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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 26

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 2, 2015

## Belief seen in respect, service

NAIROBI, KENYA (CNS) - Respect, unity and service are the foundations of a strong family, a solid democracy and a healthy response to the gift of faith - any faith, Pope Francis told the people of Kenya.

Meeting ecumenical and interreligious leaders, celebrating a large outdoor Mass

and greeting priests, religious and seminarians in Nairobi Nov. 26, Pope Francis insisted faith means serving one's fellow human beings.

The pope's day began early on the rainy morning with an intimate meeting with 40 representatives of Kenya's Christian, Muslim, Jewish,

Sikh and Buddhist communities, as well as with a Masai elder and other leaders of communities that have maintained their traditional African beliefs.

During the meeting in the Vatican nunciature, Pope Francis remembered the terrorist attacks on Kenya's

Westgate Mall in 2013, Garissa University College in April and Mandera in July, and urged a common recognition that "the God who we seek to serve is a God of peace."

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(See more on pope's trip to Africa, pages 10-11)

## Living Stones: foundation of our parishes



Hector and Lottie Foissey, stalwart parishioners of St. Mary's of the Fort Parish in Fort Covington are pictured on their 25th anniversary.

FULL STORY, PAGE 8

## Consecrated jubilarians

Sr. Jean Marie is honored for 75 years as Sister of St. Joseph; Sr Louella for 50 years as Sister of Charity of St. Louis

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

## SONGS OF THANKSGIVING



PHOTO BY SR. MARY ANNE CROITZ, SSI

The Watertown Religious Special Education program hosted a Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 22 at the Sacred Heart Auditorium. The auditorium was filled with family, friends and caregivers who gave thanks to God for the many blessings received. Above, St. Joseph Sister Diane Marie, special religious education coordinator, directs singers from the program who entertained with Thanksgiving songs. Parishioners from Sacred Heart parish, students from IHC and Confirmation students helped serve the meal. Father Christopher J. Looby, pastor of St. Mary's parish, Evans Mills, was the guest speaker. Bishop Terry R. LaValley offered a message of gratitude to Sister Diane for her untiring work with people with disabilities and closed with Benediction.

**CATHOLIC SCOUTS:** Bishop celebrates Mass, presents awards to scouts, p. 7

## JUBILEE OF MERCY

Diocese to join celebration



(CNS/COURTESY OF PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR PROMOTING NEW EVANGELIZATION)

This is the logo for the Holy Year of Mercy, which opens Dec. 8 and runs until Nov. 20, 2016. In his Follow Me column this week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley writes about the Jubilee of Mercy. "Beginning on our diocesan patronal Feast Day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will joyfully join Catholics throughout the world in focusing our prayerful attention these next several months on the boundless mercy of our God," he said. "The Jubilee Year concludes with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 20, 2016."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Tooting our horn... just a bit!

Let's get through the clichés right at the start.

Yes, I know I'm preaching to the choir. Yes, I realize I'm tooting my own horn.

But, the stories that fill this week's *North Country Catholic* show why our diocesan paper should be welcomed into every Catholic home in the diocese.

We'll start with Bishop LaValley's award winning column as he invites us to join him in observing the Jubilee Year of Mercy which starts next week.

EVERY Catholic should know

about the "many grace-filled opportunities to celebrate God's mercy (which) will be made available to all the faithful in the North Country, both in our local parishes and at special diocesan celebrations," the bishop said. "Pope Francis reminds us that the credibility of our Church is at stake."



Mary Lou  
Kilian

You can be sure that these opportunities will receive extensive coverage in the *NCC*.

This week's paper is also filled with stories and photos of extraordinary people who

comprise our family of faith – consecrated religious, Knights of Columbus and Catholic kids.

We're also featuring a delightful addition to our "Living Stones.... Foundations of Our Faith" series written by the granddaughter of Lottie Foisy of Fort Covington.

It is important for us to be aware of the sacrifices and faith-filled devotion of our ancestors who built up our church with little more than "blood, sweat and tears."

It's especially gratifying when you can see that they are men and women you'd love to join for a cup of coffee!

During the coming year, we will continue to keep you in-

formed about all the grace-filled events of this Year of Mercy, those led by the Holy Father and those happening in our back yard. We will join in the preparations for the IN-SPIRE gathering next September and keep up with all the efforts towards realizing our Christ-led, Christ-fed, hope-filled diocesan vision.

All of this is a long and winding way to say that a subscription to the *NCC* might be a perfect gift for those Catholics on your list who care deeply about the church in the North Country. (See page 9) We will indeed be bringing the message of Christmas into homes, week after week, all year long!

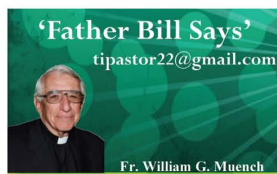
## Advent message: We are baptized people

Advent – I baptized a baby on the First Sunday of Advent and it turned out to be a perfect time for a Baptism.

Each year as Advent begins, we celebrate again our time of preparation to bring Jesus more completely into our lives at Christmas. Advent opens our hearts again to the coming of Jesus to our world – just as this baby was born into his family.

So, let's talk about Baptism, the time that our Catholic Church brings Jesus into our lives sacramentally. This sacrament brings a unique change into each of our lives as we become members of Christ's Church, even as infants. When understood properly, our destiny is changed. The Sacrament of Baptism marks each of us as a disciple of Jesus. Adults who are baptized become disciples of Jesus, disciples with a mission. Their mission as a disciples of Jesus is to make this world a better place by living out their Baptism.

The message of Advent – as we enter Advent again – is to recognize who we are. We are baptized people. This is God's message to us: live like a baptized person. The way we live should indicate to others we are baptized people.



## 'Father Bill Says'

tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

The first step is to realize that in Baptism, we become adopted children of God. This child indeed is born again. It is a good way to look at our Sacrament of Baptism. So just as being born into this human world, we are born again in Baptism to God's family. This makes each individual new and unique; we now have a unique relationship with God.

Consider this – the apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Without hesitation Jesus teaches them what we call the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught them the Our Father.

For those people at that time this was a rather different way of thinking of God. They would never think that God would be that close to them – close like a Father. So Jesus teaches all of us in this way that God wants a close, intimate relationship with his people, that, in Baptism God, becomes our Father and we become adopted children of God. Our Father is a Fa-

ther who cares for us, a Father who longs to guide us, a Father who wants to be part of our lives even from the time of infancy.

Advent is a time each year to bring new life into our plan toward holiness. Jesus teaches us that Baptism is our call to holiness. Baptism is the start of our journey to sainthood. Life is filled with questions of how to live a good life, of how to live a holy life. The best guide for this is Jesus. In Baptism our relationship with Jesus becomes close as adopted children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus. We can and should then become a friend of Jesus, who wants to be our friend. Jesus is our incarnate Savior who walked this earth and lived among us, died for us and rose again to new life. We have someone who knows us so well; he is truly our guide to holiness.

The very ritual of Baptism demonstrates to us our call to follow Jesus to holiness. St. Paul makes this clear when he reminds us that in Baptism we die with Christ and with Jesus we rise again to new life. So in Baptism we begin that resurrected life with Jesus and we do this best by living our Baptism. Baptism, like all of our

sacraments, is a celebration. Our sacramental celebrations are moments of new life and peace. There is a deep joy that fills our hearts with love and we experience with happiness that the love that God is with us – always.

Catherine Doherty wrote this about celebration: "Celebration is the song of praise coming from the heart of a human being and going to the heart of God."

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# Jubilee of Mercy

"Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." With these words, Pope Francis announced to the world there is to be an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. In the Old Testament, the Book of Leviticus tells us that the Jubilee is a time of forgiveness of sins and universal pardon. This sacred time occurred every 50 years when slaves and prisoners would be freed, all debts forgiven and the mercies of God would be especially manifest.

