important in the larger scheme of caring for all of creation, both human and the natural world, we would be more motivated to embrace the cost.

This week consider one practice you already do to care for creation, and ask yourself why you do it and how is it connected with the bigger picture.

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact:

Victims Assistance Coordinator, Terri- anne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Jan. 28

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Francis in Asia to promote reconciliation, recovery

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Interreligious reconciliation and recovery from natural disaster will be major themes of Pope Francis' Jan. 13-18 visit to Sri Lanka and the Philippines, according to the Vatican spokesman. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi briefed reporters on the trip Jan. 7, noting that it would be the pope's second time in Asia, following an August visit to South Korea. Pope Francis wanted to give the region special attention, the spokesman said, because no Asian country had received a papal visit in more than a decade, since the pontificate of St. John Paul II. Pope Francis will be the third pope to visit Sri Lanka, where Blessed Paul VI traveled in 1970 and St. John Paul visited in 1995. Like his predecessors, Pope Francis will stress the importance of interreligious harmony in a country that is less than 7 percent Christian. An interreligious meeting in Colombo Jan. 13 will feature speeches by the pope and a Buddhist monk representing the faith of almost 70 percent of the country's citizens.

Cuomo, politician with complicated relationship with church, dies

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- While many tributes to former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo reference the impact of his 1984 keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention, for many Catholics, it was a different speech the same year that defined his political legacy. Cuomo, who died Jan. 1 at age 82, served three terms as governor and was sought after as a possible candidate for president, though he never took the plunge. Those two 1984 speeches may well have helped define both why he was sought after and why he chose not to run. The son of Italian immigrants who spoke no English when they arrived, Cuomo was raised in a multicultural area of Queens, New York. He never shied away from being proudly Catholic and proudly a Democrat. His position that he could personally accept the church's teaching about abortion being sinful, while politically supporting keeping abortion legal in a secular society where it was protected by the Constitution still is the model cited by many Catholic politicians and still is derided by some church leaders. Cuomo famously clashed with then-Archbishop John J. O'Connor of New York over the governor's support for state funding of abortions for the poor and his explanations of why he thought that was not a conflict for a Catholic politician.

Vatican secretary of state expects pope to visit NYC, Washington

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican secretary of state said he expects Pope Francis to visit New York City and Washington, D.C., during his September trip to the United States. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who as secretary of state is considered the highest Vatican official under the pope, spoke to reporters Jan. 6, following a ceremony to dedicate a new building at the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome. Asked if Pope Francis would visit the United Nations in New York in September, Cardinal Parolin replied: "I think so, I think so, but no official announcement has been done. But everybody is speaking of that." Asked if the same trip would include a visit to Washington, the cardinal replied: "Of course," then added with a laugh, "but no official confirmation has been given." In November, Pope Francis confirmed reports that he would attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September. So far, that is the only confirmed stop on what is expected to be a more extensive papal visit to North America.

Pope names 15 new cardinal electors, most from global South

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Underscoring the geographical diversity of his selections, Pope Francis named 15 cardinal electors "from 14 nations of every continent, showing the inseparable link between the church of Rome and the particular churches present in the world."

In addition to 15 new electors, Pope Francis named five new cardinals who are over the age of 80 and, therefore, ineligible to vote in a conclave. Popes have used such nominations to honor churchmen for their scholarship or other contributions.

The pope announced the names Jan. 4, after praying the Angelus with a crowd in St. Peter's Square, and said he would formally induct the men into the College of Cardinals Feb. 14.

With the list, the pope continues a movement he started with his first batch of appointments a year ago, giving gradually more representation at the highest levels of the church to poorer countries in the global South. According to the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the new cardinals will include the first in history from Cape Verde, Tonga and Myanmar.

The Feb. 14 consistory will bring the total number of cardinals under the age of 80 to 125. Until they reach their 80th birthdays, cardinals are eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. Blessed Paul VI limited the number of electors to 120, but later popes have occasionally exceeded that limit.

