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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 69, Number 33

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 28 2015

Maturing in faith

VATICAN CITY (CNS)- The journey of faith always begins a little selfishly, seeking from God healing or help with a problem, but Christian maturity is allowing oneself to be purified and to arrive at the point of recognizing Jesus as savior, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating Mass Jan. 22 in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae where he lives, Pope Francis commented on Gospel stories that recount how the crowds flocked to Jesus hoping for healing. "We can never follow God with a purity of in-

tentions from the beginning," the pope said. "It's always a little for ourselves and a little because of God. To journey is to purify these intentions." Pope Francis, according to Vatican Radio, told the small congregation that the crowds originally followed Jesus be-

cause they were "a bit bored" by the way the Jewish elders of their day were teaching the faith and they felt oppressed by "the many commandments and precepts that were laid on their shoulders, but never reached their hearts."

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week is taking place Jan. 25-31 with the theme "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith Knowledge and Service."

In his Follow Me column this week, Bishop LaValley writes that "The faculties, staff, parents, volunteers and parishioners of our Catholic schools work hard and sacrifice much to provide the environment where our faith is learned, celebrated and shared."

Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, also shares a message for the special week.

FULL STORIES, PAGES 3, 5, 7, 16

Funeral held for Brother

Brother Guy Roddy, FIC, was well known for his academic service in the Diocese of Ogdensburg
FULL STORY, PAGE 6

READY TO MARCH



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

Among the tens of thousands who participated in the 42nd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22 were diocesan seminarian Leagon Carlin and Bishop Terry R. LaValley. Three busloads of high school students from the North Country, a group of college students and a bus from Lewis County also made the journey. See page 10.

FIRE DESTROYS FORMER SCHOOL

St. Mary's in Champlain

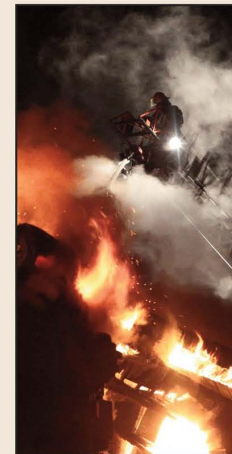


PHOTO BY GABE DICKENS

Firefighters battle flames that destroyed much of the former St. Mary's Academy in the Village of Champlain Jan. 16. The school, opened in 1906 in another location, had served prekindergarten through grade six when it was closed in 2012. The parish had been using the school as a center for church and community activities. As of Friday, Jan. 23, the cause of the fire that destroyed two thirds of the former St. Mary's Academy, including that oldest section, remained under investigation, Champlain Volunteer Fire Department Chief Pete Timmons said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

FACES OF FAITH: Winter cold doesn't stop lives of faith... p. 8-9

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Good news, sad news for our schools

As we begin our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week, it's hard not to let a bit of sadness temper our celebration.

On Jan. 16, another of our school buildings was destroyed in a fire.

Unlike St. Mary's in Ticonderoga, the parishioners of St. Mary's in Champlain aren't scrambling to create classrooms for their children. SMA in Champlain had closed its doors in 2012.

But the building was still important to the Champlain community as a parish center and a

community gathering place. And it was still important in the minds and hearts of all the former students and parents who cherish their days in its halls.



Mary Lou
Kilian

During its time as a school, St. Mary's in Champlain could claim the mantle of every other Catholic school in the North Country: a "community of faith, knowledge and service," the theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week.

This special week is a perfect time for Catholics to remind all their neighbors of the values of

schools which offer academic excellence, along with faith and character development.

Our bishops have been working hard to make sure politicians understand the value of Catholic schools to the community and have been lobbying to insure they receive the public support they deserve.

On that front, there has been some good news with the inclusion of the Education Tax Credit in Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Budget.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York and president of the New York State Catholic Conference, issued a statement Jan. 21 regarding new developments

related to the tax credit, which will encourage private giving to scholarship-making organizations for low- and middle-income families, as well as for programing in public schools:

"There were many other items in Governor Cuomo's address today worthy of our comment, which will come in good time," he said. "But for today, we want to focus solely on the Education Tax Credit to drive home the point of just how critical its passage is for the future of countless children across this state. Expanding educational opportunities is a clear matter of social justice, and we are so grateful for today's actions."

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

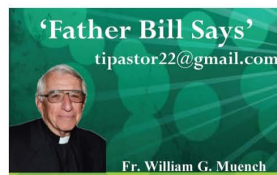
'Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will'

I would like to look back with you at the Old Testament Sunday reading a few weeks ago. It was the reading of the story of the young Samuel from the First Book of Samuel. I am certain you remember the story. It's familiar because we have a song often used at Mass with a the refrain that comes from the story – "Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will – your servant is listening.

The story begins with Samuel's mother, Hannah, who comes to pray at the shrine in Shiloh where Eli is the priest. Hannah is childless and she prays with a promise to God that if she has a child, she will place this child in the service of God and of the priest, Eli.

Hannah gives birth to Samuel and places him in the service of Eli. She prays – "I prayed for this child, and the Lord granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord, as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord."

In the Sunday reading, the young Samuel is sleeping in the temple before the Ark of the Covenant. In a sort of vision God calls Samuel. Samuel is surprised; he is confused and thinks it is Eli who is call-



ing him "Here I am, you called me."

Eli realizes that it is God who is calling him. Eli instructs the young man that if he is called again, to respond in faith and trust "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

This incident begins Samuel's vocation as one of the most important figures in the Old Testament – a Judge of the Hebrew people.

I believe that the Lord has a message for each of us every day of our lives. Each day the Lord calls us as he did Samuel. God seeks to find a way to get his message to us. Often, we are confused like Samuel. We are called to be people of faith, a faith that makes us ready to listen and recognize the Lord's message for us.

Each and every day of our lives, the Lord has a message for us. The Lord's message comes when we least expect,

often in ways that are a complete surprise to us. It may be something we hear at Mass, something in the Scriptures that are read at Mass or in one of the prayers. That is why our opening prayer at Mass should be, "Here I am Lord, your servant is listening."

It may be a line from one of the songs that are sung at Mass. I like to encourage all to follow the words of the songs at Mass even when they do not sing. There are so many wonderful messages for us in those songs.

There are many other ways that the Lord brings his message to us. It may be through a person, someone in the family – often, a child. Then again it may be someone who may be a complete stranger – a complete surprise. We will know when it is from the Lord when it's a message that leads us to do something good, even sacred – a message that leads us to make our world a better place. "Speak, Lord – your servant is listening."

The Lord's message may be rather simple – then again there may be something more challenging – more meaningful. This is all about vocation –

each of us – all of us – are being called to listen to the Lord.

The Lord calls us all to a vocation – each of us – all of us – are being called to listen to the Lord, to recognize our vocation for we are all called to a vocation.

Many find their vocation in marriage, others in the single life each filled with their challenging message from the Lord. Our faith gives us the wisdom to recognize the Lord's message, the message that will fill each vocation with the readiness to bring God's love as called by the Lord.

Each of us have been blessed with many wonderful talents, abilities that the Lord gives us that help us hear the Lord – recognize God's message – live out our vocation.

Let me take a moment here to remind you that many of you are called to be a religious – a priest or a Sister. The Lord continues to call many and many are needed. Yet, despite the fact that there are too few priests, I believe that the Lord continues to call. The message is being brought to many, many who will bring new life and new spirit to our Church.

FOLLOW ME

Happy Catholic Schools Week!

