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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 20

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT. 21, 2015

## Response to God's boundless love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Obedience to God's commandments must be the response to his limitless love, but it is not a condition for his love and for the salvation he offers through Jesus, Pope Francis said this past week.

Celebrating the feast of St. Teresa of Avila Oct. 15, Pope Francis said that when Jesus

was alive, when the early Christian community was growing, and today as well, there are "doctors of the law" who think that they can know who is and is not saved by the apparent way they obey certain commandments.

"It would do us good today to ask ourselves: Do I believe

the Lord has saved me freely?" the pope said. Or "do I believe that I do not deserve my salvation and that if I merit anything it is through Jesus Christ and what he has done for me?"

Let's ask these questions today; only that way will we be faithful to that great merciful love, the love of a father

and mother, because even God says that he is like a mother to us," the pope said at the Mass in the chapel of his residence.

God's love is expansive, boundless and limitless, Pope Francis said. "We should not let ourselves be fooled by the 'doctors' who limit this love."

## October is Respect Life Month

In his letter for the observance of October as Respect Life Month, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, writes that during this month "we are reminded once again, of our life-long Christian duty to build up a culture of life in our North Country."

"The dignity of every human person stems not from wholeness of physical health nor does it depend upon one's personal virtue," he said. "Rather, our inestimable value is irrevocably linked to our bedrock belief that *each and every one of us is created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with God!*"

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Stigma of suicide

Father Ron Rolheiser reflects on the importance of overcoming stigma that is attached to suicide

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

## RELIGIOUS JUBILARIANS ARE HONORED



PHOTO BY BETTY STEELE

Five of the 2015 religious jubilarians are shown as they renewed their vows during the annual diocesan Religious Jubilee Mass held Oct. 11 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. From left are Mercy Sister Mary Carolyn Madden, 70 years; St. Joseph Sister Mary Judith Baumert, 60 years; St. Joseph Sister Anne Hogan, 60 years; Mercy Sister Catherine Cummings, 60 years; and St. Joseph Sister Mary William Argy, 65 years. More photos on page 4.

**UNITED AS ONE FAMILY:** Bishop's Fund supports deacon formation... p. 7

## HARVEST MASS

To be held  
Oct. 25 in  
Croghan

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley  
invites you to join him  
for our annual**

**Harvest Mass of  
Thanksgiving**

**Sunday,  
October 25, 2015  
2:00 p.m.**

**St. Stephen's Church  
Croghan, New York**

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.  
(Ps. 118)*

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate the annual Diocesan Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Stephen's Church in Croghan Oct. 25 at 2 p.m. Farmers and their families, loggers, gardeners, landscapers, maple producers and "all who work the land" are invited and strongly encouraged to take part. The Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving has been held each fall in the Diocese of Ogdensburg since November 2001, following a pastoral priority of Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito. The location varies year to year so that over the course of time, the Mass can be offered in many different parts of the North Country. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Thanks to nine extraordinary women

Jubilee time in this Year of Consecrated Life is an ideal moment to stop and consider how much we appreciate the religious men and women in our lives.

I know I'm not alone in taking for granted that our Sisters will always be on the front lines in their prayer for us and in their good works for the church, for the world.

On Oct. 11, Bishop LaValley presided at the

annual Religious Jubilee Mass at the cathedral in honor of nine extraordinary woman: St. Joseph Sisters Jean Marie Chiovitti, Mary William Argy, Catherine Laboure Goodbout, Mary Judith Baumert and Anne Hogan; Mercy Sisters Mary Carolyn Madden and Catherine Cummings, Grey Nun Sister Rita Frances Brady and Sister Louella Pelletier, a Sister of Charity of St.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

Louis. Together, they have given us 565 years of selfless service. This week, the North Country Catholic continues the celebration of these jubilarians with the first of the biographies we've received from each of them. First up is Sister Anne Hogan, a one of a kind individual by anyone's measurement. While not every Sister will share Sister Anne's sense of adventure and willingness to travel the globe to serve God's people, they do have much in

common. Every one of these religious woman has showed a commitment to serve the people of this diocese for generations. When they made their vows 50, 60 or 70 years ago, they would never have dreamed of all the changes they would see in the church and in the world but they have been undaunted in their efforts to (in the words of Pope Francis) "wake up the world!" Thank you Sisters for all you have done, and will continue to do, to keep us all awake!

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## Religious sisters, brothers: our heroes

Just a little while ago today I was listening to a public radio program about "heroes."

The program involved the stories of many who were suddenly placed in crisis situations and then acted immediately helping, even saving, another.

They actually didn't consider themselves heroes – but they did what seemed to be the right thing. Most of us would definitely consider them heroes.

I want to dedicate this column as an opportunity to honor the dedicate Religious Sisters and Brothers of our Catholic Church during this Year of the Consecrated Life.

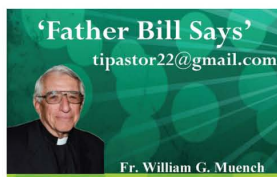
I truly considered them heroes – true heroes.

During this year, our Catholic Church has been paying honor and respect and love to all Religious Sisters and Brothers, finding our lead in Pope Francis.

They have consecrated their lives and made our Church strong and alive.

These congregations have meant so much to the life of the Catholic Church – everywhere in the world – and today I think in a special way right here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, these Religious Sis-



ters and Brothers have made a profound difference in the lives of many in our parishes, schools and hospitals.

I, personally, know only too well how fantastic is the influence of these Religious Sisters and Brothers. I have recognized this in the various parishes I have served. I have found unique support and very good guidance from so many Sisters and Brothers who have served with me in these parishes.

What a powerful vocation! It is a complete consecration to the service of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Lord says in the Gospels, "I have chosen you, you have not chosen me." I am certain that these dedicated Religious – who have consecrated their lives to God – know exactly what this means.

It means they will be his and this following of Jesus will mean that there will be challenges and sacrifices; they will walk shrouded in loneliness, amidst multitudes.

Many will be surprised at what this dedication will accomplish – it will change the world. They willingly accept the sacrifices, the loneliness, as they consecrate themselves to the Lord.

It is about a call. I was talking with a Religious Sister about her vocation. She spoke of a call. For her, this call was a longing, a dedication that had become a longing, a longing to do something, a dedication to live a life in the following of Christ, a dedication that came from a deep love of the Lord, a desire to follow Jesus and lead others to the Lord.

So, she followed that call – and made that dedication – accepting all the sacrifices to find a happiness in the Lord.

I remember years ago, another young woman – a high school student – coming to visit me one day to talk about vocation. She was a public school student, a member of the parish, and now she was certain she wanted to be a nun, a Religious Sister. I

actually knew she really didn't even know any Sisters personally. I did take her over to visit the Sisters who were teaching at the Catholic High School. By the way, her parents were rather confused by her decision – and opposed it.

So, finally, she decided to go onto college. Her freshman roommate at the college dorm was a young woman who became a good friend. This roommate had begun to be a volunteer while in high school at the Nursing Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

So, my friend, joined her new roommate with regular visits at this Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor and volunteered to help there. The fell in love with this congregation and found a calling to join them. And she did. She entered the Little Sisters of the Poor at the end of that freshman year.

Now – many years later she still is a Little Sister of the Poor and lives a happy life as a dedication Religious.