This "Year of the Lord" has been celebrated in the Church down through the ages every 50 or, in recent centuries, every 25 years; the last was in the year 2000. This upcoming Jubilee Year, occurring outside of that chronological framework, is considered "Extraordinary."

Beginning on our diocesan patronal Feast Day, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, the Diocese of Ogdensburg will joyfully join Catholics throughout the world in focusing our prayerful attention these next several months on the boundless mercy of our God. The Jubilee Year concludes with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 20, 2016.

Many grace-filled opportunities to celebrate God's mercy will be made available to all the faithful in the North Country, both in our local parishes and at special diocesan celebrations.

These will be occasions when we come together as a family of faith to celebrate our God's unconditional love and limitless mercy and then, as the Holy Father urges, "we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God" to oth-

ers. In this way, we can be living sources of water from which others can drink, introducing them to the healing presence of Jesus Christ,

building up our parish families with Living Stones. Pope Francis reminds us that the credibility of our Church is at stake.

As a local Church, we will mark the beginning of the Jubilee Year with the Opening of the Cathedral Holy Door of Mercy at the 11am Mass on Sunday, December 13th, the

Third Sunday of Advent.

This will be followed by several Diocesan and parish celebrations in the days, weeks, and months ahead, including Holy Hours of Adoration, Special Days of Prayer, the Sacrament of Penance, Prayer Rallies, Pilgrimages (to Italy, St. Anne's Shrine in Isle la Motte, Vermont; and specified Diocesan sites), the Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession, the Vocation Summit—INSPIRE: Call to Love—in Lake Placid, and much more. Please be sure to check our diocesan website, your parish bulletins and the *North Country Catholic* for the calendar of events.

During this time of spiritual renewal, as individuals and as families, we can reawaken our consciences and enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel. In a particular way, it is an occasion for us to learn about mercy and experience forgiveness in our families.

I encourage our moms and dads to spend time with their children, teaching and reflecting upon the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy with them. This can be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen faith formation in our families.

St. Paul wrote the Romans: "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."

(5:20) I am reminded of the Holy Father's response when asked to describe himself. He said, simply, "I am a sinner."

**Jubilee Year of Mercy  
begins Dec. 8, patronal  
feast day of the diocese**

Aren't we all in the same boat? Because each of us is a sinner, we all need the patience and compassion of God. God's mercy is a force that overcomes everything. It has that kind of power. Mercy is always greater than any sin.

My sisters and brothers, this can be a graced moment in time for you and me for reflection on our attitudes about God's mercy when it comes to our own participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As St. John Paul II wrote: Sin is an integral part of the truth about the human person. (*Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, 13). "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (*1Jn. 1:8-9*) But this sin is countered by the truth of divine love. That's what we celebrate, that's what we embrace!

This is a time, too, when we can examine the words and deeds we use that might reveal inner tension when it comes to the actual practice of mercy. Do they speak of a rigid, revengeful, and judgmental temperament rather than the tender, understanding and inclusive attitude that reflects Jesus' own approach to listening and teaching?

We turn to our Patroness, the Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception and the Mother of Mercies, joining our prayers with that of the Holy Father: "Let us live this Jubilee intensely, begging the Father to forgive our sins and to bathe us in His merciful indulgence," never forgetting that God's mercy endures forever!



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

## Bishop LaValley to lead Holy Year of Mercy Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

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Dear Friends,

Why not join me and other pilgrims on a journey of a lifetime—a pilgrimage to Italy during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy? A highlight of our travels will be four days in Rome where we will enter St.

Peter's Basilica through the Holy Doors and also visit the other three major basilicas. We hope to have an audience with Pope Francis and tours of the Sistine Chapel, the Coliseum, the Vatican Museum, as well as visit many other spectacular places holding sacred and cultural treasures. Our pilgrimage will, also, see us at such awesome locations as Venice, Florence, Siena, Orvieto and Assisi.

A Holy Year offers unique opportunities for spiritual growth. This Holy Year Pilgrimage to Italy promises to be a time for prayer, an increase in faith, and a whole lot of enjoyment for all the pilgrims. The frosting on the cake: gaining the plenary indulgence associated with such a pilgrimage during a Holy Year.

I hope you'll join us for what promises to be an exciting and spiritually enriching time together.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*Bishop LaValley*  
Bishop Terry R. LaValley



Call 315-608-7556 or visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for more information

## Knights of Columbus: Making News in the North Country

### AuSable K of C donation honors Sr. Yvonne Therese

AUSABLE FORK - The Knights of Columbus Council #2301 paid tribute to St. Joseph Sister Yvonne Therese Cusson with a check for \$1,500 to the Missionary Childhood Association.

Sister Yvonne spent 15 years in AuSable Forks teaching in Holy Name School and in Holy Name Center upon the closing of the school.

During that time, she educated the youth about the needs of the developing countries and how they could help the children through prayer and sacrificial donations.

Since AuSable Forks is located in apple country, Sister Yvonne sold apples in the Fall to send money to the Missionary Childhood Association.

Through the prayers and sacrificial donations encouraged by Sister Yvonne, the support reached clinics caring for the sick and dying



St. Joseph Sister Yvonne Therese Cusson recently moved from AuSable Forks, where she had served for 15 years, to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown for health reasons. Before she left, the Knights of Columbus Council in AuSable Forks made a \$1500 donation to the Missionary Childhood Association in honor of Sister Yvonne Therese.

children, orphanages providing a place of safety and shelter, schools offering edu-

cation from kindergarten through high school. All of this took place in

1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Oceania and Europe where

the poorest of the poor receive an education and health care, while experiencing the loving heart of Jesus through the service of priests, religious and lay faithful.

Sister Yvonne Therese is now residing at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown as she continues her support of the missions in her physical suffering.

"Her ready smile reflects the Heart of Jesus even as her voice is being replaced with a writing tablet," said St. Joseph Sister Mary Ellen Brett, diocesan mission director. "We know that the children who have received of her generosity of spirit in days past are, in faraway places, praying for her as she embraces life's sufferings.

"Sister Yvonne Therese is showing us the connectedness of all God's people," Sister Mary Ellen said "We are all grateful!"

### FOURTH DEGREE FATHERS..... NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED



The Northern Conference of the Knights of Columbus held a Fourth Degree Exemplification Nov. 8 at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh. Three priests - Father Patrick Mundy of Plattsburgh, Father Justin Thomas, Ogdensburg; and Father Tojo Chacko, Massena - were among those who received the Fourth Degree. Above, from left are Father Mundy, Father Thomas, Father Richard Sturtz, Msgr. Dennis Duprey, pastor of St. Peter's; and Father Chacko.



The recently installed officers of the Watertown Knights of Columbus Council No. 259 are, front from left, John Gaffney, Recorder; Richard Burnett, Financial Secretary; John Morglia, Grand Knight; Patrick Jank, Deputy Grand Knight; Jeffrey Deline, Outside Guard; and Patrick Evans, Lecturer; back, Kenneth Eysaman, Michael Clark and Randy Belina, Trustees; Msgr. Robert Aucono, Chaplain; Father Joseph Christy, Associate Chaplain; Michael Deline, Treasurer and District Deputy of District 102 and the Installing Officer and James Wessner, Inside Guard. Absent from the photo was Frank Monaco, Warden. The office of Chancellor is presently vacant.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS OF AUTUMN

# FACES OF FAITH



Father Bryan Stitt, diocesan director of vocations visited St. James School Nov. 17 to discuss vocations with the students. Since it was the 50th day of the school year, the students dressed in clothes like the 1950's and celebrated with ice cream.