The annual observance of National Catholic Schools Week takes place this year from January 25-31.

This week will see the ten Catholic Elementary and two Catholic Middle/High Schools in the Diocese of Ogdensburg engage in activities for students, families, parishioners and communities celebrating the theme: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.*

St. John Paul II wrote that a central purpose of a Catholic education is to put faith in dialogue with culture (*Ex corde Ecclesiae*). Faith, academics, and community service are not isolated endeavors. The dialogue or integration of these three dimensions of education and formation is the measure by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

A school's Catholic identity is not gauged merely by the number of crucifixes hanging on the walls in the classrooms, but by how well students know and are motivated to live the mission of Jesus.

The faculties, staff, parents, volunteers and parishioners of our Catholic schools work hard and sacrifice much to provide the environment where our faith is learned, celebrated and shared.

A wonderful example can be found, for instance, at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. As many of you know, in early September of last year, the school suffered a devastating fire.

It was heart-wrenching to see such damage and yet so inspiring to witness the response by the school community, parishioners, the village, neighboring



Karlene Gonyeau, second grade student at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga and her student, Hailey Sutphen took time for a picture during Bishop LaValley's visit to the school Oct. 17. Mrs. Gonyeau explained to the bishop that the crucifix seen in the photo was the one item which was left intact after a fire destroyed the entire classroom and much of the school Sept. 5. Hailey took the crucifix home, and with the help of her parents, cleaned it up to be used again in the classroom, now being housed at the First United Methodist Church in Ticonderoga. In his message for Catholic Schools Week, Bishop LaValley writes that the Ticonderoga school is a "wonderful example" of an "environment where our faith is learned, celebrated and shared."

churches, (particularly the Methodist Church), the Knights of Columbus, other Catholic schools in the North Country and beyond, and many other individuals and groups that have generously offered prayers and assistance.



The students of St. Mary's, the teachers and staff, under the leadership of Father Kevin McEwan and St.

Joseph Sister Sharon Anne Dalton have shown us all what it means to be "St. Mary's Strong!"



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

The Catholic identity of this school continues to be so evident.

Theirs is a community bonded in faith and love as they continue to meet the challenges before them.

Theirs is a community where faith, knowledge and service are integrated well.

A strong, vibrant school community requires commitment and ongoing participation in the life of the school family by many, particularly our parents. Our weakest schools are those where our parents are not engaged in the ongoing life of the school.

In our Catholic schools, everyone must work together, bonded by love of our children and sharing a common vision of faith. In this way, the Catholic schools of the North Country become prime places for vocations to flourish, family life and faith formation to be strengthened and parishes re-vitalized.

This Catholic Schools Week is the perfect occasion to thank our parents who entrust their children to a Catholic School and to express gratitude to all those who help provide a sacred place where our youth are formed in faith, knowledge and Christian service.

Happy Catholic Schools Week!

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PHOTO BY GABE DICKENS

Firefighters battle flames that destroyed much of the former St. Mary's Academy in the Village of Champlain

Jan. 16. The school, opened in 1906 in another location, had served prekindergarten through grade six when it was closed in 2012.

Fire ravages former Champlain Catholic school

By Shan Moore
Staff writer

CHAMPLAIN - The massive stone structure on the hill here is encased in ice, its windows open to the elements, walls partially collapsed.

As of Friday, Jan. 23, the cause of the fire that destroyed two thirds of the former St. Mary's Academy, including that oldest section, remained under investigation, Champlain Volunteer Fire Department Chief Pete Timmons said.

The cause is not considered suspicious, however.

Cross outlined in flames

Fire broke out in the stone building just before 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16, quickly becoming an inferno.

For a brief time before the main roof fell in, the cross atop the stone structure was outlined in orange flame, on-lookers said.

Flames spread into the 1940s addition that held the gymnasium and cafeteria, but fire doors held it back

from the long structure that holds several classrooms.

That section suffered some smoke and water damage.

Friday, St. Mary's Parish pastor, Father Clyde Lewis told Hometown Cable Network television that he hoped the newest section could be salvaged, but further evaluation was needed.

Parish Center

St. Mary's Academy closed at the end of the 2012 school year after struggling with finances for a number of years.

It had offered pre-school for 3- and 4-year-olds as well as kindergarten through sixth grades.

It was still in use for religious education classes, other parish activities and community events.

'Sudden fire'

St. Mary's Parish Business Manager Laura Trahan was in the school with a small group dealing with a burst pipe for about a half hour before she smelled the odor of something burning.

There had been no signs of

fire before she caught that "strong, burning smell," she said.

"Absolutely nothing," she said.

She'd been in the locker room in the school basement, off the gymnasium.

"The minute I got to the top of the stairs, the lights started to flicker," she said.

Then, she saw a red glow at the far end of the corridor where the middle section met the oldest part.

Mr. Trombley, a firefighter himself, called to report the blaze as Linda Seymour struggled to close the fire doors between the newest and middle sections.

The floor was warped, so they wouldn't shut completely, Mrs. Trahan said, but firefighters forced them closed afterwards.

In large part, that's why the newest section - the former high school - was saved, she said.

"They certainly did their job."

The burst pipe had nothing to do with the fire, she noted, saying it was in a classroom at the opposite end of the school.

Guardian Angel

Some 200 firefighters from many departments, including from Vermont and Quebec, battled the conflagration for many hours in temperatures that measured subzero with wind chill.

Some are parishioners of St. Mary's, even attended St. Mary's Academy, Timmons said.

His son, Nikolas, was a student the three years before the school closed.

Fighting the flames was perilous work, with the danger of collapsing walls, and crews had to quench fire that caught in the eaves of a nearby home.

Afterwards, it was said that Father James Delbel, who'd been pastor during the school's final years and died in 2013, offered protection to them all.

"I heard several people say he was watching over us," Timmons said.

Feels stunned

Mrs. Trahan, who has worked for the parish for more than 30 years, felt the same.

Had circumstances been different, she or any of the others in the building when the blaze began could have been trapped inside, she said.

She watched the firefighters at work, the building crumbling, late into the night, feeling stunned at the turn of events, at the loss of the former school.

When she finally returned to her car, she found a precious bit had survived, however.

"A fireman placed a statue in my car that they had salvaged.

About 2 ½ feet tall, it represents the Virgin Mary.

"I don't know who did it or how," Mrs. Trahan said.

And a week later, the statue remained in her car.

Yes, the plaster image is too heavy for her to lift on her own, she said.

"And she's kind of protecting me, I guess."

(See the Home Town Cable interview with Father Lewis and other St. Mary's Academy footage at www.hometown-cablenetwork.com.)



Catholic Schools Week

January 25 - January 31

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Rites held for Brother Guy Roddy, FIC, 75

ALFRED, MAINE—A Mass of Christian Burial for Brother Guy Roddy, 75, a Brother of Christian Instruction, was held Jan. 26 Notre Dame Chapel.

A former business manager at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh and teacher at Wadhams Hall Seminary College in Ogdensburg, Brother Roddy Jan. 15 in Canton, Ohio. Burial was in the Brothers Cemetery in Alfred.

Brother Roddy was born Sept. 8, 1939, the son of Wallace and Anna (Walsh) Roddy on Sept. 8, 1939 in Burlington, Vermont

A student of Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh, he entered the formation center of the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Alfred, Maine.

Upon completing high school, he formally became a member of the congregation as a novice on August 15, 1958. His profession of perpetual vows took place in August, 1964, in Plattsburgh.