Three of the new cardinal electors hail from Asia, three from Latin America, two from Africa and two from Oceania.

Of the five Europeans on the list, three lead dioceses in Italy and Spain that have not traditionally had cardinals as bishops - another sign of Pope Francis' willingness to break precedent.

Pope Francis continues a movement he started with his appointments a year ago, giving gradually more representation at the highest levels of the church to poorer countries

While giving red hats to the archbishops of Ancona-Osimo and Agrigento, Italy, the pope will once again pass over the leaders of Venice and Turin, both historically more prestigious dioceses.

None of the new cardinals hails from the U.S. or Canada. Father Lombardi noted that the numbers of cardinals from those countries have remained stable since February 2014, when Pope Francis elevated the archbishop of Quebec. The U.S. currently has 11 cardinal electors and Canada 3.

The continuing geographic shift is incremental in nature. With the new appointments, cardinals from Europe and North America will make up 56.8 percent of those eligible to elect the next pope, down from 60 percent on Jan. 4.

The shift reflects the pope's emphasis on Africa and Asia, where the church is growing fastest, and on his native region of Latin America, home to about 40 percent of the world's Catholics.

A number of the selections also reflect Pope Francis' emphasis on social justice. The new Mexican cardinal leads a diocese that has been hard hit by the current wave of

drug-related violence in his country.

And one of the Italian cardinals-designate, the archbishop of Agrigento in Sicily, leads the Italian bishops' commission on migration, an issue on which Pope Francis has placed particular importance. In July 2013, the pope visited the southern Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, a major entry point for undocumented immigrants to Europe, and mourned the many who had died attempting to cross the sea.

Only one of the new cardinals, the head of the Vatican's highest court, is a member of the church's central administration, the Roman Curia, which currently accounts for about a quarter of all cardinal electors.

Announcing the appointments, Pope Francis noted that the ceremony to induct the new cardinals will follow a two-day meeting of the entire college, Feb. 12 and 13, "to reflect on guidelines and proposals for reform of the Roman Curia."

The pope's nine-member Council of Cardinals is currently working on a major reform of the Vatican bureaucracy, including a new apostolic constitution for the curia.

Pope Francis said he had chosen to honor five retired bishops "distinguished for their pastoral charity in service to the Holy See and the church," representing "so many bishops who, with the same pastoral solicitude, have given testimony of love for Christ and the people of God, whether in particular churches, the Roman Curia or the diplomatic service of the Holy See."

The five new honorary cardinals hail from Argentina, Colombia, Germany, Italy and Mozambique.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

'Speak Lord for your servant is listening'

After a festive season like Christmas (which extends all the way through the Baptism of the Lord), we can easily experience a let-down. After all, the party is over, and we're back to our daily routine.

The readings for this Sunday, however, make it quite clear that Jesus' mission is just beginning, and the Father is sending him disciples.

The first reading prepares us for this with a wonderful story about the call of Samuel who was to become the greatest judge in Israel.

Hannah, his mother, had experienced stinging taunts from her rival to the father's affections, and goes to the

temple at Shiloh, angry and upset.

As she prays in her emotional distress, Eli, the priest, thinks she's drunk, and tries to send her away. Hannah wins him over to her side, and God blesses her with a son.

This Samuel, whom later she dedicates to the service of the temple, is under the care of Eli, when, one night, God calls him from sleep three times.

Eli instructs him to answer the next time with the words, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (This is good advice for all who are seeking to know what God wants them to do with their lives).

In the Gospel of John, the call comes to Andrew and others through the encouragement of John the Baptist, who dramatically points out Jesus to them with the words, "Behold, the Lamb of God".

Andrew seeks out his brother, Simon, and together they seek out Jesus with the words, "Master, where do you live?". Jesus says simply, "Come and see".

For a whole day, they follow Jesus around, listening to him explain his mission. Only then, after some discomfiture, do they decide to leave their fishing and follow Jesus.