Children in religious education classes of the Roman Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont, and their families took part in a family day of catechesis Nov. 22. They shared a meal and then created Advent wreaths. Each family had the opportunity to add their own uniqueness to their Advent wreath. The wreaths were then blessed before the families took them home. Shown with their family wreath are Jordan Alberry and catechist Jennifer Alberry.



Children in Faith Formation classes at St. Peter's Church in Lowville, celebrated the Feast of Christ the King, by joining in the procession at the beginning of Mass Nov. 22.



Father John M. Demo, pastor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Redford and Saint Joseph's Church in Dannemora, celebrated his 27th anniversary of ordination Sept. 24. He was presented with an alb by the parishioners of Redford. Pictured with him, from left, are Mae Rasco, Charlotte Butler, Shirley Otten and Pat Siskavich.

# Rites for Sr. Elizabeth Ann Brown, GNSH, set for Dec. 9

**YARDLEY, PENN.**—A Mass of Christian Burial for Grey Nun Sister Elizabeth Ann Brown, 98, will be held Dec. 9 in the Sacred Heart Chapel, Grey Nuns Motherhouse.

She died Nov. 24 at St. Joseph Manor, Meadowbrook, Penn., in the 72nd year of her religious life.

A lifelong educator, Sister Elizabeth Ann taught in various areas of Pennsylvania and New York for 50 years. More than half of her ministry years were served in the Diocese of Ogdensburg; three years at Bishop Conroy in Ogdensburg were followed by 25 years at St. Mary's in Potsdam.

Sister Elizabeth Ann was named Teacher of the Year by the Diocese of Ogdensburg of the year 1986/87.

Early in her teaching days

Sister Elizabeth Ann served in Philadelphia, King of Prussia and Mahoney City, Penn. The majority of her ministry was spent in the primary grades, especially Grade 2, where she prepared hundreds of children for their First Communion.

She was principal at Bishop Conroy School in Ogdensburg from 1969-71 and prior to that at Mother of Divine Providence School in King of Prussia, Penn., for two years.

In 1997 Sister Elizabeth Ann retired to the motherhouse in Yardley where she continued in active service to her sisters and the operation of the community through Mail distribution, laundry folding, visiting with the sisters, and an increased time for prayer.

In 2008, failing health re-

quired her move to St. Joseph Manor where she resided until her death.

Born Oct. 8, 1917 in New York City, Elizabeth Margaret Brown was employed as a new accounts teller at the Emigrant Savings Bank in New York City for eight years prior to entering the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in 1944. She received a bachelor's degree in education from D'Youville College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Predeceased by her parents Martin and Elizabeth Brown and siblings, John, Martin (Budd) and Florence, she is survived by nieces, nephews and their families.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, 1750 Quarry Road, Yardley, PA 19067-3998.

## Bishop's Schedule

**Dec. 2** – 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 4** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Aspirants at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 6** – 11 a.m., Mass at St. John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh

**Dec. 8** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 9** – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence 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*

**Dec. 2** – Rev. Charles Desrosiers, 1944; Rev. Joseph A. R. Cote, 1969;

Rev. Joseph Fortier, M.S.C., 1970

**Dec. 3** – Rev. Michael O'Neill, 1899;

Msgr. Walter Funcke, 1958

**Dec. 4** – Msgr. James Mackey, 1883;

Rev. Alexis D. Medeville, O.M.I., 1884;

Rev. Albert Chevalier, O.M.I., 1948;

Msgr. Joseph Patrick Heslin, 1962; Rev. Charles A. Flaherty, 1974

**Dec. 5** – Rev. Michael Hallahan, 1891;

Most Rev. Edgar P. Wadhams, D.D., 1891

**Dec. 6** – Rev. Edward F. O'Brien, 1936

**Dec. 8** – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931;

Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946;

Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949;

Rev. John Harvey, 1961

## Environmental Stewardship

### Less is more

Advent is always an invitation to ponder the mystery of God's love for us. During this busy season, however, is also the challenge to find ways to respond to His love in our daily activities. We have a guide in our Holy Father's recent encyclicals.

- In the first one, he speaks of the joy that is ours as found in the Gospel.

- In the second one, he directs our attention outwards to the 'cries of the poor' and the 'cries of the natural world'.

- Finally, in the latest one, *Misericordiae Vultus*, he points HOW we need to respond to God and our neighbors' need - with the compassionate heart of Jesus, expressed through the corporate and spiritual works of mercy.

During this season of Advent, when our culture clamors for us to buy more, Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si* that Scripture tells us that "less is more."

Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and appreciate the small things... it is a way of living life to the full." #222-3

What wonderful opportunity this Advent season provides us to choose carefully what we buy; to be more aware of the true cost of goods... considering the true cost of human labor and how are workers are being remunerated for their labors? What is the cost to the natural world in terms of the use of natural resources, throw-away items, transportation costs? When we purchase less and become more conscious of the effects on our brothers and sisters and on cost to our planet, are we not doing works of mercy?

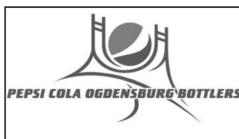
"Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer." #223.

What possibilities does this Advent offer us to living life to the full?

## 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



## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://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. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions; **Dec. 19-9 a.m.**, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Cape Vincent



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HONORING THE SPIRITUAL PHASE OF SCOUTING

# CATHOLIC SCOUTING

Catholic Scouts gather for Mass Oct. 18 at St. Alphonus Church in Tupper Lake; award ceremony follows



Parishioners of SS Philip & James parish in Lisbon, Allison Bell earned the Family of God pin and Connor Bell earned the Parvuli Dei medal.



PHOTOS BY ZACK LEADER

Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined Catholic scouts of the diocese for their annual Mass and awards ceremony, held this year Oct. 18 in Tupper Lake. He is shown in back with Cory Haynes, lay chairperson for the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting; and Father Bryan D. Stitt, chaplain. The scouts who received religious emblems were Jason Kubis, Zachary Aldrich, Brady Trombley, Connor Bell, Richard McGrath and Will Wyant IV, all who earned Parvuli Dei; Lucas Aldrich, Light of Christ; and Allison Bell, Family of God.



Bishop LaValley blesses the awards before they were presented to the scouts.



The purpose of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Ogdensburg is to give guidance, vitality, and leadership in the spiritual phase of scouting to all Catholic scouts and scouters of the diocese. The committee also endeavors to help parishes and other Catholic organizations support the scouting program on the local level. Members, shown above, from left are Cory Haynes, Bishop LaValley, Scott Quinell, Wendy Mesick, Robert Buholtz, Tammy Besio, Mary Shaheen, David Raville, Randy Besio and Father Bryan Stitt. Not pictured are Linda Raville, Barbara Iwinski, John Burnham.

## LIVING STONES... FOUNDATIONS OF PARISHES

# The faith-filled life of Lottie Foisy

By Kathleen Lauzon  
Contributing writer

FORT COVINGTON - "My Year as President of St Mary's Rosary Society" January 3, 1952.

This one-year journal kept by my grandmother, Lottie Foisy, gives quite a picture of life in St. Mary's of the Fort Parish.

**Did our Lord visit the dives in his time on earth, or did he favor the kings and queens?**

**We do know he was in favor of a little wine**

From the journal of Lottie Foisy

That year, 90 Rosary Society members and nine priests attended their annual banquet! It was held at the "International Hotel" (better known as the "Half-Way House", the "hot spot of Dundee").

To quote her journal: "Did our Lord visit the dives in his time on earth, or did he favor the kings and queens? We do know he was in favor of a little wine."

Grandma was very down to earth and had a very personal relationship with both Our Lord and His Holy Mother. So many times she wrote: "Queen of the most Holy rosary guide my heart and mind". Again: "Queen of the Holy Rosary protect us from this cold and sleet".