Brother Roddy earned his B.A. from Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, in 1965. In the span of 25 years he earned additional degrees: an M.A. in Catechetical Theology from Manhattan College ('68), and an M.A. in Pastoral Counseling from Emmanuel College ('82).

Always searching for professionalism in preparation for a career change, he obtained an M.S. in Administration from the University of Notre Dame ('89) and a D. Min. in Church Administration from the Graduate Theological Foundation, Ind. ('92).

With this extensive preparation Brother Roddy accepted a variety of assignments. His early high school teaching assignments were in Detroit, Mich. and Alfred, Maine and later at Walsh

University as an Assistant Professor in the Theology Department.

For five years he held the position of Religious Education Coordinator, first in Canton, Ohio (St. Joan of Arc Parish) and then in Plattsburgh.

He enjoyed seven years as a high school Guidance Counselor in New York State, and in Massachusetts - Bishop Connelly, Fall River and Holy Name, Worcester.



Brother Guy Roddy, FIC

Bishop's Schedule

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

Jan. 29 – 2 p.m., Installation of the Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne as the 10th Bishop of Burlington, VT

Jan. 30 – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 31 – 4:30 p.m., Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Madrid
6:30 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Church in Waddington

Feb. 1 – 2 p.m., 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Edward Grosz at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo

Feb. 3 – 2 p.m., Clinton County Four Chaplains Memorial Service at the American Legion in Plattsburgh

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

In 1989, he returned to Plattsburgh to serve for six years as Business Manager for Seton Catholic before accepting a teaching position at Wadhams Hall Seminary until its closing in 2002.

After a year's stint in the Philippines, he landed a teaching position at Walsh U. in 2004 where he additionally served as local superior of the Brothers' LaMennais Hall community on campus.

Brother Roddy strove to

live a quality life as a religious Brother, and for several years in formation work, guided young religious both at the novitiate and scholastic stages.

He was a founding member of the National Conference of Religious Brothers (NARB). He held membership on several Boards in Ohio. With his rich and varied experiences, he was serving

from 2009 until his last illness as Assistant to the provincial superior of the Notre Dame Province.

He is survived by his three siblings, John and Mary of Orlando, Fla. and Ellen Peloubet of N.J.

Contributions to the Brothers' Retirement Fund can be sent in his memory to Br. Jerome Lessard, PO Box 159, Alfred, Maine 04002.

Environmental Stewardship

Why do I do what I Do?

"Care of the environment affects the quality of our relationships with God, with other human being, and with creation itself. It touches the core of our Faith in and love for God." (GC 35, d.3.32-32)

Members of the Faith and Ecology Group in our Diocese were asked to share one simple act they do and why they do it. The topic for this week is: WATER.

Why do I do what I do to conserve this God-given natural resource? It is important to look at our use of water just from the perspective of it as an important public resource. It is essential that all people have access to clean, sufficient and affordable drinking water. It is a human right necessary for human health and survival. This leads to the question of how much of our water resources on this planet are actually available for use. The breakdown is very surprising to me and I am sure that it is to most people.

Total global water: Oceans 96.5%; Glaciers and Ice Caps: 68.6% (Fresh Water); Ice and Snow: 73.1% (Surface Water and Fresh Water) There is only 3% of earth's water and it is below your feet in ground water. Only 0.3% is contained in rivers and lakes. Rivers and lakes are where most of the water we use in our everyday lives exists.

The fact that there is really only 3% of water on the planet available makes it EXTREMELY important as to how we use or abuse this resource. The reason that I have for conserving and using this resource wisely comes from my belief system, that is from the idea as a Catholic we are to be good stewards of God's creation.

The last three Popes and especially Pope Francis, have stressed the need to be good stewards. It is based on the social justice techniques of the church and the preferential option for the poor from Vatican II. Today, over one billion people do not have access to safe, clean drinking water. Here in the United States, we have largely good public water systems. Unfortunately, we have allowed ourselves to be sold the message from corporations that our water is not good enough. The plastic water bottle industry has exploded in usage. So much so that one is six Americans drink bottled water exclusively.

What these corporations neglect to mention is that their water quality is no better, and sometimes worse, than tap water. It is regulated by the FDA not the EPA which has less stringent quality rules. In fact, a lot of bottled water has more chemicals and storage issues (chemicals that leach into the water from the plastic). The most ridiculous issue is the cost. Consumers are paying five hundred to four thousand times more for bottled water than tap water.

Once I learned these facts, I had to respond in how I use water in everyday life. I do not buy plastic water bottles. I use stainless steel water bottles filled with tap water. I bought a Britta Filter pitcher and used that to purify the tap water even more. I make sure there are no leaks from the faucets so that water is not wasted. I do not run water when brushing my teeth. I take shorter showers and when washing dishes I fill the sink, I do not let the water run constantly. These are not very difficult steps to take and I believe that everyone could make these steps part of their daily routine. I believe that to be a good steward of God's creation that actions speak louder than words. I hope that you feel the same.

Jack Beaumont
Plattsburgh

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. 28 – Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004

Jan. 29 – Msgr. James T. L yng, 1965

Jan. 30 – Rev. John T. Sullivan, 1884; Rev. Eusebius Schlingmann, O.F.M., 1937

Jan. 31 – Rev. B. J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. James S. McGowan, 1961; Rev. Timothy M. Ladden, 2003

Feb. 1 – Rev. John B. Doonan, 1949; Msgr. George T. Donnelly, 1968; Rev. Edward M. Delaney, 1977

Feb. 2 – Rev. William Bennett, O.M.I., 1887; Rev. Amadeus Viger, O.S.A., 1915; Rev. George E. Racette, 1961

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:

Feb. 3 - 10 a.m., SSJ Mothershouse, Watertown

Feb. 3 - 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

GO GREEN!

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A message from the Superintendent of Schools

Diocesan Vision and Catholic Schools Week

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSI
Superintendent of Schools

A mutually *Shared Vision*, our *Sacred Purpose*, *Diocesan Priorities* – three terms that refer to the direction our diocese is following for the next five years. As I thought about Catholic Schools Week, I considered our schools’ mission and defining characteristics that link them to the diocesan vision and priorities.

Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity to showcase the unique character of our Catholic schools, emphasizing their academic excellence and faith-filled education.

The diocesan mutually shared vision is rooted in Christ. The vision statement begins with the words “Christ- led, Christ-fed, and hope filled.”

Catholic schools are sacred places where students not only learn about their faith, but also encounter the living God in Jesus Christ. In this personal encounter with Christ, students become aware of their special dignity as children of God and their responsibility to proclaim the Gospel and reach out in loving service to their neighbor.

Through regular opportunities for prayer and the celebration of the sacraments especially the Eucharist they are strengthened for their journey of faith. In our schools, students are supported in their journey of faith “through the proclamation of the Gospel, the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacraments, and the loving service of neighbor.” They are prepared to “go forth” both as students and later in life to participate in the Church’s mission.

The specific purpose of a Catholic education is the formation of students who will be good citizens of the world, loving God and neighbor and enriching society with the leaven of the Gospel, and who will also be citizens of the world to come thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints.

Catholic schools offer outstanding academic programs. Students are exposed to the human knowledge and skills they need to be good citizens of this world. The academic programs, however, offer more than secular knowledge. They are infused with our Catholic faith which recognizes and addresses the students’ eternal destiny. Our students, as all of us, are called to holiness. The call to holiness is addressed in the diocesan priority, *Creating a Culture of Vocations*.