In the synoptic gospels, we are told that the two fisherman sons of Zebedee, James and John, make the same decision.

This Sunday gives us valu-

JAN. 18

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
READINGS

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

John 1:35-42

able advice about the vocation process.

In another passage, Jesus tells his followers, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you".

Even though God is the one who chooses, it is necessary for those whom he has chosen to have open minds and open hearts, to listen to the voice of the Master, to learn what mission is all about, and then, generously and deliberately, through prayer and counsel, to answer the call.

Why should young people today seriously consider the priesthood and religious life? Today's second reading provides a reason they might not have thought of as connected with "vocation". St. Paul tells the Corinthians that their bodies are "temples of the Holy Spirit" and should be used to glorify God.

This all fits with another passage which tells us that we are "not our own", but belong to the Lord, body and spirit. What better way to use our bodies than by offering them totally in the Lord's service?

These are deep thoughts for all of us, particularly young people, to think about on this Sunday which is all about God's call to follow His Son. The word for the day is, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!".



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Esteeming, fostering solidarity with our elders

Occasionally we hear disturbing stories in the media about young people who perpetrate abuse against the elderly.

In a widely reported 2009 story, for example, caretakers at the Quadrangle Assisted Living facility outside Philadelphia were charged in connection with the abuse of an elderly patient named Lois McCallister. Three employees, aged 19, 21 and 22 were caught on a surveillance camera as they taunted, mocked and assaulted the partially naked 78 year old woman.

She had begun complaining to visiting family members several months prior that someone was hurting her and hitting her. There were also initial signs of bruising on her hand and wrist.

After bringing the bruises to the attention of the nursing home's administrators, the family was informed

that the allegations were unfounded, and were told the accusations were simply the result of the patient's advancing dementia.

Family members suspected there was more to it, and clandestinely installed the video camera, hidden in a clock in the victim's room. After capturing the assailants on tape, they concluded that the abuse suffered by their mother had been ongoing for some time.

One of the young women charged in the case told investigators she was working on another floor the night the clock/camera captured the scene in the elderly woman's room. A family member later told news reporters, "They called the third girl down from another floor and said, 'Come down, we're going to start.'"

As a consequence of the abuse, the Department of Public Welfare eventually re-

voked the license for the facility, and the family filed a civil lawsuit against the parent company.

A tragic event like this leads to intense questioning about how these young people, charged with the special care of the older generation, could end up becoming so callous, inhuman, and brutal.

What can be done to prevent this kind of "inter-generational disconnect" from occurring in the future?

And what can be done to build up unity and respect between generations?

A nearly universal point of reference over the years, and a counsel of incalculable worth, has been the injunction enshrined in the Decalogue: Honor your father and mother. A decision

to abide by this commandment invariably serves to strengthen the concern of children for their parents and elders, and helps forge a bond between the generations.

The Book of Sirach offers similarly sage advice: "My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins..."

In a sense, it is precisely the weakness and vulnerability of the elderly that beckons us to manifest a greater respect towards them, and never to mistreat them in the strength of youth.



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

As Pope John Paul II beautifully summed it up in his 1999 Letter to the Elderly: "...the signs of human frailty which are clearly connected with advanced age become a summons to the mutual dependence and indispensable solidarity which link the different generations..." Compassionately attending to the needs of the elderly draws the generations together and builds solidarity. When the unique gifts of the elderly are invested and shared with the younger generation, this, too, builds up solidarity.

Elderly people help us see human affairs with a sense of perspective tempered by experience, reflection and wisdom. When ever grandparents contribute to the raising and formation of the grandchildren, even by doing something as simple as teaching them how to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

UNBROKEN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Positive values permeate the inspirational fact-based drama "Unbroken" (Universal). Despite its admirable qualities, however, the film also represents something of a missed opportunity.