Lottie Philomena was born in Fort Covington on Feb. 4, 1902 to Cecelia and Augustus Haines. On Feb. 15, 1926 she married Hector Foisy (a cousin of St. Brother Andre). During the time of The Great Depression, they welcomed five children as gifts from God.

She worked outside of her home all her life at the Daley Moccasin Factory and later at Tru Stitch in Malone (certainly not easy work). She died in December 1963.

Her obituary from the Fort Covington Sun read in part:



FAMILY PHOTO

Hector and Lottie Foisy, parishioners of St. Mary's of the Fort Church in Fort Covington are shown with their five children, Joseph Rene, Theresa, Joseph Raymond, Janet and Hector.

"She was a grand person, a very attractive woman, possessing an equally attractive personality and disposition, a joy to her family, her friends and all who knew her."

Grandma loved flowers and always had a beautiful garden. Her last sacrifice on earth was her request to have no flowers at her wake and funeral. All for the glory of God and His Mother.

She was always ready to help anyone in Fort Covington in need.

In Jack Boyle's book: *Sunset on the Tracks*, he comments that his mother, Mae Boyle "loved visiting Lottie"...and "often asked her opinions on various matters affecting her family life."

In Grandma's journal she

talks about going to the Convent to help mend clothes for the poor: "This week 70 articles of clothing need to be mended."

Indeed in the book, *Sisters of the North Country*, Sister Sally Witt, SSJ talks about their mission at St. Mary's in Fort Covington. Mother Everista, Sister Rosalia and Sister Leo "used one room to gather clothing for those who would need it."

Clothing the naked was only one of the works of mercy Grandma (and many others) did out of love. Her heart and soul belonged to serving God, His church and His people.

She wrote this prayer for her family: "I thank God He kept me well till my children all grew up. I prayed very hard for that. So now I

just pray that His will be done." Such faith and trust.

There is another similar prayer written by her found in her journal: "Our Lady of the Holy Rosary pray for our children. Ask your Son to make them all happy in their choice of life. God bless their marriages. Any vocation they may choose means sacrifice. May they have faith, courage and health."

For Grandma, being a wife and a mother was truly a vocation.

We are proud to say that now five generations of our family have received the sacrament of holy Matrimony on the same exact spot in St. Mary's Church. Lottie has left an incredible legacy for us.

Perhaps one of her great-

## An invitation

The *North Country Catholic* continues a series of stories about outstanding parishioners in the diocese from years gone by.

The series is inspired by Bishop LaValley's call for "Living Stones" in our parishes, people whose service outside their church reflects "what happens inside the sacred walls." The subjects are men and women who in effect were "stones" within their parishes.

We hope to make this fully representative of our parishes, but we can't do it without your help. Are you aware of somebody who was very active at promoting the faith in your parish years ago and who equally set a good example by his or her service to the community? Perhaps it was somebody in your family, possibly a parent or grandparent.

You are invited to research and write about your nominee. If writing is not your thing, tells us about your nominee, providing whatever material you may have, and we will take care of the rest. Good photos of the nominee are welcomed, of course.

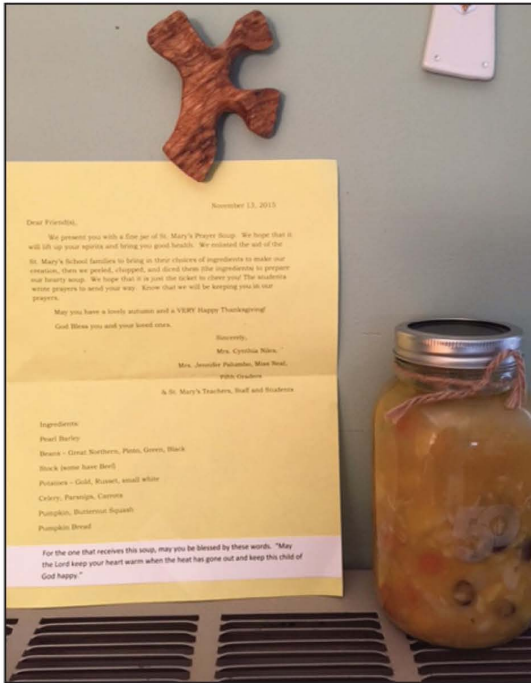
Submissions may be emailed to [mkilian@rcdony.org](mailto:mkilian@rcdony.org), or mailed to The North Country Catholic, Post Office Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

est material gifts to us is the seven-piece baptismal ensemble she hand made in time for her first child's baptism in March, 1927. Four generations have been baptized wearing this beloved outfit; it is a family treasure which she specifically bequeathed to the "family who uses it the most". And so the tradition continues.

Grandma's house has changed ownership many times. But her church is still our church. We have a rich inheritance here at St. Mary's. Our roots are deep. Her devotion continues to be felt and practiced. We have so much to be grateful for. May Our Blessed Mother help us instill this love and dedication in many generations to come.



OUR READERS WRITE



The Trill family in Canton share their reaction to receiving a jar of St. Mary's School's Prayer Soup.

## Praising God for all Catholic schools, especially St. Mary's in Canton

I just wanted to pass along what happened to us last Week. My husband has been fighting an infection in his arm for a few weeks. Following is what happened to us that I posted on my Facebook page.

*The neatest things just happened. Brian and I got a knock on the door, and one of the 5th grade students from St Marys Catholic School was standing there with one of the teachers. They had a quart jar of homemade soup. The note that accompanied it said: Dear friends, we present you with a fine jar of St. Mary's Prayer Soup. We hope that it will lift your spirits and bring you good health. We enlisted the aid of St Mary's School families to bring in their choices of ingredients to make our creation. Then we peeled, chopped and diced them to prepare our hearty soup. We hope that it is just the ticket to cheer you! The students wrote prayers to send your way. Know that we will be keeping you in our prayers. It listed all the ingredients in the soup. The prayer on Brian's note said for the one who receives this soup, may you be blessed by these words. "May the Lord keep your heart warm when the heater has gone out and keep this child of God happy"*

Our hearts are BURSTING with emotions. We are so blessed to have a church and school family surrounding us with the love of God. Praising God for Catholic Schools and especially for St Marys Catholic School in Canton NY.

Linda Heeke Trill  
Canton

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CNS PHOTOS/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis arrives for a meeting with youths at Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya, Nov. 27.



People sing as Pope Francis celebrates Mass for the martyrs of Uganda near the Catholic shrine at Namugongo in Kampala, Uganda Nov. 28.

# Pope Francis in Africa

## Arriving in Kenya, pope says tolerance, respect are keys to peace

**NAIROBI, KENYA (CNS)** -- With security concerns looming over his visit, Pope Francis arrived in Kenya Nov. 25 urging tolerance and respect among people of different religions and different ethnic groups.

Pope Francis was greeted at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by a small group of dancers, women ululating and President Uhuru Kenyatta, son of the nation's first president, for whom the airport is named.

The formal welcoming ceremony took place at Kenya's State House, where the pope met with the president, government and civic leaders and members of the diplomatic corps.

In his speech, the pope focused on the values needed to consolidate democracy in Kenya and throughout Africa, starting with building trust and cohesion among members of the different ethnic and religious groups on the continent.

"Experience shows that vi-

olence, conflict and terrorism feed on fear, mistrust and the despair born of poverty and frustration," he said. "To the extent that our societies experience divisions -- whether ethnic, religious or economic -- all men and women of good will are called to work for reconciliation and peace, forgiveness and healing."

## Pope ends Kenya visit defending poor, denouncing tribalism

**NAIROBI, KENYA (CNS)** - The wealth of residents of the poorest neighborhoods ringing big cities around the world will never be quoted on the stock exchange, even though their wealth gives life and joy to millions of people, Pope Francis said.