Yes, our students are called to be saints! Instruction and the personal witness of teachers provide them with the education and example to grow in holiness through the practice of virtue in imitation of Christ. In addition, the specific path to holiness as a married or single person, a priest, deacon, or member of the consecrated life is presented to students as an opportunity to discover God’s plan for them.

Their vocation, their specific path to holiness, is not solely a consideration of what they want “to be” but what God is calling them to be.

Our schools will welcome the *We are Called Vocation Awareness Plan* that is being developed and will use the material to promote a culture that supports and encourages students to discover God’s plan for them.

Strengthening Faith Formation in Family Life is a priority which our schools will eagerly embrace. Catholic schools partner with parents in the education and formation of their children.

They recognize parents as the first and primary teacher of their children in the ways of faith. What children are taught in school about their faith needs to be modeled in the home.

What better way for us to showcase our schools at this point in time than to consider our schools mission and defining characteristics in light of our mutually Shared Vision and Diocesan Priorities?

The sacraments received by school age children, especially Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are important events in their lives. Preparation for these sacraments is a teachable moment for the parents as well as the students. Engaging parents in the sacramental preparation of their children is essential. Sacramental preparation is a collaborative effort involving the school, the parish and the family.

The family catechesis for the seven Sacraments which will be provided for every parish by February 2016 will assist teachers and administrators as they continue to build relationships with parents that involve them in their on-going faith formation as well as the faith formation of their children.

Catholic Schools Week is an opportunity to showcase the unique character of our Catholic schools, emphasizing their academic excellence and faith-filled education. What better way for us to showcase our schools at this point in time than to consider our schools mission and defining characteristics in light of our mutually *Shared Vision and Diocesan Priorities*?

These are exciting and hope-filled times for our diocese. Our Catholic schools are fertile ground for the implementation of our diocesan priorities.

Funeral held for Atonement Sister Mary Ellen LaFave, 98

GARRISON, NY – A Mass of Christian Burial for Atonement Sister Mary Ellen LaFave, 98, was held Jan. 5 at the Motherhouse chapel, St. Francis Convent, Graymoor.

A native of Watertown, Sister Mary Ellen, died Dec. 31 2014 at the Lurana Health Care Residence of St. Francis Convent.

Burial was the Sisters’ Cemetery.

Sister Mary Ellen (Alice

Margaret) was born Dec. 12, 1916 to Agnes (O’Connor) and Jasper LaFave in Watertown.

She entered the convent Sept. 7, 1933.

She professed her first vows on October 18, 1935 and her final vows on August 30, 1941.

As an Atonement missionary, Sister served in catechetical and pastoral ministries in New York (Ticonderoga, Schenectady, Hogansburg, Og-

densburg, Mechanicville, Corinth, Crown Point, St. Cecilia’s in NYC and at Graymoor), New Jersey (Williamstown and Camden) and North Conway, NH before returning to Graymoor in 1999.

She was predeceased by her brother, Francis LaFave, and her sister, Sister Marcia LaFave, who was also a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement.

She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews who visited her often at Graymoor.



Sister Mary Ellen LaFave, SA



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City, State, Zip _____

Email address _____

WINTER GATHERINGS OF CATHOLICS IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

FACES OF FAITH



Several members of the diocesan Faith and Ecology Group recently gathered in St. John in the Wilderness Parish House at Lake Clear. Pictured, from left, are Eunice Trombly, West Chazy; Ursuline Sister Theresa Byrne, Malone; Emmy Bodrogi, Plattsburgh; Bernadette Clarke, Lake Placid; Jack Beaumont, Plattsburgh; Rene Duprey, Plattsburgh; Sheila Harrison, Plattsburgh; Ursuline Sister Sheila Murphy, Malone; Linda Soderbaum, Malone; Joanne Dwyer, Lake Clear; and Alan Trombly from West Chazy. St. Joseph Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, Watertown, facilitator, was the photographer.



Santa considered himself lucky to be surrounded by these elves at the recent Gabriel Project Christmas Party held at St. Patrick's Parish Center in Brasher Falls. Santa traveled all the way from the North Pole Dec. 6, but the elves came from the Tri-Town Area to help him. Some of the elves are Confirmation students at St. Patrick's/St. Lawrence Parishes and some are members of the Honor Society at St. Lawrence Central. Both groups of elves were looking to gain some volunteer experience. Every child in attendance received a gift and all families received a family gift ornament of the nativity scene to put on their Christmas Tree. A Christmas story was read, carols sung and cookies and punch were served by the Gabriel Angels while the children anxiously awaited Santa's arrival. The Gabriel Project from St. Patrick's/St. Lawrence Parishes continues their Apostolate in the Tri-Town and out-lying areas serving many families with babies and young children.



The parish of Ss. Philip & James in Lisbon has participated in the Lights on the River event at the Lisbon Campground for the past three years. The event raises money for area food pantries. This year, the parish display took first place in the not-for-profit category of the People's Choice Awards. The Church received a plaque and a check for \$50. Here, Katie Sovie, a young member of the Lights of the River board and a parishioner, presents the awards to church members Chris Puleo, Paul Dalton, Daughter of Charity Sister Mary Frances Barnes and Mike Backus. Then the church members donated the check to the Bishop's Fund.



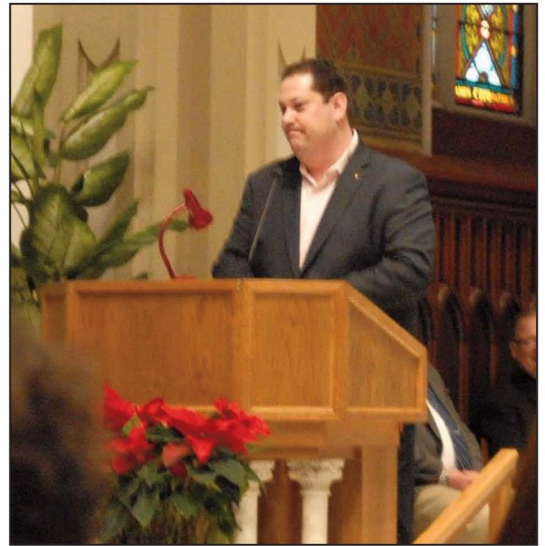
Parish leaders of St. John's, Our Lady of Victory and St. Peter's in Plattsburgh are preparing for the diocesan census, "Find Your Home in Christ." Because of considerable overlap, the three parishes have decided to prepare the census together and divide the visitation. Along with other parishes of the Clinton Deanery, commissioning of the league of workers will be held on the weekend of April 26 with the actual census running until Memorial Day.

AT THE PLATTSBURGH MARCH FOR LIFE



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Dave Clark, Master of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, led the annual Plattsburgh March for Life with fellow Knights from three area councils. The Jan. 18 march started at St. John XXIII Newman Center and concluded at St. John's Church.



Guest speaker for the annual march was the Rev. Jason J. McGuire, executive director of New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms based in Albany, and president of the New Yorkers Family Research Foundation.

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WASHINGTON LETTER

The march of the young

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The 42nd annual March for Life and rally in Washington is twice as old as its crowd of predominantly college and high school age students. And as each year's turnout seems younger, so do the day's tools.