That's because, in bringing Laura Hillenbrand's best-selling account of one U.S. airman's experiences during World War II to the screen, director Angelina Jolie emphasizes his sufferings at the expense of the remarkable attitude of forgiveness he was eventually able to adopt toward those who had abused him.

The aviator in question is Louis "Louie" Zamperini (Jack O'Connell). As early scenes demonstrate, Louie started life as a mischievous, directionless boy (C.J. Valleroy).

With the help of his supportive older brother Pete (John D'Leo), though, Louie discovered his talent for running, a gift that propelled him all the way to the



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL
Jack O'Connell stars in a scene from the movie "Unbroken."

1936 Berlin Olympics. As an Air Force bombardier serving in the Pacific Theater, Louie would go on to confront far more formidable challenges than those to be found on the track. Together with his best friend, Capt. Russell "Phil" Phillips (Domhnall Gleeson), and their crewmate tail gunner Francis "Mac" McNamara (Finn Wittrock), Louie survived a crash landing at sea, only to face nearly seven

weeks adrift on the open ocean. Eventually taken prisoner by the Japanese, Louie was singled out for mental and physical mistreatment by Mutsushiro Watanabe (Miyavi), the unbalanced commander of his POW camp. In response, he drew on the same determination that had enabled him to rise to the top as an athlete to endure through a marathon of

cruelty. Working from a script by Joel and Ethan Coen, Richard LaGravenese and William Nicholson, Jolie vividly re-creates the brutality to which Allied captives of the Japanese were all too often subjected. But she relegates her main character's unusual, if not unique, spiritual achievement in reconciling with his former persecutors to a written epilogue.

Viewers of faith will be all the more disappointed by that decision since the movie's opening suggests that Louie's Catholic upbringing was at least the indirect inspiration for this hard-won ethical accomplishment.

Louie later shows ambivalence toward Phil's uninhibited display of prayerful devotion in the wake of a close call in the air. Yet the screenplay implies that at least a residue of Louie's religious training remained with him as he faced the soul-testing rigors of his traumatic confinement.

The film contains combat and other violence, including torturous beatings, rear male nudity in a nonsexual context, a couple of uses of profanity and of crude language, a few crass terms as well as a bit of mild sexual humor. 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.

Esteeming

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

to pray and think about God, they strengthen intergenerational ties, and build family unity.

We can foster intergenerational care and support within our families and communities in other simple ways as well, for example, through conscientious parenting, including small but important steps such as insisting on meal time together as a family (which builds up mutual respect and concern for others in the family); teaching compassion by visiting sick or elderly neighbors together; teaching children to welcome all human life, even when weak or handicapped;

praying together as a family; decreasing media time and guarding against violent computer/video games, pornography and other practices that dehumanize people and make them seem like objects to be manipulated.

As we seek to build relational bridges across generations, and work to construct a society that esteems its elders, we simultaneously build up homes and communities that are liber-



ated of the threat of abuse or neglect — places of safety, mutual support and love, even as the hairs on our head turn gray and our strength wanes.

Father Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neu-

rosience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncb-center.org.

Follow Pope Francis on
Twitter!
www.twitter.com/Pontifex
 #Pontifex

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN

 Here is what one subscriber has to say: 

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

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

The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC
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CLINTON

MARCH FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – The annual Plattsburgh March for life to be held.

Date: Jan. 18

Time: 1 p.m. to 3:30

Place: The march begins at St. John the 23rd Newman Center and concludes at St. John the Baptist Church.

Speaker: Rev. Jason J. McGuire, Director of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms and President of the New Yorker's Family Research Foundation.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – St. Alexander & St. Joseph's Church will hold an all you can eat pancake breakfast.

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, free

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 will host an all you can eat spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 17

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

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center.

Take-outs are available

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6 to 12, \$2.50; under 5, free; family, \$20 maximum

QUILTING CLASSES

Ellenburg Center – Upcoming Quilt Classes at The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop.

Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks

Schedule:

• Star Quilt or Winter Star – Jan. 24, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Your choice of two quilt designs. Can be made table topper up to crib size. Cost \$20.

• Home on the Range Quilt Class – Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create a fun and easy quilt. Cost \$25.

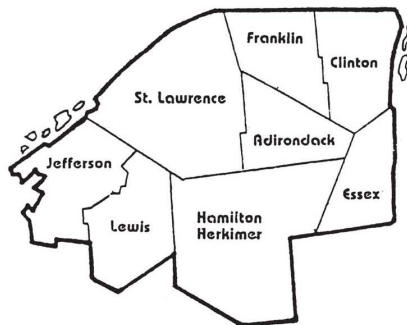
CHAMPLAIN BUS FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – Time to sign up for the 2015 Lake Champlain Bus for Life.

Schedule: Meet at St. Peter's Church in on Jan. 21 at 7:15 p.m. for the Jan. 22 March For Life. Arrive in Washington, D.C. early Jan. 22; Free Time in the morning. Rally and March at noon on National Mall; Meet at St. Peter's Church in D.C. at 4:45pm for the trip home.

Cost: \$25

Contact: Karen Smith at 518-566-6229 or Betty Buffett at (518) 536-6640. To sign up for the bus or make a donation, mail your check to St. Peter's Church 114



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.

Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, NY 12901.
Note on the memo line: "Bus for Life."

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs

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

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

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

Keeseville – There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

HEALING MINISTRY

Morrisonville – The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's holds Living Waters Healing Ministry

Date: First Thursday each month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Mass, Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,

FRANKLIN

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Brushton – St. Mary's will be having a breakfast buffet.

Date: Jan. 18

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6-12, \$4; 5 and under, free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, \$25

Features: Take-outs available. Call 518-

529-6580. Sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic Church events committee.

LATIN MASS

Constable – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Friday at 5:30 p.m. with Fr. Howard Venette as the celebrant.

Mass will also be celebrated every first Saturday at 9 a.m.

Place: St. Francis of Assisi Church.

JEFFERSON

JANUARY ULTREYA

Watertown – Cursillo Community celebrating January Ultreya.

Date: Jan. 23

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: St. Patrick's Chapel

Features: Cursillistas' reunion. Also, we welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and sharing it with other Catholics.

RESPECT LIFE VIGIL

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown will hold its annual interfaith respect live candlelight prayer vigil

Date: Jan 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: in front of the Municipal Building

Features: Half-hour vigil will be followed by refreshments at First Presbyterian Church (where vigil will be held in case of inclement weather.

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown – Prayer Service to end human trafficking.

Date: Jan. 25

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

Place: Hearthside Center, SSJ Motherhouse, 1425 Washington St

Speaker: David Buggs, Professor of International Crime & Justice, SUNY Potsdam, will speak on "Modern Slavery -- the Dates are Different but the Issues are the Same".

Contact: Sr. Bethany, SSJ; 315-782-3460 srbethssj@gmail.com

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.

Date: Jan. 29

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Anthony's Church, Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.50; under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

Features: Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

HOLY HOURS

Adams/Henderson – Holy Hours to be held.

Schedule: First Wed. at St. Cecilia 6:30 p.m.; Feb. 4; March 4; Third Monday at St. Cecilia 5 p.m. (followed by pot luck)

Jan. 19; Feb. 16; March 16; Thursday at Queen of Heaven 5:30 p.m.; Jan. 22

Features: adoration following the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Wed.

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown, a pro-life educational organization, meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 312 Sherman St.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

LEWIS

K OF C BRUNCH

Lyons Falls – The South Lewis Knights of Columbus will be having an all you can eat pancake brunch.

Date: Jan. 18

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic adoration to be held.

Date: Jan. 22

Time: 3 p.m. to 6

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, and the Benediction.