The pope began his day Nov. 27 in Nairobi's Kangemi neighborhood, usually referred to as a slum. It features tiny dwellings made of cinder block, tin or reclaimed boards.

The homes are jumbled together with dirt roads and paths running between them. Residents were thrilled

not only that the pope would take time to visit them, but that the government fixed several of the roads, installed some street lights and unblocked some water pipes in preparation for the pope's visit.

Exact figures vary, but between 55 percent and 65 percent of Nairobi's population lives in the slums. Many have no drinking water, electricity, sewage system or regular garbage collection.

Irish Mercy Sister Mary Killeen, who has ministered in Kenya for three decades, told Pope Francis that fires - especially from kerosene lamps and stoves - and floods are a danger. Evictions are frequent since the people do not own the land on which their shacks are built.

## Ugandans give pope exuberant welcome as he urges unity

**KAMPALA, UGANDA (CNS)** - Witnessing to what is true, good and beautiful -- even if that witness is motivated by different faiths -- brings people together and strengthens a nation, Pope Francis said.

Arriving in Uganda from Kenya Nov. 27, Pope Francis was greeted by a number of dance troupes playing drums as well as traditional horns and stringed instruments. Many of the dancers wore rattles on their calves, and some of the men wore the skins of the spotted hyena around their waists.

While the pope fulfilled the protocol duty of reviewing the military troops, he could not pass by the dance troupes without thanking them, especially the children.

Pope Francis went from the airport to the State House in Entebbe, where he immediately drew people's attention to the Ugandan Martyrs - 23 Anglicans and 22 Catholics - executed by King Mwanga II of Buganda between November 1885 and January 1887.

"They remind us of the importance that faith, moral rectitude and commitment to the common good have played and continue to play in the cultural economic and political life of this country," the pope told President Yow-

eri Museveni, other government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

## Pope draws attention to Africa as a whole, not just its problems

On the third evening of his three-nation trip to Africa, Pope Francis said he wanted to draw attention to Africa as a whole, and not just to the continent's problems. He praised Uganda particularly for welcoming refugees and allowing them to work.

"Our world, caught up in wars, violence and various forms of injustice is witnessing an unprecedented movement of peoples," he said. "How we deal with them is a test of our humanity, our respect for human dignity and above all our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need."

As he did earlier in Kenya, the pope also urged African leaders to dedicate themselves to ensuring education and employment for their young people, the majority of the continent's population.

(By Cindy Wooden, CNS)

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## MRS director : refugee screening process is thorough, keeps U.S. safe

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The extensive vetting process that all refugees undergo before arriving in the United States "screens out any possible threat of terrorism," said the executive director of the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services. "We believe the risk is nil and certainly when we look at this (process) under a microscope, these are the most vetted people that come into our country," William Canny told Catholic News Service. The director said the State Department screening procedure -- which the White House posted on its website Nov. 20 -- is comprehensive and makes security its highest priority. "We're highly confident that it's well done, that it screens out any possible threat of terrorism. Based on that, we're very comfortable receiving these families, which by the way, are mostly women and children," Canny said. Questions about the possible entry into the U.S. by extremists tied to Islamic State militants who control large swaths of Syria and Iraq have been raised since a string of violent attacks in Paris Nov. 13 and the downing of a Russian jetliner over Egypt's Sinai desert Oct. 31, all claimed by the organization. Members of Congress, presidential candidates, state legislators and at least 31 governors have called for the federal government to stop the resettlement of Syrians, saying they feared for Americans' security.

## School choice for all is human right, Atlanta archbishop tells U.N.

GENEVA (CNS) -- Amendments to the constitutions of some U.S. states are preventing children from low- and middle-income minority families from better educational opportunities than what may be available in public schools, amounting to discrimination, the archbishop of Atlanta told a U.N. committee meeting in Geneva. In remarks to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory argued Nov. 24 that the so-called Blaine amendments violate the basic human right to school choice and that nations are required to end all barriers to parental choice in education. Blaine amendments prohibit the use of state funds at sectarian schools. They are named for Rep. James G. Blaine, R-Maine, who as speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1875 proposed such an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. While the amendment overwhelmingly passed in the House, it failed by four votes in the Senate. The meeting was part of the U.N. committee's review of reports filed by the Vatican relating to its performance under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Among its provisions, the convention requires signatories to describe steps they have taken to advance the rights of people under the law, including education, and to contest practices that lead to racial discrimination.

# Choice is clear, pope says: Either protect or destroy the environment

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

**NAIROBI, KENYA (CNS)** - The international community is facing a stark and serious choice, "either to improve or to destroy the environment," Pope Francis said, referring to the Paris Climate Conference.

"It would be sad, and I dare say even catastrophic, were special interests to prevail over the common good," the pope said Nov. 26 during a visit to the headquarters in Nairobi of the U.N. Environment Program and U.N. Habitat, an agency concerned with urban planning.

Under the auspices of the United Nations, the Paris conference Nov. 30-Dec. 11 has the aim of achieving a legally binding and universal agreement on measures to stem climate change and protect the environment.

Pope Francis spoke at length about the importance of the conference during his visit to the U.N. offices, and his top aides had a meeting the evening before with Kenya's environment minister and other officials to discuss their hopes and strategies for the Paris meeting.

On his way into the meeting with U.N. officials and diplomats accredited to the two U.N. agencies, Pope Francis planted a tree.

While his speech contained ample quotes from his June encyclical on the environment, the pope also referred several times to the significance of planting trees and borrowed several lines from a speech he made in Bolivia in July to a variety of grassroots movements advocating for justice for the poor.

In fact, just as in the encyclical, "Laudato Si," the pope insisted in Nairobi that there is a close connection

between environmental destruction and unjust economic and political policies that penalize the poor.

**Pope Francis called for 'the adoption of a culture of care - care for oneself, care for others, care for the environment - in the place of a culture of waste, a throwaway culture where people use and discard themselves, others and the environment.'**

"We are faced with a great political and economic obligation to rethink and correct the dysfunctions and distortions of the current model of development," he said, especially because of their emphasis on exploiting natural resources, but not sharing the benefits with local communities.

Planting a tree, he said, is an "invitation to continue the battle against phenomena like deforestation and desertification," as well as "an incentive to keep trusting, hoping and above all working in practice to reverse all those situations of injustice and deterioration which we currently experience."

The Paris conference, the pope said, "represents an important stage in the process of developing a new energy system which depends on a minimal use of fossil fuels, aims at energy efficiency and makes use of energy sources with little or no carbon content."

Pope Francis told those gathered at Nairobi's U.N. offices that he hopes the Paris conference will result in a "global and 'transformational' agreement based on the principles of solidarity, justice, equality and partici-

pation; an agreement which targets three complex and interdependent goals: lessening the impact of climate change, fighting poverty and ensuring respect for human dignity."

To achieve a comprehensive and fair agreement, Pope Francis said, real dialogue is necessary among politicians, scientists, business leaders and representatives of civil society, including the poorest sectors of those societies.

Pope Francis insisted that human beings are capable of changing course, choosing what is good and making a fresh start. The key, he said, will be to put the economy and politics at the service of people, who are called to live in harmony with the rest of creation.

"Far from an idealistic utopia, this is a realistic prospect which makes the human person and human dignity the point of departure and the goal of everything," he said.

A new respect for human dignity and for the environment are part of the same attitude of giving value to all that God made, he said.

Pope Francis called for "the adoption of a culture of care - care for oneself, care for others, care for the environment - in the place of a culture of waste, a throwaway culture where people use and discard themselves, others and the environment."