How to explain all of this – this call – there is no other way than to recognize God's plan. So many find a life as a Religious Sister or Brother through the mystery of God's plan. How is it possible that everything fits together so well and leads to a happy life of dedication – a mystery.

This life of following the Lord, this life of joy and love with the constant support of the Lord is such a mystery. Can there be a greater miracle of God's grace? Indeed, this is vocation – a calling from the Lord.

FOLLOW ME

# Every life is worth living

Bishop LaValley's message  
for Respect Life Month

On June 18th, Pope Francis shared with the world his encyclical, *Laudato Si*.

The Holy Father concluded with this prayer: "*God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen.*"

These words capture well the message of Respect Life Month which we observe every October and whose theme this year is "Every life is Worth Living."

The Pope's prayer reminds us that every human life from conception to natural death has a place in God's plan. A person's life, is not a commodity in the marketplace, valued according to one's ability to produce nor is it disposable when deemed too burdensome.

The dignity of every

human person stems not from wholeness of physical health nor does it depend upon one's personal virtue. Rather, our inestimable value is irrevocably linked to our bedrock belief that

*each and every one of us is created in God's image and likeness and called to an eternal destiny with God!*

It is this destiny, then, that should shape our behavior towards God's ultimate creation, man and woman.

Whether it lasts for a brief moment or a hundred years, each of our lives is a beautiful and precious

gift of God destined for "a future full of hope" (Jer. 29:11).

In this context lies Jesus' great commandment: "*Love one another as I have loved you*" (Jn. 13:34). Particularly, the unborn, the poor, the elderly, all the vulnerable have a claim on our care, love and support.

This Respect Life Month, we are reminded once again, of our life-long Christian duty to build up a culture of life in our North Country.

May God enlighten our minds and open our hearts to the precious gift of life that surrounds us and help us to leave behind any attitudes of indifference towards the vulnerable.

Let us embrace each life for as long as it is given and continue to announce in our words and deeds: "Every life is worth living!"



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

**Attention dairy and vegetable farmers, crop and seed farmers, loggers, landscapers, Maple producers, gardeners, tree service personnel and all who "work the land" ...**

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley invites you to join him for our annual**

**Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving**

**Sunday,**

**October 25, 2015**

**2:00 p.m.**

**St. Stephen's Church  
Croghan, New York**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.**

**(Ps. 118)**

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# CONGRATULATIONS RELIGIOUS JUBILARIANS

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks  
Asks God's blessing on and congratulates

**Sister Catherine Cummings, RSM**  
for celebrating 60 years of Religious Life

And

**Sr. Carolyn Madden, RSM**  
for celebrating 70 years of Religious Life



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PHOTOS BY BETTY STEELE

The jubilarians pose for the traditional photo in front of St. Mary's Cathedral after the diocesan Religious Jubilee Mass Oct. 11. From left are Sisters Anne Hogan, Judith Baumert and Carolyn Madden, Bishop LaValley, Sisters Catherine Cummings and Mary William Argy, and Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, episcopal delegate for religious. Jubilarians unable to attend were St. Joseph Sisters Jean Marie Chiovitti, 75 years and Sister Catherine Laboure Goodbout, 65 years; Grey Nun Sister Rita Frances Brady, 60 years; and Sister Louella Pelletier, a Sister of Charity of St. Louis, 50 years.



Sister Catherine Cummings reads from the scriptures.



Bishop LaValley congratulates Sister Mary William Argy for her 65 years as a Sister of St. Joseph.

**SISTER LOUELLA PELLETIER, SCSL**



**CONGRATULATIONS  
and PRAYERS**

**HAPPY 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis**

**Sister Agnes Racette  
Sister Bernadette Ducharme  
Sister Claire Michel Fortier  
Sister Joan Marie Lashway**



*Congratulations Sister Rita Frances Brady, GNSH on celebrating 60 Years in religious life  
Thank you so much for all of your work in the North Country.  
We miss you very much and wish you the very best.*

**Holy Family School, Malone**

First in a series of biographies of 2015 religious jubilarians

# Sister Anne Hogan, an SSJ for 60 years

By Maureen Kravec  
Contributing writer

Since Sister Anne Hogan entered the Sisters of Saint Joseph Convent in Watertown in 1954, she has worked nonstop, traveled the world, and brought joy to all sorts of people in God's creation.

Most recently she served as pastoral associate at All Saints Church in Chaumont before moving to the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse in Watertown at the end of the summer.

This year marks her Jubilee - 60 years of service to her vocation as a Sister of St. Joseph.

## Childhood filled With people

Sister Anne was born in Malone Aug. 30, 1933. Although she was an only child, she grew up in a home full of people and music. Her parents, Anna Tracy and Robert Emmett Hogan, opened their home to many people.

As a child, she shared a bedroom with a young teacher, who taught her to read. She had a foster "adopted sister" with a developmental disability, and her parents also fostered a Native American man who had been orphaned, and who helped with the farm work. Both of her grandfathers lived on the farm.

Anne's father was a musician who encouraged her lifelong love of music and taught her how to play the piano. An organizer and supporter of the Depression-era farmers' milk strike that ended with the farmers owning and operating their own Chateaugay Milk Cooperative, he also inspired his daughter's commitment to social justice.

Sister Anne also began her love of animals on the farm, surrounded by horses, cows, chickens and ducks. She attended a one-room country schoolhouse before



St. Joseph Sister Anne Hogan, left, is shown with her friend Dorothy Dempsey, who came for a summer visit to Lake Ontario during one of the final weeks that Sister Anne served as pastoral associate for All Saints Church in Chaumont. Sister Anne has since retired and now lives at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown. A Sister of St. Joseph for 60 years, she was among the religious jubilarians honored at this year's Religious Jubilee Oct. 11.

later being bussed to the larger Ellenburg Central School. In winter, she stayed with a Methodist family, the Hugginses.

She viewed this as the first of many opportunities to learn about other faiths.

## Seeds of a vocation

From an early age, Sister Anne felt a vocation to become a nun. She made her sacraments: First Communion and Confirmation, in a CCD program run by the Ursuline Nuns. She then attended the St. Ursuline Academy in Malone before returning to Ellenburg Academy, graduating with honors and contemplating becoming either an Ursuline or Dominican nun.

After graduation, she traveled to France with her aunt and uncle on the Queen Elizabeth 2.

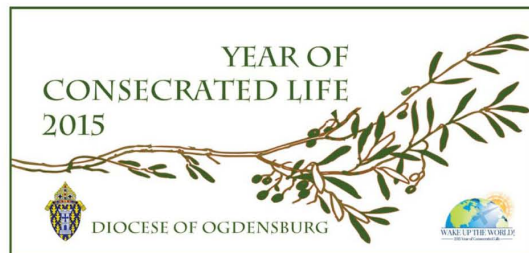
In seven weeks, among other activities she attended two audiences with Pope Pius XII, and visited a group of sisters who ministered at a prison not far from Mozart's grave.

The trip was her introduction to a life spent learning about other cultures.

While attending the College of St. Rose, she enjoyed studies, music, and college life.

## Becoming a Sisters of St. Joseph

She was inspired to become a Sister of St. Joseph because the principles of its founder, the Jesuit priest



Jean Pierre Medaille, who believed in a life of service to the poor, resonated with her.