Tweets from the March for Life prove it's not their grandparents' event

Participants at the Jan. 22 event not only met up by texting or calling each other on their cellphones, they also shared their experiences of the day -- and explained reasons for making the trek either across town or across country -- by posting lots of photos on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

Many began documenting their experience days before the march with posts from their buses or rest stops along the way. On the day of the march, there were online images from pre-march rallies, groups huddled on the National Mall or taking up a huge swath of Constitution Avenue as they made their way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The photos included group selfies, pictures with bishops and even with a cardboard cutout of Pope Francis. Images indicated the cold and predominantly cloudy day showing coats, hats and scarves (often matching) and gloves. The cause was also front and center with most groups carrying placards with phrases such as "I am the Pro-Life Generation," "Defend Life" or "#TeamLife."

Long gone are the days when March for Life participants who got separated from their groups had to wait at an assigned meeting spot at the end of the day to reconnect. What also would be inconceivable for today's marchers is the idea that you wouldn't see pictures of yourself on the National Mall with your friends until you got home and developed rolls of film from the day.



Father Timothy Cnaan, pastor of St. John's in Plattsburgh and diocesan director of campus ministry, posted a "selfie" on Facebook featuring college students from the diocese who joined him for the 42nd annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.

But this ease of sharing photos and connecting is not the only plus side of cellphones and social media use for these marchers. For many, this technology is a way to further spread their mes-

sage.

Just by standing with the crowds of tens of thousands, participants expressed their opposition to the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. But many of them took this stance a step further by telling the online world why they were there. Under the Twitter hashtag #Whywemarch they posted their reasons for coming in 140 characters or less or posted photos of themselves holding handwritten signs that explained their reasons.

They could have taken their cue from Pope Francis, who sent a 7 a.m. (EST) tweet Jan. 22: "Every Life is a Gift. #marchforlife." It was retweeted 18,807 times and favorited 24,265 times by the next day.

Many people who could not join the march also tweeted their support and wishes that they could have been there.

Pro-life advocates urged participants to tweet their representatives and senators and a few senators tweeted their support to the marchers, including Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, with this message: "Need to warm up after the #marchforlife? Head over to @marcorubio's office for coffee at 284 Russell Senate Office Building."

Based on Twitter feeds during the march, there was not much reaction to a Senate action early that afternoon passing a bill to restrict taxpayer funding of abortion. The decision, announced by The Associated Press at 1:20 p.m., may have appeared on the screens of some of the marchers' cellphones, but they might not have been paying attention, focused on the march at hand or simply on staying warm.

The extremely festive feeling of the march as it appeared on social media -- including pictures of cute kids and college students juggling in the street -- may have belied the seriousness of the pro-life cause the participants were in town to rally around.

But one tweeter put the day and its happy crowd in perspective with this message: "The #MarchforLife is an unbelievable mix of sorrow at the crime that brought us here, joy in seeing friends & hope at the #ProLifeGeneration."

'It's up to young people to end the scourge of abortion'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- On a chilly and cloudy morning on the National Mall in Washington, crowds gathered Jan. 22 for the annual March for Life, this year marking the 42nd anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion virtually on demand.

Tens of thousands gathered first to hear a lineup of speakers, before marching

from the Mall up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court building on Capitol Hill.

Early in the day, Pope Francis showed his support of the pro-life gathering by tweeting the theme: "Every Life is a Gift" with the hashtag #marchforlife.

By late morning, the temperature had reached about 40 degrees, warmer than

many a previous march, and a music group opened the rally with the songs "To Be Loved" and "You're Not Alone." The music was upbeat with lively mandolin licks.

Several members of Congress were in attendance, including U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kansas, who told Catholic News Service, "I am here to make my col-

leagues listen." Huelskamp said life is a core issue in the public debate, and that Kansas was already at the forefront of human rights issues. "They were at the forefront of the slavery issue," he said, and are now at the forefront of the life issue.

Levi Fox, a volunteer and a graduate of Liberty University, said, "Half of our generation is missing. Sixty million

have been killed since Roe v. Wade, which is why I am dedicating my time to the March for Life."

After the musical opening, Patrick Kelly, the chairman of the March for Life board, told the crowd they were attending "the largest and most important human rights rally in the world," and noted the march is becoming "bigger and younger every year."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Supreme Court agrees to take up same-sex marriage cases this term

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Supreme Court Jan. 16 agreed to hear four cases over the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, tackling the questions of whether the 14th Amendment requires states to allow such marriages and whether it requires them to recognize same-sex marriages licensed in other states. In brief orders, the court accepted petitions from Tennessee, Michigan, Kentucky and Ohio, consolidating them into one hearing that will be held probably in late April, meaning a decision would likely come before the end of the term in late June. The court allotted an unusually lengthy period of time for oral arguments, two and a half hours, compared to a typical 60-minute period. As of Jan. 16, 36 states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriages, either under court rulings or state laws. In the other 14 states, they are prohibited, but those bans are all under legal challenge. The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage said that a decision by the Supreme Court on whether a state may define marriage as the union of one man and one woman "may be the most significant court decision since the court's tragic 1973 Roe v. Wade decision making abortion a constitutional right." Upholding traditional marriage "is not a judgment on anyone," he said. "It is a matter of justice and truth. The central issue at stake is: what is marriage? The answer is: a bond which unites a man and a woman to each other and to any children who come from their union."

Pope says he will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra in Washington

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM MANILA, Philippines (CNS) -- Pope Francis said his September trip to the U.S. will take him to Philadelphia, New York and Washington -- where he intends to canonize Blessed Junipero Serra -- but probably no other stops. Pope Francis made his remarks Jan. 19, in an hourlong news conference with reporters accompanying him back to Rome from a week-long trip to Asia. Four days after announcing he would canonize Blessed Junipero in the U.S. in September, the pope said he wished he could do so in California, the 18th-century Franciscan's mission field, but would not have time to travel there. The pope said he planned instead to perform the canonization ceremony at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, saying Washington would be a fitting location because a statue of Blessed Junipero stands in the U.S. Capitol. The pope also confirmed he would visit the United Nations in New York. He had already announced his participation in the late-September World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. Asked about widespread speculation that he would visit the U.S.-Mexico border on the same trip, Pope Francis said "entering the United States by crossing the border from Mexico would be a beautiful thing, as a sign of brotherhood and of help to the immigrants." But he said making such a visit would raise expectations that he would visit Mexico's shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and he joked that "war could break out" if he failed to do so. "There will be time to go to Mexico later on," he said.

Pope, at Mass with millions, tells Filipinos to protect the family

By Francis X. Rocca
Catholic News Service

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (CNS) - Pope Francis told a crowd of an estimated 6 million gathered in a Manila park to protect the family "against insidious attacks and programs contrary to all that we hold true and sacred, all that is most beautiful and noble in our culture."

The pope's homily at the Jan. 18 Mass also reprised several other themes he had sounded during the four-day visit, including environmental problems, poverty and corruption.

Despite continuous rain, the congregation in Rizal Park began to assemble the night before the afternoon celebration. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila canceled other Masses throughout the archdiocese to enhance turnout. The crowd was so dense in spots that people passed hosts to fellow worshippers unable to reach priests distributing Communion.

The government estimated total crowd size at 6 million-7 million people. According to the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, that would be the largest number of people ever to gather to see a pope. A Mass with St. John Paul II in the same place 20 years earlier is believed to have drawn 4 million-5 million people, often described as the largest live crowd in history.

The Mass was celebrated on Santo Nino Day, or the feast of the Holy Child Jesus, one of the most popular feast days in the Philippines. Many of those who walked great distances down closed roads to get to Rizal Park held statues of Santo Nino.