The idea of a "throwaway culture" is not simply a strong figure of speech, he said, pointing to "new forms of slavery, human trafficking, forced labor, prostitution and trafficking in organs."

"Many lives, many stories, many dreams have been shipwrecked in our day," the pope said. "We cannot remain indifferent in the face of this. We have no right."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Let's not waste these precious days

Advent is a joyous time for hope and renewal. Despite the fear and uncertainty which distracts us from the joy of waiting for a small child to come again with His love.

So let's not waste these precious days.

The prophet Baruch in the first reading challenges us: "Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights—look to the east and see your children gathered from the East and from the West at



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

the word of the Holy One..." As those in exile prepare to return to Jerusalem, Baruch urges them to (figuratively) level the desert road for a speedy journey.

"For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God".

The theme is repeated in John the Baptist's preaching

of the need for repentance. He uses the words of Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low".

How can we apply this ancient message to our lives? We have our work cut out for us!

We need to reflect on every obstacle there is in our lives that would prevent us from growing daily in Jesus' saving grace.

The grace we await on Christmas is very much bound up with the saving work of the Cross and the

DEC. 6

Second Sunday of Advent

READINGS

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

Resurrection.

Jesus was born into a life of sacrifice and suffering for sin. In order that His life not be in vain, we must respond in loving gratitude by cleansing our souls through fasting, almsgiving, and the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Look to your parish bul-

letin and your diocesan Catholic paper for times and places.

Pay special attention to the words of St. Paul in his advice to the Philippians: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus."

He also prays that their love will increase "ever more and more in knowledge...to discern what is of value".

We must not let the forces of evil that threaten our world spoil the coming days of our Christmas.

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## Parents and sex education

While some parents might be happy to avoid the awkward conversations that arise around human sexuality by allowing the school system to provide their children's sex education, it is nonetheless important for parents to recognize that they are the most significant teachers and models for their own children as they mature sexually.

Instilling a healthy attitude about sexuality in young people involves a variety of considerations, including conveying a proper sense of constraints and boundaries. These boundaries arise organically through the virtue of chastity, by which a person acquires the ability to renounce self, to make sacrifices and to wait generously in consideration of loving fidelity toward a future spouse, out of self-respect, and out of fidelity to God. This critical process of developing sexual self-mastery is an area where parents are particularly well suited to help their children.

At the end of the day, the parental duty to influence in a positive way a child's upbringing around sexuality

cannot be abdicated or delegated. Parents know their children in a personal and individual way and are able to determine their readiness for, and receptivity to, sexual information.

Moreover, the reality of parental love towards their children enables a parent to say certain "hard things" in love that may need to be said, in a manner that only a parent may effectively be able to say it.

I recall the story that a middle-aged woman once shared with me about something that happened when she was 12. She was at home watching TV with her mother, who was the strong authority figure in the family. At a certain moment, a scene came across the screen where a woman was removing her clothing and dancing in front of a group of men. Her mother glanced over at her and without skipping a beat said: "I'll kill you if you ever do that." Her daughter understood, of course, that she didn't mean it literally, but appreciated that her mother cared enough about her to be very direct: "What my Mom said on that and many other oc-

casions stayed with me for years afterwards, and helped me to reflect carefully on the right use of my sexuality."

Parents influence their children in thousands of different ways, sometimes not even realizing how particular comments or observations they make can become highly significant to their child's thinking.

Helping children to think correctly about human sexuality remains a delicate and challenging task in the midst of a sex-saturated society like our own. Indeed, our thinking about human sexuality can easily go off the rails, and sexual activity itself can quickly degrade into a selfish and self-referential kind of activity, even within marriage, if we aren't careful to attend to deeper realities.

Spouses who have made a lifelong marital commitment to each other in the presence of God are uniquely empowered to live in a way that exceeds

merely viewing each other as objects or as a means to satisfying their appetites; they become called to, and

capable of, a higher kind of love that involves friendship, sacrifice and self-giving.

Otherwise, a dominance of things over persons can take over, leading to forms of selfishness in which persons are used in the same way as objects are used. In the context of this kind of selfishness, a

woman, for example, can become a mere "object" for a man, and children can be reduced to mere "hindrances" on the part of their parents.

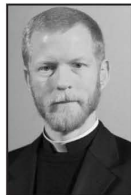
The human sexual love that is nurtured within a healthy marriage, meanwhile, generates communion between persons, as each comes to consider the good of the other as his or her own good. Marital sexuality is thus meant to go beyond merely existing with someone else and using them for selfish gain, and instead calls a person to ex-

isting for someone else through total self-gift.

As husband and wife seek to live out these truths of their human sexuality, they impart valuable and important lessons to their children about generosity, unselfish living, and chastity, where that chastity is seen as the spiritual energy capable of defending love from the perils of selfishness and aggressiveness.

Parents are in the unique position of being able to model for their children a healthy example of sexual integration, generosity, and self-mastery within marriage. Under these circumstances, parents also convey to their children the beautiful message that human sexuality reaches far beyond the biological, and touches on the most intimate core of the human person, particularly as experienced in his or her capacity for personal and radical self-gift to another in marriage, faithful even unto death.

Father Pacholczyk serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)



Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

AT THE MOVIES

# THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY, PART 2

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

With "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2" (Lionsgate), one of the most successful cinema franchises of recent times reaches a surprisingly glum finale.

Given that the series is founded on the idea of a dystopian society where young people are sacrificed in the gladiatorial tournaments of the title, perhaps the sober tone of this fourth and final chapter in the screen saga is only appropriate.

Still, while a restrained mood may be fitting, there's no denying that the film's grimly realistic, though largely bloodless, portrayal of combat makes the last stretches of its heroine's long odyssey something of a slog. The wide audience for whom this briefly horror-tinged sci-fi outing is suitable will take their leave of Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), accordingly, in a worn-down and meditative frame of mind, rather than with any exuberance.

At once a victor in and subverter of the Hunger



CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE

Natalie Dormer and Jennifer Lawrence star in a scene from the movie "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2."

Games, former media darling Katniss has become the symbol of the revolution being led by rebel President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) and establishment turncoat Plutarch Heavensbee (Philip Seymour Hoffman). Although this duo wants to use her for strictly symbolic purposes, stubborn Katniss has an agenda of her own.

Without consulting anyone in authority, Katniss has

committed herself to the task of assassinating President Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland), the tyrannical chief of the old order. Along the way to fulfilling this mission, however, she's distracted by romantic complications left over from the earlier passages of her story.

Fellow Hunger Games veteran Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) has had his

love for Katniss infected with hatred against her as a result of being captured, tortured and brainwashed by the enemy. Emotionally broken, he veers between trying to kill his former sweetheart and continuing to carry a torch for her.

As director Francis Lawrence wraps up the blockbuster adaptations of novelist Suzanne Collins' trilogy, his film avoids

painting armed conflict with too bright a palette. And the obscenity-free script, penned by Peter Craig and Danny Strong, honorably explores the morality of war and the justice of targeting oppressors.

The dialogue makes incidental references to the suicide pills which are routinely distributed to insurgent soldiers so that, if taken prisoner, they can avoid torments similar to -- or perhaps even worse than -- those doled out to Peeta. Parents of teen viewers may want to discuss the fact that Catholic teaching forbids resort to such measures, no matter how fearful the ordeal a captive may potentially face.

The film contains much stylized and some harsh violence but with minimal gore, mature themes including war atrocities and suicide, potentially frightening scenes, and an apparently innocent but possibly ambiguous bedroom encounter. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.

## National Geographic story shows Mary's appeal

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - Maureen Orth, a special correspondent for Vanity Fair magazine who has written about music icons, world leaders and Hollywood celebrities, tackled a completely different subject for National Geographic magazine: the Virgin Mary.