She entered the order in Watertown in 1954, completing her bachelor's degree at SUNY Potsdam and taking the name Sister Marie Bernard. (She later reassumed her birth name.)

Her first teaching assignment was in Gouverneur. She also taught in Fort Covington. In 1966 she began her Master's in Social Work at Boston College, then returned to Northern New York as a social worker with Catholic Charities.

## At Mater Dei for 23 years

As her career progressed, she taught Social Work at Mater Dei College for 23 years, chairing the Social Work and Social Sciences Departments.

She enjoyed changing the lives of her students on the main campus, the branch campus at Akwesasne, and other extension sites while teaching them to change others' lives.

She often practiced the Sisters' of St. Joseph's special mission of hospitality, bringing guests from places ranging from the local St. Lawrence County Psychiatric Center to the Nicaraguan Embassy to meet the students and faculty.

During this time, she also worked with the Quaker program Alternatives to Violence at Ogdensburg Correctional Facility. She also taught adult students at

SUNY Empire State College.

## Active scholar

As a delegate to social work conferences in England and Canada, she remained an active scholar in her field.

In 1980, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to visit India, where she visited Mahatma Gandhi's ashram and stayed and worked with some of Mother Teresa's nuns. After returning to the US, she helped a young political refugee and his family to resettle in the US.

In 1985, she visited four of the Russian Republics (then part of the USSR).

In 1987, she returned to Russia with a group of students and adults. She also visited Israel twice. Another Fulbright Scholarship enabled her to study in Thailand in 1990.

In 1993 and '94 she visited France to study L'Arche, founded by Jean Vanier to assist people with developmental disabilities, whose principles informed her Social Work teaching at Mater Dei.

Closer to home but just as enjoyable an adventure was traveling on a Laker ship to Thunder Bay, Ontario on her way to study in Wisconsin.

## Alaskan adventure

Her most extensive adventure in another culture came when she did Social work among the Inuit people and other residents in Holy Cross, Kalskag, and Russian Mission, Alaska.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Sister Anne

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Flying in and out of the island bush country in small planes, and sometimes working with Russian Orthodox and Protestant clergy, she ministered joyfully in an area beset with poverty, alcoholism, and other problems.

**Sister Anne has kept her original vow to serve the poor, and has shared her sense of joy and purpose with all God's creation**


Sister Anne trained Head Start teachers for the University of Alaska, sharing her knowledge about students with special needs. In her spare time, she enjoyed the local celebrations and went fishing.

After a decade in Alaska, she returned to the US, and settled in the rectory in Chaumont as Parish Associate for All Saints in Chaumont, St. Vincent de Paul in Cape Vincent, and St. Vincent in Rosaire. In addition to helping humans of all faiths, she has found homes for many stray cats and dogs. She gave piano lessons, and formed a Parkin-


son's disease support group that meets weekly, plans activities, and has exhibited their artwork. She has continued her travels, visiting Ireland, where some of her relatives still live.

Through her spiritual, intellectual, and world journeys, not least in Northern New York, Sister Anne has kept her original vow to serve the poor, and has shared her sense of joy and purpose with all God's creation. She has won many awards, including, in 2009, the Jefferson County Office for the Aging Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen. In 2008, she was awarded the Town of Lyme Citizen of the Year Award.

She brings her Agape, her Christian love faith, and hope, her happiness and hospitality, to everyone, whether rich or poor, revered or reviled. In her commitment to peace, social justice, and the environment, Sister Anne is much like our current Pope, Francis. This remarkable Sister of St. Joseph plans to continue her ministry in Watertown, with the Sisters of St. Joseph, as she keeps her many friendships and connections formed throughout the years.

 Congratulations  
Sr. Anne Hogan, SSJ  
on celebrating 60 years in  
Religious Life.  
Thank you for your ministry.



 The Catholic Community of  
Cape Vincent, Rosiere  
&  
Chaumont

## Bishop's Schedule

**Oct. 22** – 12 p.m., Trinity Catholic Opening School Mass at Sacred Heart Church followed by Visit to the School in Massena

**Oct. 23** – 10 a.m., St. Mary's Opening School Mass at St. Mary's Church followed by visit to the School in Ticonderoga

**Oct. 24** – 10:30 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting at St. James in Gouverneur  
4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 25** – 2 p.m., Harvest Mass at St. Stephen's Church in Croghan

**Oct. 26** – 9:30 a.m., Prayer Service and Visit to St. Agnes School in Lake Placid

11:30 a.m., Prayer Service and Visit to St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake

**Oct. 27** – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

**Oct. 28** – 9:30 a.m., St. James Opening School Mass at St. James Church followed by Visit to School in Gouverneur

6 p.m., Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner at the Gran View Restaurant in Ogdensburg

## Rest in Peace

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

**Oct. 21** – Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939;  
Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979  
**Oct. 22** – Rev. Thomas McNally, 1883;  
Rev. George J. Savage, 1918; Rev. Michael A. Jarecki, 2012  
**Oct. 23** – Rev. Discorides Forget, O.M.I., 1916  
**Oct. 24** – Rev. John P.O'Rourke, 1918  
**Oct. 25** – Rev. J. M. Duvic, O.M.I., 1917  
**Oct. 26** – Rev. J. G. Lavoie, O.M.I., 1908  
**Oct. 27** – Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whitaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

## 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, 413 Ryan Road, Churubusco, NY,  
12923; e-mail: terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-  
483-3261; or Father James Seymour,  
the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-  
393-2920, ext. 1340

## Environmental Stewardship

### Wake up the World!

"Wake up the world" is the challenge that Pope Francis gave to women and men religious around the world at the beginning of this year to celebrate consecrated life.

Pope Francis models for all of us what that challenge might mean. We see it reflected in his actions and work with the poor in Argentina and now, with the people of the world.

His most recent encyclical, "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home," connects for us "the plights of the poor and the fragility of the planet" (#16) that we experience locally and globally.

As Christians, he tells us that we are called "to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbors on a global scale.

It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet." (#9)

In the Introduction Pope Francis "urgently appeals for" a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet.

We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." (#14)

At the recent diocesan celebration of the anniversaries of vowed religious our Bishop reflected in his homily upon how the jubilarians have and continue to 'wake up the world' by their prayer and their ministries to God's people.

Many of the religious communities to which the jubilarians belong have made corporate statements regarding issues of protecting life in all its forms.

Some of these statements include: climate change, human trafficking, and an end to the death penalty, all of which the Holy Father speaks to in his encyclical.

All of us need to become more educated in the areas of suffering in the Body of Christ, and take concrete actions in our own lives to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)



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## BISHOP'S FUND 2015.... UNITED AS ONE FAMILY

# Bishop's Fund supports formation of deacons

By Deacon John White  
Diocesan deacon formation director

Within the Diocese of Ogdensburg, there are currently 70 plus ordained permanent deacons working hand-in-hand with our bishop and priests.

The bishop, priests and deacons of our diocese comprise a rather large family in themselves, a family dedicated to carrying on the work of Jesus Christ in meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters across the diocese.

As in any family, each particular person or group brings individual talents, skills and abilities to this endeavor. All function together for the good of the entire family.