2015 RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

The Lewis County Right to Life and Knights of Columbus would like to invite you to participate in their annual Right to Life Bus Trip to Washington DC. This

Schedule: The bus will be leaving from Port Leyden Loch 96 Jan. 21 at 9 p.m.

and traveling through the night to Washington DC for the Right to Life March on January 22nd. The bus will be returning mid-morning on January 23rd.

Cost: Adults are \$50 and Youth are Free. **Contact:** For more information please Paul Campeau at (315) 346-6575 or (315) 486-7928.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of February will be held.

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. **Contact:** 348-6260.

ST. LAWRENCE

LATIN MASS

Potsdam – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Celebrant: Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

24 HOUR RETREAT

Syracuse – A 24 hour retreat to be held.

Schedule: From March 13 at 7 p.m. to March 14 at 7 p.m.

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Cost: \$140

Contact: spiritualrenewalcenter.com, phone: 315-472-6546 Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

LENTEN RETREAT

Syracuse – Refresh and recharge during Lent at our 24 hour retreat.

Schedule: From March 6 at 7 p.m. to March 7 at 7 p.m.

Place: Christ the King Retreat House & Conference Center

Cost: \$140; Register by March 2 with a \$25 deposit.

Contact: phone: 315-472-6546 Email: mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
 mbrett@rcdony.org

Gratitude for your generosity at Christmas

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

I am most grateful for your Christmas sacrifices and donations, which are such a blessing to the Church as it serves the poor of the Missions. Through these donations, you help to support the work and witness of Religious Sisters throughout the Missions, especially as they offer loving service to children in need.

By your prayers, and your gifts to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Missionary Childhood Association, you accompany those who bring this Good News to the poor and suffering. As I ask your continuing prayers for our mission family, know that you and those you love remain in my prayers.

I share with you below a picture of the Nativity located at San Martin de Porras parish in Mollendo, Peru. Without the generous support of the Diocese, things like this would not be possible. How beautiful!

Thank you for trusting in the love you show by your support and sacrifices to our brothers and sisters in developing countries. Let us reach out as missionaries and confidently announce the Good News of Christ with words and deeds. The best Christian testimony is love for others. God Bless and Happy New Year~



Nativity scene at San Martin de Porras parish in Mollendo, Peru.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.

OBITUARIES

Altona - Jennifer Rose Barcomb, 23; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2015 at Holy Angels Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg Depot.

Black River - Betty J. (Carson) Jeffers, 85; Funeral Jan. 3, 2015 at St. John Evangelist Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Canton - Don O. Thompson, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Copenhagen - Dr. Claud J. Lawler, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. James Cemetery, Carthage.

Dannemora - Robert J. Reyell, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

Elizabethtown - Agnes (Trombly) Denton, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2015 at St. Elizabeth's Church; burial in St. Elizabeth's Cemetery.

Elizabethtown - Laura M. (Smart) McNeil, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2015 at St. Elizabeth's Church.

Hogansburg - Lori S. Martin Lazore, 46; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2015 at St. Regis Church.

Hogansburg - Angus "Gus" N. McDonald, 65; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2014 at St. Regis Church.

Lake Placid - George William Sullivan, 87; Funeral Services at St. Agnes Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Long Lake - Frederick Eugene Wilson, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2015 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Lowville - Morton Lustig, 68; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2014 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, West Haven, Ct. Park Chapel.

Lowville - Martha (Augustyn) Lewandowski, 94; Memorial Services in spring at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville - Patricia Lyng Marcotte, 82; Funeral Services at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lowville - Ruth Barret McGrath, 99; Funeral Services in May at St. Peter's Church.

Malone - Bernard A. Dupra, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2014 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Malone - Eleanor M. (LaRoe) Henderson, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2015 at the Bruso Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Massena - Scott O. Kimble, 45; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2014 at that Donaldson

Funeral Home.

Morrisonville - Janet (Kelley) Trask, 77; Memorial Services Jan. 6, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church.

Ogdensburg - Amy M. Barrett, 38; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2015 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg - William V. Mereau; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2015 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ingham Cemetery.