For the magazine's December cover story, "Mary the most powerful woman in the world," Orth visited several countries and interviewed dozens of people with strong devotional ties to the Mary - including from those who

claim to have seen her, those who believe her intercession has healed them and those seeking her spiritual guidance and intercession.

In the magazine's Washington office Nov. 24, Orth, widow of Tim Russert, moderator of NBC's "Meet the Press," said what made the biggest impression on her while interviewing people for the article was Mary's universal appeal across diverse cultures.

"It was a huge journey all over the world," she said, noting that what particularly stands out after a year of visiting Marian devotional sites in Bosnia-Herzegovina,

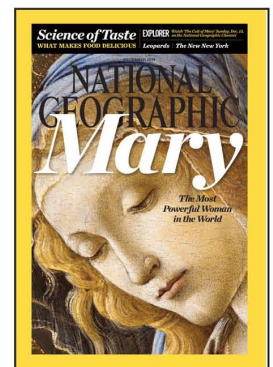
France, Mexico, Egypt and Rwanda is that Mary is the "hope and solace of so many people including Muslims."

The Muslim appreciation of Mary, as a "holy woman of God," she told Catholic News Service, "is a bridge that ought to be explored," especially in this time of strife caused by religious extremism.

Orth, a practicing Catholic, who certainly knew about Mary before this assignment, said she learned a great deal from talking with scholarly experts and reading mystics who wrote about the life of Mary but whose observations didn't make it into the article.

She came away with a "more personal relationship" with Mary than an intellectual one, saying she understood Mary more as a person after talking with so many who are devoted to her.

Orth pointed out that very little is known about Mary from the Bible, but as her story reveals, the lack of details about Mary has not stopped people from reaching out to her in prayer and devotion as a way to better understand and approach God. "The number of people who use her as their guide and their way to a higher meaning, that was impressive across the board,"



CNS PHOTO/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

This is the cover of the December 2015 issue of National Geographic magazine.

## 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,

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

## CLINTON

## EMPTY MANGER CAROLING

Plattsburgh – Empty Manger Christmas Caroling to be held.

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 10 a.m.

Place: Planned Parenthood

Features: Come sing carols, share the joy of Christmas, hot cocoa and cookies

## 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

## HEALING MINISTRY

Morrisonville - The Catholic Community of St. Alexander's and St. will have Living Waters Healing Ministry.

Date: Dec. 3

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Features: Anointing of the Sick, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity to receive individual prayer.

## FRANKLIN

## TO OPEN JUBILEE YEAR

Malone - St. André Bessette Parish will be holding Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions to mark the beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Date: Dec. 6, 7 & 8

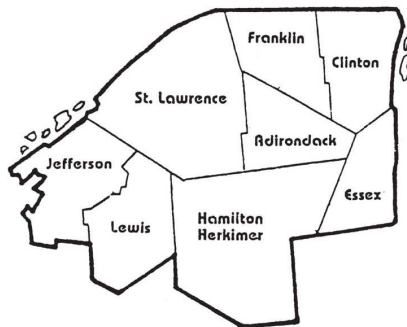
Schedule: Eucharistic adoration will be ongoing each of the three days, and the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will be recited at 3 p.m. Confessions will be heard all day on Dec. 7, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Forty Hours will conclude with a holy day Mass, Eucharistic procession, and Benediction at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8.

Place: Notre Dame Church

Features: The complete schedule on parish website: www.standres.org.

## CHRISTMAS TEA

North Bangor - The Catholic Community of St. Augustine's will hold its annual



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.

Christmas Tea, Silver & Gold.

Date: Dec. 6

Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: John C. Dwyer Parish Center

Features: Handmade crafts, a bake table, candy booth, cake walk, a Chinese auction, raffles, etc. Homemade soup and sandwiches & soda will be for sale, with Christmas cookies, coffee, tea & punch available free. Santa will make a visit to meet the children at 2 p.m.

## 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

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

Watertown – Advent in Scripture and Song to be held

Date: Dec. 13

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. Patrick's Church

Features: Lessons and Carols, scripture and music to celebrate this Advent season. Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 2:00 pm in St. Pat's Church in Watertown, NY.

Contact: For more information contact: Dc. Kevin Mastellon: 315-782-5045 or kmastellon@spwatn.org

## HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Clayton – Holiday Food Fair to be held.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: \$8

Features: Over 50 special dishes prepared by parishioners from their favorite family recipes will be available for sampling. Holiday gift items (including food gift items and pet treats), candy, fudge, beverages, and family inspirational gifts will be on sale. Santa Claus will be available for photos. Children's Fun Room provides the little ones the opportunity to create crafts for themselves or as gifts at no cost. A free lunch is provided for children ages 3-12. At 1 p.m. the raffle drawings will be held. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5

## SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's parish center

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month. Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

Features: The office has a variety of pro-life videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed.

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Mon.-Fri.

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Place: Holy Family Church

Contact: 315-782-2468

## LEWIS

## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Lowville – St. Peter's Rosary Altar Society is holding a Christmas Luncheon

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church Hall

Cost: \$18 including tip

Contact: Cathy Granger at 376-4797 or Peg Petrovitz at 376-2728 prior to Dec. 4

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Port Leyden – There will be a Christmas Bazaar held to benefit the Port Leyden Food Pantry.

Date: Dec. 5

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

Place: at St. Martin's Church

Features: Crafters, Chinese Auction, bake sale, 50/50 raffle and a lottery tree raffle. Lunch with hot dogs, chili dogs, chili and beverages, will be available

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Dec. 6

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: The program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

Contact: 348-6260

## ST. LAWRENCE

## CRAFT FAIR

Gouverneur – Craft fair to be held.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: St. James School

Cost: Donation

Features: Santa will visit at 1:30 p.m.

More than 50 vendors with jewelry, woodcrafts, ceramics, homemade dolls, leather goods, candles, knitted items, country crafts, Christmas decorations, baskets, etc. Lunch will be available.

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

Raymondville – St. Raymond's Church will inaugurate the Devotion of the first Saturday Communions of Reparation.

Date: Dec. 5

Time: 10 a.m.

Features: Rosary, confessions during rosary and Mass at 10:30 a.m.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Potsdam – Knights of Columbus Council 340 are sponsoring a pancake breakfast.

Date: Dec. 6

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

Place: Potsdam Town Hall

Cost: Adults, \$6; Children under 5, Free; Families with 4 or more, \$20

## K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Dec. 13

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

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free; Family of 4, \$20, each additional \$3; Take-outs available

## MANICOTTI MONDAY

Norfolk – Manicotti Monday is the first Monday of every month.

Date: Dec. 7

Time: 4 p.m. to 6:30

Place: Fr. Amyot Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$9.75; Under 5, Free

Features: meat-filled manicotti and/or spaghetti and meatballs. The meal includes the main course, tossed salad, Italian bread, beverage and dessert.

Contact: Laurie at 315-384-4242

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: 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.

Contact: Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Howard Venette, pastor

@stmaryspatrick.net, 315-265-9680;

Father Douglas Lucia,

frdoug@twcny.rr.com or Father Bryan

Stiitt, bstiitt@rcdony.org

## MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE

Washington DC - College students and young adults from the Diocese of Ogdensburg are invited to join a pilgrimage to the annual March for Life

Date: Departure Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 19; return Jan. 22 after the March. (Register by Dec 15, 2015)

Cost: \$175 per adult

Features: The Pilgrimage will include the Vigil Mass for Life at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Jan. 21 as well as the March for Life Jan. 22, visits to shrines and memorials in Washington, offering opportunities for prayer, witness.fun.

Contact: Father Timothy Canaan, Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry

frtim@broadstreetcatholic.org Space is limited. Registrations are only complete with payment no later than Dec. 15.