Deacons fulfill many roles and needs within the diocesan family. Some are engaged in prison or hospital chaplain ministries. Some function as parish life coordinators, assisting pastors in building up vibrant parishes comprised of living stones.

Some deacons work in various diocesan offices and departments, helping the bishop and his staff to further the goals and priorities of the diocesan church.

All are ordained and dedicated to serving God's people through the ministries

of Word, Sacrament and Charity. Deacons are ordained to serve the needs of God's people through their specific and individual charisms.

According to the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6:1-7), deacons were originally called to serve at table, meeting the physical needs of the burgeoning Church, and thereby freeing the Apostles themselves to focus on spreading Christ's teachings.

Today deacons are called to function in much the same way, assisting the bishop and priests in carrying out the work of the church. Deacons especially are called to act as a "bridge" between the bishop, priests and God's people.

Due to the unique situation of deacons with one foot planted firmly in both the Church and the marketplace, these men are able to bring the needs of the people to the Church as well as the teachings of the Church to the people.

This ability stems from the fact that most Deacons are, or have been, married with families, employed in the secular world, involved in community organizations; and accordingly share in the common experience of the Church's faithful.

This year, 16 men have

entered into the candidate phase of the diocesan Deacon Formation Program. This is the approximate half-way point of their journey in discerning God's will for them and their own ability to bring God to His people through a role of Servant-leadership in the model of Christ himself, who came "to serve, and not to be served" (Mark 10:45).

Through their studies both on-line and in the classroom at Wadhams Hall, they endeavor to increase their knowledge of our common faith as well as their personal relationship with Jesus. Their hope is that the formation process might bring them closer to God, and prepare them for roles of service in the Church, if that be His will.

The Deacon Formation Program of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is supported in large part through the generous donations of our diocesan family to the Bishop's Fund Appeal.

Through this partnership, we trusts to become even more "United as One Family". A family that is truly "Christ-led, Christ-fed and Hope-filled".

## Congratulations



## Jubilarians

**75 Years:**

Sr. Jean Marie Chiovitti

**65 Years:**

Sr. Mary William Argy, SSJ  
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**RINGING OUT THE FAITH**



With the closing of two churches in the area, former parishioners of St. Michael's in Fine and St. Anthony of Padua in Newton Falls, wanted to acknowledge the priests and parishioners of these communities as well as St. Hubert's in Star Lake, their current place of worship. A bell from St. Michael's was combined with a small granite side altar from St. Anthony's and displayed at the entrance of St. Hubert's. The structure is inscribed in memory of priests and parishioners of all three churches, dated 1894-2014. Father Stephen Rocker, left, pastor at St. Hubert's, blessed the bell after Mass Oct. 11. Former trustee Richard Laurin, who was instrumental in completing project, and Deacon Phil Giardino are also pictured.

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**FROM K OF C TO IHC**



Watertown Council, No. 259, Knights of Columbus, recently donated \$1000 to the Immaculate Heart Central Elementary School in Watertown for the upgrade of sink plumbing fixtures throughout the school. Pictured from left are Michael R. Clark, council trustee; John J. Morgia, council Grand Knight; Gary F. West, principal of the elementary schools; (K-6) and Randy Belina, council trustee.



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*Bishops call for Bible-based presentation of God's plan for family*

# Work continues at the Synod

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - As members of the Synod of Bishops concluded work on the second of three chapters in their working document, they continued to call for a tone and for language that is clear, simple and encourages people to see it is possible to live the vocation of marriage and family life.

At the same time, most of the synod's 13 working groups - formed according to language - asked for a greater use of Scripture in the synod's text, including examples of holy couples and Jesus' interactions with a variety of family members such as parents who asked him to heal their children.

Two groups said the working document, which they are amending and planning to give to Pope Francis, does not contain a concise definition of marriage. "This is a serious defect," said English Group D, led by Cardinal Thomas C. Collins of Toronto.

## Family vocation

The focus of small group work Oct. 10-13 was the section of the working document titled "The Discernment of the Family Vocation," which included a summary of the biblical vision of the family, ways families strengthen their faith and the role the family plays within the church.

At least two groups said the church needed an in-depth treatise on the Christian understanding of marriage and family life.

Spanish Group A, led by Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, said sometimes it appears that the Catholic Church has a theology of marriage, but not of the family and "it also seems that we limit ourselves to repeating obvious things, but we lack some



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis talks with cardinals before a session of the Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Oct. 15. From left are Cardinals Raymundo Damasceno Assis of Aparecida, Brazil, Peter Erdo of Esztergom-Budapest, Hungary, Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris and Wilfrid F. Napier of Durban, South Africa.

key, driving ideas."

## Need for 'attractive language'

English Group A, led by Australian Cardinal George Pell, said the church benefited from past synods through the apostolic exhortations the pope would write afterward; synod officials have said it is not known whether Pope Francis will write one based on this synod.

Whatever comes out of the synod, the group said, should use "streamlined, attractive language" while having as its primary concern "the clarity of well-grounded explanations of church teaching."

French Group A asked the 10-member committee appointed to draft the synod's final document to take care not to continually "interrupt" the text with references to the indissolubility of marriage "as if that were our only concern."

## Blessing of lifelong bond

On the theme of indissolu-

bility, most of the groups insisted the text must present the lifelong marriage bond as the blessing that it is and not as a burden.

The chapter, said French Group C, led by Bishop Maurice Piat of Port Louis, Mauritius, should help people listen to what the church teaches about the family in the light of Scripture. "We believe that this word meets the deepest longings of the human heart thirsting for love and mercy," and it can bring healing.

English Group B, chaired by British Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, suggested that in presenting the "divine pedagogy" or the revelation of God's plan for the family, the document "begin with Genesis, which already provides a definition of marriage as a unique union between a man and a woman, so total and intimate that because of it a man must leave his father and mother in order to be united with his wife. This account of the creation of marriage presents also the three basic charac-

teristics of marriage as it was in the beginning -- monogamy, permanence and equality of the sexes."

The group said that the church can understand its ministry "as mirroring God's patience and mercy" only by understanding God's original plan for marriage and family life and how he continually attempted to bring people back to it.

Spanish Group A said it is important to acknowledge the gradual way "God communicates the grace of the covenant" to each person and community through "correcting, accompanying and forgiving."

## Mercy and justice

Speaking to reporters later, Cardinal Nichols said the relationship between mercy and justice is a theme attracting special attention.

Using Pope Francis' document declaring the year of mercy, he said, helps avoid "the temptation which has been around all this year ... that somehow there is a con-

flict between justice and mercy and that somehow mercy always as it were replaces justice."

It is "a profound misunderstanding" of mercy to tell people, "It doesn't matter what you do, it's fine," the cardinal said.

The relationship of mercy and justice also was the first topic dealt with in the German Group's report to the synod assembly. "Mercy and truth, grace and justice are not in opposition because God is love and his is the mercy with which we are made just," the group's report said.

The German group includes Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Cardinal Walter Kasper, a theologian known for his work on mercy and for his suggestion that the synod find a way to allow some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion even without an annulment of their sacramental marriage.

"It's important to remember who is in that group," Cardinal Nichols told reporters, "and I think it's important for you to know that every resolution of that group and this report were accepted unanimously in that group. There was no tension or division of opinion in that German-speaking group."