For his final scheduled public talk in the country,



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis kisses a baby as he arrives to celebrate Mass in Rizal Park in Manila, Philippines, Jan. 18.

Pope Francis stuck to his prepared English text and did not improvise in Spanish, as he had done at several emotional points during the visit. Yet his voice rose with emphasis during the passage about protecting the family.

Those words echoed his warning, during a Jan. 16 meeting with Filipino families, against "ideological colonization that tries to destroy the family" through such practices as same-sex marriage and contraception.

In his homily, Pope Francis said Christians "need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished and protected. And we need to care for our young people, not allowing them to be robbed of hope and condemned to life on the streets."

The pope praised the Philippines, whose population is more than 80 percent Catholic, as the "foremost Catholic country in Asia," and said its people, millions of whom work abroad, are "called to be outstanding missionaries of the faith in

Asia."

Yet he warned the developing nation, one of Asia's fastest-growing economies, against temptations of materialism, saying the devil "hides his snares behind the appearance of sophistication, the allure of being modern, like everyone else. He distracts us with the promise of ephemeral pleasures, superficial pastimes. And so we squander our God-given gifts by tinkering with gadgets; we squander our money on gambling and drink."

Pope Francis, who had urged a group of young people earlier in the day to address the challenge of climate change through dedication to the environment, told Mass-goers human sinfulness had "disfigured (the) natural beauty" of creation.

Other consequences of sin, the pope said, were "social structures which perpetuate poverty, ignorance and corruption," problems he had emphasized in his Jan. 16 speech at Manila's presidential palace.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

St. Paul: 'don't sweat the small stuff!'

The first reading today from Deuteronomy gives us an amazing insight into God's patience and mercy toward the people of the Covenant.

The setting is the desert, where the Israelites are stalled on their journey toward the Promised Land.

Why are they stalled? Because their parents grumbled against God in their lack of faith.

So now the young people beg Moses not to subject them anymore to God's fire and thunder. "Moses," they cry, "you are flesh and blood like us. You be God's voice, please."

And God agrees with their request by saying to Moses, "I will raise up for them a

prophet like you from among their kin".

But God gives a warning. Any prophet He chooses had better take the job of seriously. So Moses becomes the first of a whole line of prophets for Israel who would reveal God's plans for the future Messiah.

In the Gospel, Jesus announces to the people that the Kingdom of God has finally arrived.

He proceeds to amaze the people by driving out a demon from a man who confronts him in the synagogue.

He does it with an authority unlike that of their religious leaders.

Place yourself in that scene in the synagogue.

Looking around, you might see one or two who might look enviously at the man freed of his demon.

Would you be envious, too, knowing that you yourself might have a demon or two? What demon would you like driven out? The demon of depression or stress, perhaps?

In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians, "I should like you to be free of anxieties".

Is stress perhaps your demon?

Stress has been pictured as an old man with head bowed down carrying a load of feathers which he thinks to be lead. Or a man trying to cross a bridge, and he hasn't even gotten to it yet.

Stress comes from trying to control everything, especially things that are beyond our control. Perhaps it's the

Feb. 1

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Mark 1:21-28

economy, or lack of health care, or lack of a job.

Stress comes from trying to be perfect in everything, all the time.

No one is perfect except Jesus Christ.

Some years ago Richard Carlson wrote a book called *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff*. It was so popular that it became a series of books.

He wrote, "Make peace with imperfection." "If someone throws you the ball, you don't have to catch it." "Life isn't an emergency." "Give up on the idea

that more is better", "Stop blaming others", "Get comfortable not knowing", "Resist the urge to criticize".

St. Paul said it in today's reading: "Don't sweat the small stuff".

Jesus told us very clearly in the Gospels not to let worry get out of hand, not to be afraid, but to trust the power and the plan of His Heavenly Father.

"Call on me", God says, "and I will answer you".

Take the load off your shoulders and just give it to the Lord. And pray.

So we're back in that synagogue. Jesus is coming toward us. Tell him of your demon. Ask him to free you from it.

Then, freed from that demon, you can with renewed energy, praise Him, serve Him, and love Him with joy.

THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

REQUEST FOR PRIESTS


WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

PRAYER SUGGESTION

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name a priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul; take over his entire personality and life.

Replace him with yourself.


Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always. O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.



The Passion of our Lord

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY **FEBRUARY 2015**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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OUR PASTOR 8 JOSEPH W. ELLIOTT	REV. 9 ALFRED H. FISH	REV. 10 FRANCIS J. FLYNN	REV. 11 SCOTT D. FORARE	REV. 12 VINCENT F. FRESH MSC	REV. 13 MICHAEL GAFFNEY	REV. 14 PAUL J. HAUSER
POPE BENEDICT 15 ADRIAN GALLAGHER OFM, CONV.	REV. 16 GARRY B. GIROUX	REV. 17 JOSEPH W. GIROUX	REV. 18 WILLIAM GORDON	REV. 19 ROLLAND A. HART	REV. 20 ALBERT J. HAUSER	REV. 21 PAUL J. KELLY
RETIRED PRIESTS 22 PETER G. HELFRICH	REV. 23 THOMAS J. HIGMAN	REV. 24 JEFFREY A. HUBBARD SS	REV. 25 VICENTE F. JAZMINES	REV. 26 DANIEL T. KEEFE	REV. 27 PAUL J. KELLY	REV. 28 PAUL J. KELLY

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Support And Pray For Vocations

OUR READERS WRITE

Stop Planned Parenthood

Forty-two years later and Roe v. Wade – abortion on demand – remains the so-called law of the land. It's the officially recognized and legal means to exterminate innocent human life in the womb throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Convenient!

And then there's Planned Parenthood, the multi-billion dollar so-called non-profit health organization so generously supported by your taxpayer dollars. They proudly boast of helping couples "plan their parenthood." But in reality, Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading slaughterhouse of innocent pre-born babies. Tragic!

Visit the link "STOPP.org" to view actual statistics of Planned Parenthood's operation. Here's just a few for shock value:

- 1. Year-end record profit of \$127 million; aborted over 327,000 babies in 2013;
- 2. 55.8% of non-government clinic income provided by abortions; 94.0% of pregnancy services were abortions; 174 abortions for every one adoption;
- 3. Pre-natal services down 54% - Breast exams down 58% - PAP tests

down 41% since 2009.

Planned Parenthood's abortion grants at all-time high \$1.3 billion in 2014, up 7.7% from 2013. Fiscal year 2013-14 saw Planned Parenthood receive \$528 million of taxpayer funding. Your tax dollars give Planned Parenthood 41% of their overall income.

If you want to stop killing pre-born babies, Planned Parenthood must be stopped first!

DONNA & MICHEL MAREK
 OGDENSBURG

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

AT THE MOVIES

AMERICAN SNIPER

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

For those seeking an insight into an individual veteran's perspective on the Iraq War, director Clint Eastwood's sober drama "American Sniper" (Warner Bros.) -- which stars Bradley Cooper as real-life Navy SEAL Chris Kyle - will likely hit home.

Yet moviegoers in search of a bigger-picture moral assessment of that conflict, or of armed clashes in general, may come away disappointed.

Drawing on Kyle's 2012 memoir (written with Scott McEwen and Jim DeFelice), Eastwood and screenwriter Jason Hall trace the expert sharpshooter's rise to celebrity status among his comrades.

They also track his emergence as a prime target for enemy insurgents who eventually put a price on the Texas native's head.

