

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pope says God's mercy has no limits | PAGE 7

Fr. Tad writes about the tragedy of addiction | PAGE 8

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 31

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 13, 2015

Seek out signs that lead to Jesus

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Go out and seek the signs God is offering everyone today that will lead to Christ, Pope Francis said.

The thirst for God is present in everyone, and it's the church's task to help those with "a restless heart" by pointing them to the true

light of Christ, the pope said Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, which marks the manifestation of Jesus as savior to the world.

In his homily at St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the church's mission is to help people "know the face of the

father" by first receiving "God's light and then to reflect it. This is her duty."

The church must always remember, however, that the light it shares is the glory of the Lord. "The church cannot deceive herself into thinking that she shines with her own

light. She cannot," he said.

"Christ is the true light shining in the darkness. To the extent that the church remains anchored in him, to the extent she lets herself be illuminated by him, she is able to bring light into the lives of people," he said.

Fight against assisted suicide in NYS

The New York State Catholic Conference is leading the fight against the legalization of assisted suicide in New York State. In November, representatives from each of the eight dioceses gathered in Albany for a "Stop Assisted Suicide" Conference.

The participants heard messages from a doctor, terminally ill man, caregiver, the public policy director for the Archdiocese of New York and Albany Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger.

"It's not us versus them," Bishop Scharfenberger said. "You can't educate someone if you don't love them first."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Living Stones: foundations of parishes

Fort Covington woman called

'model of Catholic motherhood'

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

SETON ALL-STARS



SCHOOL PHOTO

The families of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh recently completed a successful magazine drive. The fundraiser exceeded the school's \$25,000 goal with more than 1,200 magazines sold. Students who sold 16 subscriptions by the first deadline or 21 magazines overall were honored with a special limousine ride and Pizza Hut luncheon. Among the top sellers were, from left, Brooke Eggers, Isabelle Wylie, Madyson Whalen, Madison Trombley, Charlotte Boule and Madeline Boule.

HOLY DOORS NOW ALL OPEN

For the Jubilee Year of Mercy



CNS PHOTO/MARIA GRAZIA PICCIARELLA, Pope Francis opens the Holy Door before celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome Jan. 1, 2016. The Holy Doors of Rome's four major basilicas are now open. Pilgrims taking part in the diocesan pilgrimage to Italy, led by Bishop Terry LaValley, will walk through each of the Holy Doors in Rome during the April trip.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

CHRISTIAN UNITY: Annual ecumenical service is Jan. 17 in Plattsburgh... p. 3

NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
**BISHOP TERRY
R. LAVALLEY**
President
REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN
Vice President
SR. JENNIFER VOTRAW, SSI
Secretary-Treasurer
MARY LOU KILIAN
Editor/
General Manager



Publish 45 issues per year:
Weekly except skipping one week in Jan. and every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and

additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication should be addressed to PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication. Paper is printed each Monday; dateline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Unnecessary, flawed and dangerous

It's gratifying to see that our New York State Catholic Conference is taking the lead in efforts to prevent the legalization of assisted suicide in our state.

As people who care about life from conception through natural death, we can't be silent as yet another assault on life becomes the law of the land.

Colleen Miner, diocesan director of respect life ministry, reports on a recent Stop Assisted Suicide Conference in Albany (see page 3) and shares links to further information and ways to let our state legislators know what we think.

Kathleen Gallagher, director of pro-life activities for the Catholic Conference, offered

some ideas to help us put our thoughts into effective words with a flyer from New Yorkers for Life. Excerpts follow:



Mary Lou
Kilian

Legislation has been introduced in the New York State Legislature that would allow doctors to legally prescribe a lethal dose of pills at the request of a terminally ill patient. While proponents call these bills 'death with dignity' and 'patient self-determination,' in reality they are unnecessary, flawed and dangerous.

New York must maintain its ban on assisted suicide. Here's why.

- There is no screening or counseling for depression
- There are no safeguards at the time of ingestion. Family

members don't need to be notified and no medical professional is required to be present

- It opens the door to elder abuse and coercion
- A terminal prognosis is difficult to predict.
- It turns doctors into killers.
- There is no accountability.

Doctors are specifically required to fabricate the patient's death certificate and state untruthfully that the cause of death is the natural underlying disease, rather than the unnatural act of suicide. Therefore, no accurate reporting is possible with the state and there is no way to determine if abuses are taking place.