Several groups urged a stronger mention of marriage as a vocation like priesthood and consecrated life and an acknowledgment that strong families are the "seedbed" of strong vocations to all three.

Spanish Group B, led by Mexican Cardinal Francisco Robles Ortega of Guadalajara, said its members "felt that there are significant absences or few references in this part (of the document) on issues like chastity and virginity, holiness and spirituality of the family."

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Polish bishop says synod members trust Holy Spirit, guidance of pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the Synod of Bishops trust the Holy Spirit and Pope Francis' guidance in confronting issues facing today's families, said Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki of Poznan. "An atmosphere of fear does not exist because we believe in the Holy Spirit. We also believe in the guidance of the Holy Father, who has to regulate this," Archbishop Gadecki, president of the Polish bishops' conference, told journalists Oct. 15. The Polish archbishop, along with Mexican Archbishop Carlos Aguiar Retes of Tlalneapantla, spoke about the speeches given Oct. 14-15 at the synod; the presentations in the synod hall focused on pastoral responses to the challenges facing families today. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said that a total of 93 speeches were made in the afternoon session Oct. 14 and the morning session Oct. 15. For pastors, he said, the interventions are an "immense richness" that helps them confront family issues in their pastoral ministry. "I was struck by the richness of the pastoral advice and concrete proposals on the preparation for marriage, on accompanying and the style of accompanying couples, especially during married life," he said.

## Extreme poverty down, but work remains, says Vatican U.N. nuncio

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Despite the good news that the percentage of people living in extreme poverty is set to go below 10 percent for the first time since such data has been collected, much work remains if the United Nations' goal to wipe it out entirely by 2030 is to be met, according to Filipino Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N. "The number of people still living in extreme poverty continues to be unacceptably high. The more than 700 million extremely poor remind us of the magnitude of the challenge still ahead," Archbishop Auza said in remarks delivered Oct. 13 at a U.N. committee session on poverty eradication and development issues. According to World Bank figures issued Oct. 4, 2.2 billion people worldwide live on less than the equivalent of \$2 a day. "That is only a slight decline from 2.59 billion in 1981. It indicates that poverty resistance is stronger, as we progress higher in the economic ladder," Archbishop Auza said. "This challenge is even more daunting if we consider ... the facts that progress has been slower at higher poverty lines, that those remaining in extreme poverty are the most difficult cases, and that, for many of those who have escaped extreme poverty, progress has been temporary and regression back to extreme poverty is even more painful and debilitating," he added. Those living in extreme poverty live "usually in very remote areas and living in extreme want," the archbishop said. "Without roads and electricity, access to education, health care, safe water and other critical services remains uncertain for these people."

# Infertility can lead to sadness, broken marriages, Nigerian bishop says

By Carol Glatz  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Married couples need more help in dealing with infertility and childlessness, which is "one of the major causes of divorce in Africa," said a Nigerian member of the Synod of Bishops on the family.

In a culture where "children are celebrated with all kinds of ceremonies" and are so important to society, the trauma that couples, especially women, experience, "is beyond anything I can say," said Bishop Jude Arogundade of Ondo.

"Everybody wants to leave a child behind," he said. "If you don't have a child and you die, it's like you never lived," he told Catholic News Service Oct. 15.

He said the increasing rate of infertility in Nigeria and other parts of Africa "is really alarming," so he dedicated his brief presentation to the synod to this problem.

The "complex process" involved with adoption means it is not typically an option for poorer couples, he said, and reproductive health treatments are usually not available.

In a childless marriage, some men "become careless with their married life; they want to try something else," which can lead to polygamy, adultery or "other abuses in married life," he said.

The women often "are traumatized, looking for God's help, praying every day" to conceive a child, he said.

Right now, in his diocese, "we create the environment" of community support by offering different prayer groups, programs, counseling and encouragement for these spouses.

But even with the support of such a close-knit community, some women still feel inadequate or as if they have



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis and Cardinal Philippe Ouédraogo of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, leave a session of the Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Oct. 15.

failed in their marriage, he said.

A woman's pain and sadness are more visible, he said, while the man, perhaps because "he wants to be strong," seems to "deal with it" better.

Some couples, in the end, just "give up, finding other means of finding happiness in life," said Bishop Arogundade, who served 12 years at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Elmsford, New York, before he was appointed in 2010 to lead the Diocese of Ondo.

He said he made "kind of a little change" to his presentation after Pope Francis assured the assembly that the focus of their gathering was to offer needed pastoral care to people, not to change doctrine.

"I must confess, people came with the idea that we are really going to fight to protect the doctrines of the church," he said.

But "my perception of the focus of the synod changed a little bit after the Holy Father gave the explanation that we

are not talking about doctrinal issues here, we are talking more of pastoral issues. And so that gave me a kind of new orientation in my presentation."

He said his focus then became more pastoral as he looked at the actual situation the people were experiencing. The bishop said he was "glad this synod is giving us the opportunity to express, to voice out some of our concern" because talking through things helps people see new opportunities and new ways of dealing with the challenges.

Fidelity to church doctrine remains paramount, "but in helping people who have different issues, we still feel that there is a way of reaching out to everyone, to bring them in, to create an environment of love and care and support for everyone," he said.

The church's task, the bishop said, is to ensure church teachings are "well-articulated as we carry out these pastoral activities among our people."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Seeing with the eyes of Jesus

Our Holy Father, during his recent visit to us, spoke about seeing the face of Jesus in those on our streets, especially in those who are faceless, who feel they "don't count!"

We are urged to really see them with the eyes of Jesus who is walking with them. If we see them as God sees them, they do count.

Spiritual vision is even more important than physical vision. So many see nothing but darkness around them in our society.

Bartimaeus in today's



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Gospel longed to see, but thought he had no hope of coming out of darkness, until Jesus came along one day.

The scene is the final healing that Jesus performed before returning to His passion and death in Jerusalem.

Bartimaeus calls out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me."

He hardly expects a response from the One whom he acknowledges as the messiah. Many tried to shut him up. But Jesus stops and asks him, "What do you want me to do for

you?." Bartimaeus responds, "Master, I want to see."

And Jesus gives to Bartimaeus the gift he asks for. How can we find new vision?

First, by praying for it, and asking God to forgive our sins and failures to obey his laws. We need to ask forgiveness for our failures to love. Repentance and reform have to come from a person willing to let go their blindness.

In today's first reading, the people of Israel had to seek repentance for being blind to God's law. They began to see themselves as God saw them.

Then God called them

Oct. 25

30th Sunday of the Year

READINGS

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hebrews 5:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

from the ends of the earth, back to their beloved Promised Land.

Jesus healed this blind man because he wanted so desperately to see. He will heal all of us who long to be cured of our spiritual blindness. When we ask in faith, Jesus will give us His kind of vision. As Bartimaeus opened His eyes, he

saw the face of Jesus.

When we see the face of Jesus in the child in the womb, in the man next door who is out of work, or the sick person or the elderly who need healing and dignified care, then we and our beloved nation will have the right kind of sight as well.

This Year of Consecrated Life has helped us to honor those women and men in our society that not only saw life as God sees, but have helped all of those whom they served to have that vision as well.

As many of them grow older, may we never forget them. A visit, a note, a prayer, can mean so much to them.