Ogdensburg - Frances "Jean" (Miller) Sargent, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2015 at Foxwood Memorial

Ogdensburg - Charles J. "Chuck" Snow, 55; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Plattsburgh - Katherine Rose Filion, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2014 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery

Sackets Harbor - Patricia Anne McFadden Schwarz, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2015 at St. Andrew's Church.

Ticonderoga - Gerald "Jerry" B. Russell, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2015 at the Wilcox and Regan Funeral Home.

West Chazy - Lena K. (Gonya) Defayette, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

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CHILDREN FROM WELLS RECREATE 'LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM'



The "little town of Bethlehem" was brought to life on Christmas Eve at St. Ann's in Wells, as parish and local children re-created the birth of Jesus. Two narrators, Vincent Forgione and Edna Rew, told the story, beginning with Mary and Joseph's arrival in Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, host of angels and their flight to the shepherds to announce the good news and finally the journey of the three kings following a bright star in the sky. In between the vignettes, the beloved carols of the season were sung. Following the performance, Father Sony Pulickal, pastor, gave all children, helpers and narrators a gift in appreciation. The evening continued with a Christmas Eve Mass.



Catholic Charities to advocate for budget priorities in NYS

ALBANY - Catholic Charities leaders from across the state will convene at the Capitol in Albany Feb. 9-10, to advocate for their 2015-16 state budget priorities.

The New York State Council of Catholic Charities Directors, representing all eight dioceses of the state, will meet with key legislators and members of the Cuomo Administration on behalf of the state's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

The Council's budget priorities include:

- Targeted investment in human services: Fully funding the scheduled 2 percent salary and fringe benefit increases for human services workers; use of bank settlement funds toward an investment in the human

services infrastructure; and the development of a strategy addressing high childhood poverty rates in our upstate cities.

- Criminal justice: Fully funding the recommendations from the New York Commission on Youth, Public Safety, and Justice around the issue of raising the age of individuals being charged as adults.

- Affordable housing: Fulfilling the commitment to fund affordable housing from the initial bank settlement proceeds, with a request that \$439 million be appropriated in the 2015-16 state budget.

- Services to the intellectually/developmentally disabled and behavioral health populations: Fully funding these services rather than reducing them to repay the federal government \$1.26 billion from a CMS audit; with the use of bank settlement funds if appeals are not

successful with federal officials.

- Unaccompanied Minors: Support for the following items previously raised by the Archdiocese of New York in public testimony:

- \$24 million to support comprehensive case management and transitional support;

- support for deportation defense legal resources for children living outside New York City;

- support for expanded legal orientation community-based programs for children and parents/custodians;

- develop and support legal-medical partnerships and clinics; and

- expand the OTDA/BRIA Refugee Social Services Program and Targeted Assistance Grant.

The Council of Catholic Charities Directors will also hold a reception on the evening of Feb. 9 at the Albany Hilton.

CDA COOKIE BOX PROJECT



Catholic Daughters Court St. Bernard #787, Saranac Lake, held its third annual Cookie Box Project in December. Members of the court baked cookies and small loaves of sweet breads and put them into gift boxes along with some candies and tea bags. Each box was distributed to a homebound individual or someone who might not otherwise receive home baked goods. This year 65 boxes were put together at the Saranac Lake Adult Center and delivered to the recipients through the Meals on Wheels program. To meet special dietary needs, 20 of the boxes were diabetic appropriate. Further information on this project is available from CDA Court St. Bernard #787, 27 St. Bernard Street, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. Shown, seated are Carey Sayles, regent; and Judy Bibeau; standing, Marcia Doty Perras, Pat Riley, Dorothy Metz, St. Joseph Sister Carol Kraeger, court chaplain; Marjorie Howard, Virginia Shelhamer and Sandra Winder.

GO GREEN!

Receive the *NCC* in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.
E-mail eward@diogaldenburg.org to sign up today.