- It sends the message that suicide is acceptable
- It discriminates against people with disabilities.
- It really is a slippery slope, Once the government approves

of assisted suicide for those with a 6-month terminal diagnosis, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to limit it to this group

- There are increasing financial incentives to limit care.
- There are alternatives to assisted suicide; Maintaining New York's ban on assisted suicide does not mean that terminally ill patients must die an agonizingly long and painful death. Almost all physical pain can be controlled through pain management and medications, and measures that are unduly burdensome may be removed or withheld, allowing natural death to occur. Hospice care is underutilized in New York and palliative medicine reduces suffering while providing comfort and comprehensive care.

Think about it. It really is a matter of life and death.

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Taking a deeper look at prayers of mercy

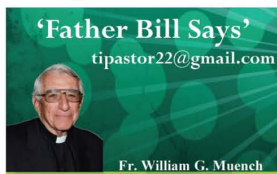
This year has already taken on the special character as the Jubilee of Mercy. I have personally noticed the many times that the word "mercy" comes up in the prayers at Mass.

I often pause when I come upon the word "mercy" in a prayer as I pray at the altar as the celebrant of the Mass. So, I have begun to take a deeper look at these prayers and their meaning of the whole idea of God's "mercy."

I would like to begin with the prayer that the Celebrant at Mass prays after everyone says together the Lord's Prayer. Here is the prayer; I know it will be familiar to you:

"Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

This prayer continues the message of the Lord's Prayer. Jesus taught the apostles the Lord's Prayer when they asked him to teach them to pray. The



Fr. William G. Muench

most startlingly idea in the prayer – especially, in those days – was that he began this prayer by telling his apostles to approach God as "Our Father." In that time, people thought of God with fear and awe, the God who came to Moses on Mount Sinai in thunder and fire. Now, Jesus wants us to know that God wants to be a loving Father for all people.

In the Lord's Prayer – we honor God and dedicate ourselves to carry out "his will." Then we ask God to "give us our daily bread," not just food for our body but also the sustenance for our soul through the Blessed Eucharist.

Then we ask for his forgiveness. We ask for him to protect us from temptation and then

that he may deliver us from whatever is evil.

At the altar, the priest celebrates the Lord's Prayer with this prayer we are considering. This prayer continues the theme of the final sentence of the Lord's Prayer as we ask God to continue to "deliver us from every evil." We ask for peace, peace now in our days.

The prayer confirms the purpose that we want this "peace." We want that peace so that "we may be always free from sin." We want that peace so that we can "be safe from all distress." To accomplish this we pray that God will give us the "help of your mercy."

God's "mercy" is more than forgiveness or a caring love. God's mercy brings us power – God's power – to "free us from sin and keep us safe from all distress."

The "mercy" of God gives us protection and help, the protection that gives us the wisdom and the strength of will to help us make good decisions and help us to avoid sin.

In addition, this "mercy of

God" will keep us safe from all distress. Distress is that painful and disturbing feeling that causes us to be confused so that we end up making poor decisions. "God's mercy" brings us the power of the Lord as a protection and a help.

All of this takes place so that we can be strong and holy and alive in the way we live our lives. We will then wait with confidence and hope for the coming of Our Savior Jesus Christ.

"Mercy" – "God's mercy" is an important part of another prayer, the Opening Prayer of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent.

"O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

NYS Catholic Conference leads fight against assisted suicide

A matter of life and death

By Colleen Miner
Staff Writer

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. — Representatives from the Diocese of Ogdensburg were among Catholics throughout New York State who attended a "Stop Assisted Suicide" conference sponsored by the New York State Catholic Conference Nov. 7.

The day began with a welcome by Kathleen Gallagher, director of Pro-Life Activities for the Catholic Conference, and an opening prayer and remarks by the Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany.

"It's not us versus them," Bishop Scharfenberger said. "You can't educate someone if you don't love them first."

From the doctors

One of the day's presentations featured a doctor's perspective from Dr. John G. O'Brien, president of the Syracuse Guild of the Catholic Medical Association.

He told the participants that the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of New affirmed a policy against physician-assisted suicide.

The medical society is the professional membership or-

ganization representing physicians in the state. The resolution reads in part: "Compelling arguments have not been made for medicine to change its footing and to incorporate the active shortening of life into the norms of medical practice."