## HOLY LONGING

## Overcoming the stigma of suicide

By Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI  
NCC columnist

Recently I read, in succession, three books on suicide, each written by a mother who lost one of her children to suicide.

All three books are powerful, mature, not given to false sentiment, and worth reading: Lois Severson, *Healing the Wound from my Daughter's Suicide*, *Grief Translated into Words*, lost her daughter, Patty, to suicide; Gloria Hutchinson, *Damage Done, Suicide of an Only Son*, lost her son, David, to suicide; and Marjorie Antus, *My Daughter, Her Suicide, and God, A Memoir of Hope*, lost her daughter, Mary, to suicide. Patty and David were in their mid-twenties, Mary was still a teen.

You cannot read these biographies and not have your heart ache for these three young people who died in this unfortunate manner. What these books describe in each case is a person who

is very loveable, oversensitive, has a history of emotional struggles, and is in all likelihood suffering from a chemical imbalance.

### The same stigma as we attach to suicide was also attached to the manner in which Jesus died

Hearing their stories should leave you more convinced than ever that no God worth worshipping could ever condemn any of these persons to exclusion from the family of life simply because of the manner of their deaths.

Gabriel Marcel had an axiom which said: *To love someone is to say of that person, you at least will not die.* That's solid Christian doctrine.

As Christians we believe that, as a community of believers, we make up the Body of Christ along with all of those who have died in faith before us.

Part of that belief is that

Christ has given us the power to bind and loose which, among other things, means that our love for someone can hold that person inside our family, inside the community of grace, and inside of heaven itself.

In all three of these books, these mothers make it clear that this is exactly what they are doing. Their family, their circle of grace, their love, and their heaven includes their lost child.

My heaven too includes these three young people, as should any true understanding of God, of grace, of love, and of the family of life.

That's a deep consolation, but it doesn't take away the pain. For a parent, the loss of a child to any kind of death leaves a wound that, this side of eternity, will find no healing.

he death of one's child goes against nature, parents aren't supposed to bury their children. The death of any child is hard, but if that death comes by suicide, that pain is compounded.

There's the frustration and

anger that, unlike a death from a physical disease, this is unwarranted, unnecessary, and an act of betrayal in some way.

And there's the endless second-guessing: How responsible am I for this? How should have I been more alert? Where was I negligent? Why wasn't I around at the crucial moment? Guilt and anger comingle with the grief.

But that isn't all. Beyond all of this, which is itself more than sufficient to break a person, lies the stigma attached to suicide. In the end, despite a better understanding of suicide and a more enlightened attitude towards it, there is still a social, moral, and religious stigma attached to it, equally true in both secular and religious circles.

In the not too-distant past, churches used to refuse to bury someone who died by suicide on blessed ground. The churches have changed their attitudes and their practice on this, but, truth be told, many people still

struggle in their gut to accord a blessed, peaceful farewell to someone who has died by suicide.

The stigma still remains. Someone who dies in this manner is still seen as somehow accursed, as dying outside the family of life and the circle of grace. There is, for most people, nothing consoling in their deaths.

I have suggested elsewhere in my writings that the majority of suicides should be understood as death by a mortal illness: a deadly chemical imbalance, an emotional stroke, an emotional cancer, or an oversensitivity that strips someone of the resiliency needed to live.

Here, however, I want address more specifically the issue of the stigma attached to suicide.

There's still a stigma attached to suicide, that's clear. With that in mind, it can be helpful to reflect upon the manner in which Jesus died. His death was

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## AT THE MOVIES

## WOODLAWN

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

High school football players battle racism on and off the field in "Woodlawn" (Pure Flix), an entertaining and inspirational film that's appropriate for most age groups.

Based on the true story of star running back Tony Nathan (Caleb Castille), who went on to play for the University of Alabama and the Miami Dolphins, "Woodlawn" demonstrates to young and old alike that, with God and family on your side, nothing is impossible - including, in this instance, a winning record.

The setting is racially torn 1973 Birmingham, Alabama, a veritable war zone of riots and cross burnings. With the implementation of court-mandated desegregation in public schools, 500 black students arrive by bus to join their 2,000 white peers at Woodlawn High.

Tensions flare, especially on the sports field, where athletically gifted newcomer Tony literally runs away with the ball, earning him the nickname "Touchdown Tony." This incites jealousy among his white teammates and fellow students.

Supporting Tony are his

loving parents, Louise (Sherri Shepherd) and Junior (Lance Nichols). On the sidelines is legendary Alabama coach Paul "Bear" Bryant (Jon Voight), who knows a superstar in the making when he sees one.

Woodlawn's own no-nonsense coach, Tandy Gerelds (Nic Bishop), just wants to win games. At a loss about how to reconcile his players to the new paradigm of integration, he reluctantly agrees to let a "sports chaplain" address the squad.

Enter Hank (Sean Astin), an outsider with a mission. Fired up after attending a Billy Graham crusade, Hank issues a direct challenge to the players.

"Make a decision to stand up and be forgiven, no matter what you have done," he exhorts them. "That's how much God loves you. I'm asking you to choose Jesus."

Within minutes, a "miracle" happens: Tony and 40 fellow players, black and white, step forward and pledge themselves to the "better way" through living the Gospel message.

As improbable as it sounds, that's apparently how it unfolded in real life. Change rippled through the school and out into the community and even affected rival teams. It isn't

long before an initially skeptical Coach Gerelds asks to be baptized.

Needless to say, such religious activity does not go down well with the local school board - who are obligated to maintain the constitutional borderline between church and state.

Among other things, Coach Gerelds is ordered to stop the communal pregame recitation of the Our Father. But such measures fail to undermine the positive new atmosphere, and Woodlawn rolls on to an unprecedented winning streak.

"Look around us. We're not alone," Hank says. "This is what happens when God shows up."

Brother directors Andrew and Jon Erwin - Jon co-wrote the script with Quinton Peeples - prove skillful at juggling complex football action with quieter moments in church. Although they approach their narrative from an evangelical perspective, their themes of faith, reconciliation and social justice will, of course, resonate with Catholic moviegoers.

The film contains scenes of mild racial violence and aggressive football action. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II - adults



CNS PHOTO/PURE FLIX

C. Thomas Howell stars in a scene from the movie "Woodlawn."

and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested. Some material may

not be suitable for children.

## GO GREEN!

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## Suicide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

clearly not a suicide, but it was similarly stigmatized.

Crucifixion carried a stigma from every point of view: religious, moral, and social. A person dying in this way was understood to be dying outside the mercy of God and outside the blessing and acceptance of the community.

The families of those crucified carried a certain shame and those who died

by crucifixion were also buried apart, in grounds that then took on their own stigma. And it was understood that they were outside the mercy of God and outside the community.

Jesus death was clearly not a suicide, but it evoked a similar perception. The same stigma as we attach to suicide was also attached to the manner in which he died.



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## ADIRONDACK

## SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid – St. Agnes Elementary School to have a Christmas Bazaar.

Date: Dec. 2

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

Features: Toys, trees, wreaths, baked goods, poinsettias, gifts, crafts, raffles and silent auction items. Vendor Space Available.

Contact: Kathleen Murphy at info@stagnesp.org or at 518-523-3771.