Determined to safeguard his fellow fighters -- who dub him "the Legend" in recognition of his life-preserving prowess -- Kyle insists on returning to combat through four grueling tours of duty. But his exposure to the moral and emotional pressures of urban warfare predictably exacts a psychological toll and places a strain on his relationship with his loving wife, Taya

(Sienna Miller).

Scenes set during Kyle's childhood show his forceful dad instilling the belief that people can be divided into three basic categories: predatory wolves, vulnerable sheep and protective sheepsdogs. From the adult Kyle's point of view, it's enough to know that there are villains on the loose in Iraq - and innocent victims potentially at their mercy - for his chivalrous course of conduct as an aspiring member of the third grouping to become apparent.

While Eastwood successfully conveys Kyle's personal heroism, his film avoids engaging the larger issue of whether the geopolitical cause to which Kyle repeatedly and resolutely lent his skills was an ethically valid one.

In purely cinematic terms, moreover, the picture alternates between effectively displaying the consequences of Kyle's scarring battlefield experiences and weakly relying on dialogue that can only hint at these same wounding repercussions.



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Kyle Gallner and Bradley Cooper star in a scene from the movie "American Sniper."

Taken on its own terms and considered as a whole, however, Eastwood's movie reliably escorts viewers through both the agonizing instantaneous dilemmas and the longer-term complexities that confronted the courageous warrior on whom its action centers.

The film contains stylized violence with some gore, a scene of torture, a premarital situation, several uses of profanity and constant

rough and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture

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

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ADIRONDACK

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lake Placid – Catholic Daughters to present a presentation on anti-trafficking prevention and identification.
Date: Feb. 8
Time: after the 10 a.m. Mass
Place: St. Agnes School
Speaker: Dr. Tom Dooley will present a Power Point based on that developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops/Migration and Refugee Services - Anti-trafficking Program entitled Anti-Trafficking Prevention and Identification in Your Community.
Features: Brochures containing additional information and source materials will be available. This day was chosen for the presentation because February 8th is the Feast Day of St. Josephine Bakhita, patron of slaves. The USCCB has asked that we observe February 8th National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking.

CLINTON

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 p.m.
Place: St. Joseph's Parish Hall
Cost: Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, free

QUILTING CLASSES

Ellenburg Center - Upcoming Quilt Classes at The Lost Sheep Quilt Shop.
Place: Our Lady of the Adirondacks
Schedule: Home on the Range Quilt Class - Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Create a fun and easy quilt. Cost \$25.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

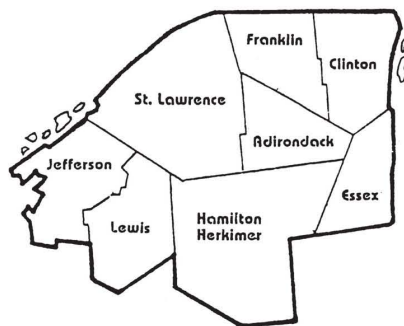
Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
Place: St. John's "Holy Family" Adoration Chapel, downstairs
Time: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Contact: call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

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



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.

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

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, case of inclement weather.

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Wells - St. Ann's Altar & Rosary Society is holding a St. Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast.

Date: Feb. 14

Time: 8 a.m. to 11

Place: Wells Meal site, located directly behind the Wells Community Hall.

Cost: \$6.00 per person/\$4.50 children 12 and under and under 3 free.

Features: Blueberry pancakes, or plain, sausage, juice and coffee. Gluten free also available. There will also be raffle tickets on sale for an afghan and prayer shawl, crafted and donated by Evelyn Stephens, with the drawing May 31.

JEFFERSON

RELIGIOUS OPEN HOUSES

Watertown – Four religious community houses in Watertown will hold open houses as part of their observance of the Year of Consecrated Life.

Date: Feb. 8

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: At the houses of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of the Cross, Sisters of the Precious Blood, and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Features: 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.

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) Feb. 16; March 16;

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

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Harrisville – All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner to be held.

Date: Feb. 11

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

Place: St. Francis Solanus Church

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

Features: Meat balls, rolls, Salad, and homemade dessert. Take-outs available.

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

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASS

Gouverneur—Natural Family Planning classes to be offered by the Diocesan NFP Office.

Date: Jan. 31

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: St. James School library.

Cost: \$45 fee covers all materials. Pre-registration is required.

Features: Natural Family Planning educates couples to identify and interpret physical signs of fertility. This knowledge may be used to postpone pregnancy (99% effectiveness), or to help achieve conception. Married or engaged couples, are encouraged to explore this way of living in harmony with God's plan.

Contact: Angelo/Suzanne Pietropaoli: phone 518-483-0459. Email api-etropaoli@rcdny.org.

FIRST SATURDAY ROSARY

Massena – First Saturday rosary devotion to be held.

Date: Feb. 1

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Church

Features: The Rosary will be prayed to Our Lady of Fatima followed by a private meditation on the Luminous Mystery's. Confessions begin at 2:45 p.m. and the Saturday Mass Vigil is at 4:00 p.m.

K OF C BRUNCH

Norfolk – The Knights of Columbus

Council 11544 will be hosting their monthly brunch.

Date: Feb. 8

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

Place: Fr. Andrew Amyot Parish Center (Visitation Parish Center)

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

Menu: Pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, home fries, toast, sweet breads, orange juice, coffee and tea. Made to order omelets are available for a small additional charge.

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Syracuse – This four session course will explore the historical and religious setting of this last-to-be-written of the gospels while deepening our understanding of select texts from John for our own lives as Christians.

Date: Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25

Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:30

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Cost: \$45 or whatever you can afford
Speaker: Jim Krisher, the Center's director, will lead this course. Jim is also a adjunct faculty member in the Religious Studies department at LeMoyne College. Features The Gospel of John has been known as "the spiritual gospel" and "the eagle's word" reflecting its insight into the person of Jesus and his significance in human history.

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

LENTEN RETREAT

Syracuse – Refresh and recharge during Lent on 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, SSI, Director
622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296
mbrett@rcdony.org

Catholic Schools Week 2015

From the director's desk
Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI
Diocesan Mission Director

Here's to Catholic Schools as they celebrate Catholic School Week! Their students, faculties, staffs and principals all play an important role in this precious gift of Catholic Education.

I pray that your Catholic Schools week brings you closer to God, gives you a deeper sense of Faith and allows you to enjoy your years as students and look back with joy filled hearts.

Thank you for all you do!

Catholic School Week is a unique opportunity to celebrate what is so wonderful about a Catholic education. Students who attend Catholic schools can express their faith in everything they do throughout the school day.

The Pontifical Mission Societies Inc. in the Diocese of Ogdensburg recognizes the important segment that Catholic Schools play in our existence of the Missionary Childhood Association or MCA. MCA is a successful programming tool that raises awareness and much needed funds for the Mission Lands. In keeping with Catholic School week's themes, MCA programming offers young Catholics and their families the opportunities to make those daily connections to the Missionary world and Missionary spirit.

Catholic Schools Week can be an inspirational time for teachers and administrators who give so generously of themselves to make Catholic education available. Take time as a faculty to reflect on the gift of Catholic education and what you do every day to change the lives of the children you teach.

The Mission office acknowledges the generous contributions of our Catholic schools to the MCA program which also changes the lives for the better of children far away in developing Mission Lands.

Lastly, here's to the parents and guardians who make a Catholic education possible for your children. There is much sacrifice involved to make this a reality. Parent/family participation in a child's Catholic education is an integral part of the success of it. Your unending support will pay off in big dividends.