## 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

# Looking ahead to Christmas

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

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, offering joy and love especially to the children in our lives, we know that so many children in the world live a different reality. These vulnerable little ones too often experience dire poverty and immense suffering, endure violence or forced labor, face human trafficking and other challenges beyond their age and innocence.

But there's hope in Africa, in the small nation of Swaziland – and you can be part of it as Christmas comes! Religious Sisters at St. Phillip's Home in Manzini are making a difference for the increasing number of children who are orphans from the HIV/AIDS epidemic there. Left with no parents, these children are forced to be head of their households, caring for their brothers and sisters. Jobless, unable to attend school, they see no hope on the horizon – until they come to St. Phillip's and find a "home"!

Through your prayers and generous help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith / Missionary Childhood Association, the children are fed and clothed, receive medical care and an education. Most importantly, they find listening hearts, loving care – and hope, hope from the Good News of Jesus' birth, and from the reality of His love alive in the work and witness of the Sisters caring for them, Sisters who are helping them too get ready for Christmas right now.

"Children are a gift," Pope Francis tells us. Your gifts to the children in mission countries this Christmas are your prayers and your generous help. A gift of \$125 will provide care for one child at St. Phillip's. Perhaps you can offer that amount or something towards it, maybe \$50 or \$25. Whatever you provide will be most appreciated, and make you a special angel of mercy and love to these children half a world away.

Know that those you help in the Missions remember you in prayer. I too promise prayers, throughout Advent and especially at Christmas for the "gift" that you are to one another and to the world.

please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>

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## OBITUARIES

**Clayton** – Bruno M. Pacific, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 25, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Crown Point** – Don Gibbs, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2015 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in White Church Cemetery.

**AuSable Forks** – Joseph M. Malskis, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2015 at Holy Name Church.

**Lowville** – Earl L. Mealus, 88; Funeral Services Nov. 25, 2015 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery

**Malone** – Barbara Ann Smith, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2015 at the Bruso-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Malone** – Scott L. Storrs; Funeral Services Dec. 4, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Massena** – Eugene R. DiTullio, Sr., 79; Funeral Nov. 25, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Elaine A. (Matthews) Manfred, 74; Funeral Services Nov. 24, 2015 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Colton.

**Massena** – James A. Molner, 74; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2015 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**North Bangor** – Ralph Haineault, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 25, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Geraldine A. (Rabetoy) Johnson, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 27, 2015 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Gardens.

**Peru** – Barbara J. (Sawyer) Mousseau, 70; Funeral Nov. 30, 2015 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Peru** – Vonna Mae (Gowette) Reid, 83; Funeral Services Nov. 25, 2015 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, Peru.

**Plattsburgh** – Evelyn (Peets) Mesic, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2015 at St.

Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Helen (Rossi) Peter, 92; Memorial Services Nov. 28, 2015 at St. Peter's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Helen Schmidt, 96; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2015 at St. John XXIII Newman Center.

**Plattsburgh** – Yvonne Y. "Lorraine" (Gagnon) Slaughter, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2015 at St. John XXIII Newman Center; burial in St. Mary's of the Lake Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

**Port Henry** – Gloria (O'Dell) Grey, 55; Funeral Services Nov. 24, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Watertown** – Lillian V. (McHugh) Ferguson, 64; Funeral Services Nov. 28, 2015 at Holy Family Church.

**Watertown** – Richard Robinson, 92; Funeral Services July 6, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Watertown** – Ruth (Allen) Rushnell, 99; Funeral Nov. 24, 2015 at Cleveland Funeral Home; burial Glenwood Cemetery.

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## NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN



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Fifth in a series of biographies of 2015 religious jubilarians

## Sr. Jean Marie, Sr. Louella celebrate jubilees

By Sr. Jean Marie Chiovitti, SSI  
75 year jubilarian

As I look back on these past 75 years, I must confess that they were not easy, but most rewarding.

I come from a family of eight, second to the youngest. My father was listed in the book of "Early Immigrants" as the First Banana Wholesaler in Toronto, Canada. My mother was at home, as she had much to do. She always went to Daily Mass and we said the family rosary.

I entered the Community wanting to work with the children of St. Patrick's Home. After two years of novitiate training at the Motherhouse, I was assigned to St. Patrick's Home. Another Sister and I had the care of 50-60 boys between the ages of 2 and 15.

After nine years, I was sent to open a kindergarten class in Port Henry. The following year, I went back to St. Patrick's Home to care for the boys. At the time, I was also teaching a large first grade at Holy Family School in Watertown. In those days, we had no car, so we walked to school.

In later years, I was asked to be principal, superior, and full time teacher at St. Mary's School in Ticon-



Sr. Jean Marie Chiovitti, SSI

deroga and later at St. Mary's School in Massena.

Again, I was asked to return to the Children's Home. I had been at the Children's Home, for 19 years altogether. We had a boy who became a Jesuit priest, a Brother Franciscan, who is in Albany and two Sisters of St. Joseph.

Now in my "recycling years", I keep in touch via email with many of our former Children's Home residents. One of our girls who worked for Delta Air gave me a trip to Hawaii. I spent time with her, at her home in Medford, Oregon. We spent time with one of our former boys, who took us to his cottage on the Pacific Ocean. The children from St. Patrick's Home have given me trips to Florida, Indiana,



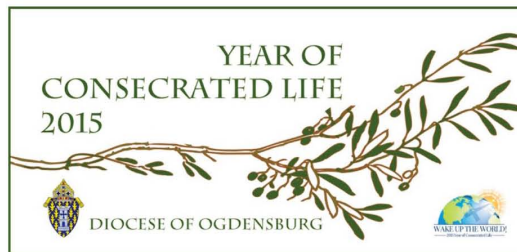
Sr. Louella Pelletier, SCSL

and So. Dakota. I saw a Passion Play, Jackson Hole, and Yellowstone Park. I also saw my first rodeo.

For my 60th Jubilee, the residents, now adults of various ages, gave me a party to which over 100 people came, from the east and west coasts, as well as the South. It was a joy to see them, and hear about their families. The Watertown Daily Times gave us great coverage of the event.

At this point in my retirement, I have more time to pray, and to help with the other infirmaries Sisters.

Since I was blessed with artistic talent, I am able to help decorate the infirmary each month. I have put many a puzzle together, mounting some on infirmary walls.



By Sr. Louella Pelletier, SCSL  
50 year jubilarian

I am the oldest child of four, born on March 29, 1944 of Arthur and Jeanette Pelletier of Waterbury, Connecticut. I grew up with three brothers.

I attended High School in Waterbury, before entering Religious Life. I made my First Profession with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Louis on August 22, 1965 in Cheshire, Connecticut and Final Profession on August 25, 1970 in Plattsburgh.

I obtained my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Ottawa, Ontario and my Master's in Education at the State University of Plattsburgh.

I taught school in Brookfield, Connecticut; Oakville, Connecticut and Plattsburgh and also service as principal of Notre Dame/Our Lady of Victory Academy in Platts-

burgh from 1979 to 1987.

After that I had a sabbatical of Renewal in Arnprior, Ontario. In addition I was Superior in Oakville, CT as well as in Clifton Park, NY where I was a Religion teacher.

I was diagnosed with Cerebellum Atrophy which affected my equilibrium, and as time went on I was not able to function by myself. I am now a resident of the Clinton County Nursing Home.

At the Nursing Home I minister by visiting the sick, playing games with the residents, and helping out where possible. In my spare time I enjoy visitors and visiting with residents and staff.

Due to the charitableness and generosity of people who transport me to church on weekends, I am very grateful and able to attend the parish liturgy. This is a great joy for me.

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