## CLINTON

## HEALING MASS

Ellenburg Center – Father Jack Downs will celebrate a healing Mass

Date: Oct. 24

Time: 11 a.m.

Place: Adirondack House of Prayer  
Features: Mass will feature communal Anointing of the Sick, followed by private prayer for those who wish. Lunch will follow the session, so reservations are needed.

Contact: Call 518-594-3253 for reservations and information.

## HARVEST DINNER

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Church will hold its annual harvest dinner and craft fair.

Date: Nov. 1

Time: Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Place: Seton Academy

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children \$4.00, under 5, Free

Features: Roast turkey and the trimmings. Take-outs available.

## HARVEST DINNER

Morrisonville – The RCC of St. Alexander's and St. Joseph's will have their annual Harvest Dinner.

Date: Nov. 8

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Cost: Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; 5 and under, Free

Features: Turkey Dinner with all the fixings, with Bake Shoppe, Silent Auction and a Big Raffle with a \$1,000 1st prize. Additional seating in new parish Hall-- No More Long Wait!!

## PAINT AND SIP

Chazy – The Sacred Heart Ladies will be sponsoring a Paint and Sip Party.

Date: Nov. 18

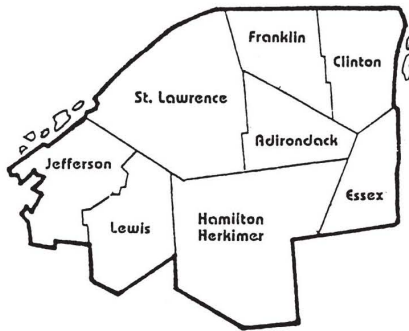
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center

Cost: \$30 per person

Features: Includes all supplies, snacks and "sipping." Reserve your spot now.

Contact: 846-7650 or 570-7747



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.

## CRAFT FESTIVAL

Chazy – Sacred Heart Church will be sponsoring a Fabulous Fall Craft Festival.

Date: Nov. 21

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Parish Center  
Features: Over 25 vendors from NY and VT. Hot lunches, raffle, baked goods.

Contact: Sharon Nephew at 493-2914 or Noreen Barcomb at 570-7747

## OUR COMMON HOME

Plattsburgh – St. Peter's Parish is presenting a program on Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si.

Date: Wednesdays Oct. 8 - Nov. 4.

Time: from 6:30 until 8:00 pm.

Place: Emmaus Room.

Presenters: Msg. Duprey and members Environmental Stewardship group.

## HARVEST DINNER

Altona – Holy Angel's Church to have a Harvest Dinner Buffet.

Date: Oct. 25

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: Roast Turkey and Ham with all the trimmings There will be immediate seating and take-outs available. There will also be a raffle, pull tabs, a Country Store and craft tables.

Contact: To reserve a craft table call 236-5848.

## 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

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Ellenburg Center – Our Lady of the Adirondacks House of Prayer to hold First Saturday Devotion.

Date: Nov. 7

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Features: Mass, rosary

Contact: RSVP for lunch to olaprayerhouse@gmail.com or 518-594-3253

## ESSEX

## HARVEST DINNER

Willsboro – The Catholic Community of St. Philip of Jesus & St. Joseph will have a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Date: Oct. 22

Time: Take-outs at 4 p.m.; 5 p.m. to 7

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

Features: 50/50 Raffle, Basket of Cheer.

## FRANKLIN

## HARVEST DINNER

North Bangor – The Catholic Community of St. Augustine will be hosting a Harvest Dinner.

Date: Oct. 25

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Place: John C. Dwyer Parish Center; Take-outs available.

Cost: Adults, \$9; Senior Citizens, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

## SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held the first Saturday of each month.

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

Contact: 518-856-9656

## JEFFERSON

## HARVEST DINNER

Black River – St. Paul's Church to have a Harvest Ham Dinner.

Date: Oct. 22

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Cost: Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: Take-outs available.

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

Watertown – Ecumenical Bereavement meeting to be held.

Date: Oct. 26

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph

Speaker: Mr. James Monaco, a psychotherapist with a private practice in Watertown.

Topic: "Dealing with Grief- How to heal from the loss of a loved one."

## SANDY HOOK MOTHERS

Watertown – During the past two Lenten the IHC Mystery Players have gone to Newtown, Connecticut, to present the "Way of the Cross" for the community that dealt with the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Two of the mothers are coming to IHC to speak.

Date: Oct. 28

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: School Auditorium

Features: The event is free and open to all. The women will speak on how faith has helped them cope. They will speak about 45 minutes and take questions.

## HARVEST DINNER

LaFaregville – Annual Harvest Dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 1

Time: 11:30 a.m. until sold out

Place: St. John the Evangelist Church

Cost: Adults and all take-outs, \$8.50; Children 5-10, \$4; under 5, Free

Features: Turkey will be served family style, raffles and a Country Store.

Contact: 315-686-3398

## ELECTION NIGHT DINNER

Alexandria Bay – Annual Election night ham dinner to be held.

Date: Nov. 3

Time: 5 p.m. to 7; Take-outs start at 4 p.m.

Place: St. Cyril's Church

Cost: Adults \$9; Children, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$9.50

Contact: For deliveries call 955-5504

## 'LAUDATO SI'

Watertown – Discussion sessions on "Laudato Si", Pope Francis' encyclical on the Care for our Common Home.

Date: Six Week program every Tuesday Oct. 13 – Nov. 17

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11 (with option to attend Mass) or 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse  
Cost: \$11 for the copy of the Encyclical and a discussion guide

Features: The program Will include a brief overview of each of the six chapters on successive meeting dates followed by small group discussion. Sponsored by Social Justice Committee, Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown, and the Watertown Faith & Ecology Group

Contact: Please call or email to make reservations, Sr. Bethany, 315-782-3460 or srbethssj@gmail.com

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: Oct. 29

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Anthony's 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.

## CRAFT FAIR VENDORS

Watertown – Immaculate Heart Central Home & School Club will be holding a craft fair and is in need of vendors.

Date: Nov. 14

Cost: \$25 per table

Contact: IHCHASC@gmail.com for an application, or contact Lori Hickman at (518)250-6008; Applications can also be picked up at either IHC Primary school on Winthrop Street or Intermediate school on South Massey Street in Watertown. Deadline is Oct. 19.

## PEACEFUL PRAYER FOR LIFE

Watertown – Join us for a peaceful, prayerful witness of prayer and hymns for the Sanctity of human life.

Date: Every day through October including Sundays.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Place: Planned Parenthood office

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

# Give thanks for the farmers

By Sister Mary Ellen Brett  
Diocesan mission director

As I hung up the "Harvest Mass of Thanksgiving" poster at St. Mary's Church in Copenhagen, it reminded me of the blessings of the farmers that I see caring for the land each day. There are a variety of ways of farming. Many Amish folks are plowing with horses while other farmers are using tractors, self-propelled haybines, self-propelled choppers for hay and corn as well as trucks and tractor-trailers.

I had the privilege of visiting with local farmers, Ron, Rob and their mother Fran who cooks the good meals. The farming days begin at 5 a.m., until anywhere between 7:30 and 9 p. m. depending on a number of machine break downs that may need immediate fixing. As Ron said, "A farmer wakes the rooster in the AM and puts the rooster to bed in the PM".