So, enjoy the week! Make memories that will last a lifetime and go forward with a renewed sense of passion and eagerness to learn.

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

OBITUARIES

Alexandria Bay — Joan (VanArnam) Durand, 84; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2015 at St. Cyril's Church

AuSable Forks — Greta L. LaGoy, 87; Funeral services Jan. 17, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

AuSable Forks — Ursula Akey, 60, Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2015 at Holy Name Church, burial in parish cemetery.

Bloomington — Ruth (Hough) Laundry, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2015 at St. Paul's Church; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Brownville — Helen M. (Pound) Chapman, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2015 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Brownville Cemetery.

Carthage — Mary Margaret Pierce, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2015 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery.

Croghan — Patricia A. (Campany) Nortz, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Crown Point — Eric C. Spaulding Jr., 94; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church.

Ellenburg — Louis J. "Buddy" DuPree Jr., 76; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens Mausoleum.

Glenfield — Edward F. Kogut, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Glenfield — Theodora "Sis" (Patnode) Stedman, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Hammond — Beulah (Stevenson) Valerio, 99; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Rossie.

Hogansburg — Earl R. Herne, 82; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2015 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Akwesasne.

Madrid — Richard D. LaClair, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2015 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Madrid — Lowell F. "Bubba" Smith, 60; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2015 at St. John

the Baptist Church; burial in St. John the Baptist Cemetery.

Malone — Dorothy M. Carrigan; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone — Teresa A. Dame, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Elizabeth A. (Love) Caza, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Zigmon A. Dywan, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Jacqueline "Jackie" E. (Grinstead) Fayette, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church.

Massena — Michael P. Perkins, 53; Funeral Services Feb. 7, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Simone G. St. Louis, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Julie A. Thompson, 46; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2015 at the Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Massena — Dean B. Trotter, 64; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at Phillips Memorial Home.

Massena — Mark P. Tyo, 39; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Mineville — Nancy L. Crammond, 75; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at All Saints Church.

Moers — Harry T. Gonyo, 67; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church.

Morrisonville — Michael Pekrul, 54; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2015 at St. Alexander's Church.

Norwood — Margaret G. (Brothers) LaPoint, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2015 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Norwood — Robert L. Matthews, 74; Funeral Jan. 10, 2015 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Arthur P. Graveline, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2015 at Notre Dame Church; burial at sea.

Ogdensburg — Mark J. Montroy, 59; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2015 at Frary Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — Donald J. Smith, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at Frary Funeral Home.

Peru — Jeannine M. (Bouyea) Clemons, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery, Plattsburgh.

Peru — Lawrence M. McSweeney, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh — Catherine C. "Claire" (Norris) Goineau, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 26, 2015 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Port Henry — Mary B. Jarvis, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Henry — Katherine Suddard, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam — Peter M. Belmore, 68; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Potsdam — Helene Marie (McBride) Phillips, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2015 at St. Mary's Church.

Potsdam — Ruth M. (Duval) Yates, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Sackets Harbor — Daniel J. Burnham, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2015 at St. Andrews Church; burial in Lakeside Cemetery.

Theresa — Marciele (Dellinger) Cappucetti, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2015 at Frederick Browns Funeral Home, Inc.

Ticonderoga — Bernard F. Schryer, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Watertown — Richard F. Emerson, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 23, 2015 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Dexter Cemetery.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Catholic Schools Week... Jan. 25-31

Non-Catholics choose Catholic schools for values

By Katie Scott
Catholic News Service

ARLINGTON, VA. (CNS) - When Felicia and Ethan Carr began searching for a high school for their eldest son, they wanted a school with a top-notch college preparatory program.

But the Carrs, who are Baptist, sought something else as well.

"A lot of schools focus on the brain; we wanted a school that also focused on the heart," said Felicia.

The search eventually led them to Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington where their son Christopher is a junior and his brother, Nicholas, is a freshman.

The Carrs are not alone. Nationally, one-fifth of Catholic secondary school students are not Catholic, according to the National Catholic Educational Association.

Families from different faiths choose Catholic schools for reasons "beyond class size and beyond the ac-

ademics," said Virginia Colwell, principal of Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax. "They are looking for something more, for a school that has their moral values and their beliefs. They want their children to be exposed to values in the classroom every day, not just at home."

According to the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Education, the proper function of Catholic schools "is to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity."

It is this Gospel spirit that cultivates the value-focused environment that appeals to non-Catholic parents, said Joseph Vorbach, who is head of school at Bishop O'Connell.

"Parents know that fundamentally this is a program grounded in a value system, and they find that very appealing," he told the Arlington Catholic Herald, the diocesan newspaper. "It has to do with our mission that education is rooted in the life of Christ and focused on the whole person. Even if they are not Christian, they find that attractive."

Krista Price, mother of Sam and Rachel Price, who attend Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, said her family is Protestant but she "wanted the kids to receive a solid education and to avoid the pitfalls of public school." The family was home-schooled through eighth grade, so she

felt a smaller school would ease the transition. Most importantly, though, "we wanted a Christ-centered school," she added.

"The Catholic faith element has been a positive influence for our whole family," Krista pointed out, noting that questions raised in religion class topics often "motivate us to go back and research what we believe."

Sam, who has considered becoming a minister, agrees with his mom and said he's been inspired by his Catholic classmates.

"Some (fellow students) want to go into ministry, and whether it's as a missionary or a priest or a nun, I've found that pretty cool that we are different denominations but all want to serve God," he said.

As Orthodox Christians, Maria and Ruairi Murray decided to send their son Patrick to Seton in Manassas, a junior and senior high school affiliated with the Arlington Diocese, for a number of reasons, including the school's academic rigor, its conservative feel and Christian environment.

"It was important to us for him to see ... peers who are struggling to live the Christian life, that it's not just an ideal but an everyday struggle, because it is for each of us," said Maria.

However, the Murrays ensure their son understands the distinction between Catholicism and their own faith, but the differences also

deepen a family's own Christian beliefs.

"As parents, we have great comfort in knowing that our son is in an educational environment that will reinforce much of what he learns ... in the Eastern Church," said Ruairi. "With that said, there are some key differences. Being cognizant of these differences and why they exist is something that we have and will continue to make Patrick aware of."

Myles Sherman, who is Baptist, and a sophomore at St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Dumfries, believes the effects of his high school experience will have impacts beyond the classroom.

For starters, he said he has learned to "deal with people who have different views."

There are some challenges for non-Catholics, though.

Krista Price said it was "a little awkward at times" for her son when Catholic students went to confession or the students went to Mass.

But students and parents are quick to say they've felt welcomed.

At Catholic high schools in the Arlington Diocese, students are required to take religion courses and participate in faith-based activities, such as schoolwide Masses and prayers. Of course, non-Catholic students don't partake in the Eucharist or confession, but in every other way "they are part of the spiritual life of the school," said Vorbach.

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Canton, NY 13617

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NCC

Obituaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Watertown — Bryan J. Gould, 49; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at Holy Family Church.

Watertown — Susan A. (Barry) Hatchell, 54; Funeral Services Jan. 17, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Lucy A. (Giordanelli) Majo, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — Helen R. (Fargo) Morehouse, 94; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown — George W. Murray, Jr., 79;

Funeral Services Jan. 24, 2015 at the reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Evans Mills.

West Chazy — James D. Bell, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church.

Willsboro — Ramona Ann (Pichin) Sheehan, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 22, 2015 at St. Philip of Jesus.