Farmers at this time of year have their corn cut and stored for feed, fields plowed and stones broken up, to level the ground for spring planting. Barns are being readied to house the cows this winter to keep them healthy for the milking so needed for the health of all of us. Snow will come which will insulate the ground, frost will break up the soil, rain will pack the soil down. Spring comes, and with its hope as they say here, the results depend on the weather sent by God. Ron & Rob told me that if I really wanted to find out about farming to put on blue jeans and join them on the tractor.

The poster also reminded me of my visit to Peru, South America. It gave me an opportunity to reminisce with Father Andrew Amyot, a former missionary in Mollendo about the ways of Peruvian farming.

In the South America highlands of Peru, I didn't see large fields with mechanized machines. I saw small strips of land built on the side of hills and steep banks along the Colca River. These terraces built one hundred years ago are the fields which are cultivated today by hand with shovels. If they had a larger field it would be plowed with a team of oxen pulling a rudimentary plow. Women and children follow the plow breaking clumps of dirt. Crops such as corn, lima beans, potatoes and wheat are planted. Alfalfa is planted to feed the few oxen, cows and sheep. Unpredicted weather such as a killing frost may see the need for several times of replanting. We are so blessed in the North Country to have adequate rainfall for planting. Peruvians plant at rain time to enable a good start. Depending on the weather following rainfall season, irrigation of crops bi-weekly gives hope for good harvesting.

May you give thanks frequently for the farmers' gifts to all of us.

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

<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** – Anthony "Tony" M. Urbanczyk, 70; Funeral Services Oct. 12, 2015 at St. Cecilia's Church.

**Brownville** – Patricia (Blow) King, 85; Funeral Services Oct. 15, 2015 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Heuvelton** – Betty J. (Candage) Sheppard, 85; Funeral Services Oct. 12, 2015 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Hogansburg** – Michael George, 70; Funeral Services Oct. 10, 2015 at St. Regis Church.

**Keene** – Frank P. Huchro Sr., 95; Funeral Services Oct. 16, 2015 at St. Brendan's Church; burial in Norton Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Francis Anthony "Frank" Kozloski, 94; Funeral Services Oct. 17, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Malone** – Orvil H. Kelley, 92; Funeral Services Oct. 16, 2015 at the Brusno-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Massena** – Doris (Cockayne) Premo, 89; Funeral Services Oct. 14, 2015 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Newcomb** – Rene D. Bureau, 88; Funeral

Services Oct. 17, 2015 at St. Therese Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Alma T. (McCormick) Murray, 74; Funeral Services Oct. 13, 2015; Funeral Services at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Judith (Mashaw) Wicks, 73; Funeral Services Oct. 17, 2015 at Notre Dame Church.

**Old Forge** – Adam Charles Winslow, 19; Funeral Services Sept. 8, 2015 at St. Bartholomew Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Ryon A. Duquette, 84; Funeral Services Oct. 15, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Jane Ruth (Rabideau) Trombley, 85; Funeral Services Oct. 14, 2015 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish

cemetery.

**Sackets Harbor** – Marion R. (Thibault) Colin, 90; Funeral Services Oct. 13, 2015 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Lakeside cemetery.

**Theresa** – Catherine Helen (Brown) Reynolds, 87; Funeral Services Oct. 16, 2015 at St. Theresa of Avila Church.

**Watertown** – Marguerite Sparacino Hageman, 81; Funeral Services Oct. 15, 2015 at D.L. Calarco Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Andrew W. Clement, 80; Funeral Services Oct. 24, 2015 at Cleveland Funeral Home.

**Willboro** – Ethel A. (Cushing) Bridge, 91; Funeral Oct. 16, 2015 at St. Philip's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

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NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN

Here is what one subscriber has to say:

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

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

# Around

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

## LEWIS

## HEALING MASS

**Lowville** – Fr. Chris Carrara will celebrate a Healing Mass.

**Date:** Oct. 24

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered during Mass. The Mass will be followed by a breakfast in church hall.

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

**Houseville** – Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of November will be held

**Date:** Nov. 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.

## THEOLOGY ON TAP

**Lowville** – Theology on Tap to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 28

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Barkeater Brewery

**Features:** Fr. Christopher Carrara will be

speaking on the topic of evil in the world and will answer questions after.

## PIZZA AND PRAYER

**Lowville** – Pizza and Prayer to be held every Monday.

**Schedule:** 5:30 p.m. to 6:15, pizza and social time; Bible Study 6:15 to 6:45; Pick up at 7 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**Features:** Open to high school students. Most P&P will be Bible studies. The first Monday of the month will be Eucharistic adoration in the chapel, following the same time structure.

## IMPACT NIGHTS

**Lowville** – IMPACT (High school youth group) nights are the first and third Sundays of the month.

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

**Lowville** – Middle School Youth Group to meet.

**Date:** Nov. 18 and third Wednesday of each month

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Church

## ST. LAWRENCE

## HARVEST DINNER

**Star Lake** – St. Hubert's Church to have a harvest dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 24

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 5-10, \$5

**Features:** Take-outs available by calling 848-3612

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE

**Star Lake** – St. Hubert's Church to have a Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale.

**Date:** Nov. 7

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; coffee and donuts 9 a.m. to 11; lunch 11 a.m. to 1

**Features:** Hundreds of handcrafted items, gift baskets, live wreaths, and a Children's Shoppe.

## FALL BAZAAR

**Norfolk** – Altar Rosary to have Fall Bazaar.

**Date:** Oct. 24

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

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Features:** Included in the event are tables of Christmas goods, Religious Articles, Homemade Crafts, Food, Baked goods, Candy, an Attic Table, Raffle, Coffee and donuts, and a Luncheon that is served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## HARVEST DINNER

**Gouverneur** – Harvest Dinner with all the trimmings to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 29

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School or take-out

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 12 & under, \$5; Children 5 & under, free

## BISHOP AND THE BISHOP PUPPETS



Pre-kindergarten students at Holy Family School in Malone show off their "Bishop LaValley" puppets during the bishop's visit to their school Oct. 14

"On December 14, 2012, two good friends, Sandy Previdi and Jenny Hubbard waited at the Sandy Hook firehouse for news about their children – Caroline and Catherine – also two good friends. While waiting in the firehouse, Sandy and

Jenny shared how their two girls were inseparable – and even now, they are still inseparable. On Wednesday, October 28th at 7 p.m. in the IHC auditorium Sandy Previdi and Jenny Hubbard will speak about their daughters, their friendship, and grieving as a believer."



### Sandy Hook Moms to Speak at IHC

*Come hear Sandy Previdi and Jenny Hubbard tell how their faith helps them deal with the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.*

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28<sup>TH</sup>  
7 P.M. IN THE IHC AUDITORIUM  
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## LATIN MASS

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

**Time:** 9:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Church

## 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.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

**Potsdam** – Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.

**Dates:** Oct. 25; Nov. 8 & 22; Dec. 6 & 13; Jan. 17 & 31; Feb. 14 & 28; March 13;

April 3 & 17

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory

**Features:** Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary, just come along.

**Contact:** Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Howard Venette, pastor @st.maryspatrick.net 315-265-9680; Father Douglas Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com or Father Bryan Stitt, bstitt@rcdony.org