This is important because the Medical Society's policy tends to guide laws concerning health issues, he said. When the Medical Society in California removed its opposition to assisted suicide, the law shortly followed.

Patients' perspective

James JJ Hanson, husband, father, former Marine and president of the Patients Rights Action Fund (www.patientsrightsactionfund.org) shared his story of battling brain cancer after being given only four months to live.

He did not give up on life and today is in remission. His inspiring video is at the above link; his biography published at www.voiceagainstbraincancer.org.

Carmelite Sister M. Peter Lillian, Director of the Avila Institute of Gerontology spoke about bringing Christ to those who are experiencing advancing illness.

Sister Lillian said "You need

to listen. They want to know two things: that they are loved and that their life has meaning. Bring hope with compassion."

Legislative flaws

Edward Mechmann, Esq., Public Policy Director for the Archdiocese of New York shared the fatal flaws in the doctor-assisted suicide legislation currently in the health committee of both houses in NYS.

The Patient Self Determination Act and End of Life Choices Act do not require psychiatric counseling, just the opinion of the doctor who determines capacity of the person. This is a weak standard because the person making the decision is also the person prescribing the lethal drug.

He said "Would you trust Dr. Kevorkian?" The bills have poor witness requirements, inadequate conscience protection, no protection for the patients at the time they take the lethal drugs and requires a false statement on death certificates.

Assisted suicide deaths are listed as "terminal illness" which makes it impossible to track by hiding the truth and has no accountability.

Editor's note

The following links may be helpful in efforts to fight assisted suicide.
www.catholicendoflife.org

The NYS Catholic Conference's new website and video to inform Catholics about the teachings about the end of life.

noassistedsuicideinny.org

The public coalition that is being organized to fight assisted suicide in New York is at this web address. The NYS Catholic Conference is a partner in this coalition

www.patientsrightsactionfund.org

newyorkersforlife.org

http://dredf.org/assisted_suicide/index.shtml

Advocating for Disability Civil Rights

www.suicidepreventioninitiatives.org

To send a letter to representatives easily and efficiently via e-mail, go to www.nyscatholic.org and click "Take Action."

At the Catholic Conference

Mrs. Gallagher wrapped up the day with some facts. The two assisted suicide bills are active for two years with the legislative year running from January until June.

Typically the first three months of the year are dedicated to the budget, she explained.

"No one can predict what may happen, but there is time to educate so when it does come up, we are ready," she said.

Those in attendance were asked to use the words "assisted suicide" when refer-

ring to these bills.

"Do not use the language others use to sugar-coat this dangerous legislation: death with dignity, end of life options, patient self-determination or aid in dying," she said.

"Assisted suicide bills have failed more than 120 times over the past 10 years until they were reworded and presented in a positive light," Mrs. Gallagher said, "Five states have succeeded to make it a choice: Oregon, Vermont, Montana, Washington and most recently California."

Ecumenical service is Jan. 17

PLATTSBURGH—This year's Diocesan Ecumenical Prayer Service will be celebrated at St. Peter's Church Jan. 17 at p.m.. There will be a reception following the service in the parish's Emmaus Room.

This prayer service initiates the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which occurs annually January 18-25 and whose theme this year is "Called to Proclaim the Mighty Acts of the Lord"(cf. 1 Peter 2: 9).

The initial work on the

theme was prepared by a group of representatives from the country of Latvia.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be preaching and the service will be enhanced by a combined choir from Plattsburgh and area churches.

Father Daniel Chapin, chairman of the diocesan Ecumenical Commission said, "This important event in the life of the diocese brings together Christians of various denominations and all people of good will from

throughout our beloved North Country.

"Although there are divisions, our pilgrimage towards unity continues under God's guidance," he said.

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors.

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

For a New or Used Car

**Mort
Backus &
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.
315-393-5899



CHEVROLET



*Support And Pray
For Vocations*

Guide Light Essays

Inspirational Commentary
guidelightsays.blogspot.com

Hosted by Holly Middleton

LIVING STONES... FOUNDATIONS OF PARISHES

A 'model of Catholic motherhood'

By Susan Black and family
Contributing writers

FORT COVINGTON - On May 20, 1920, a baby girl, Madeline Evelyn was born at the family home in Fort Covington. She was the first born child of 15 children born to Harold and Ethel Bean Brockway. Madeline attended the District 4 Country School through sixth grade and then went on to earn her high school diploma at Fort Covington High School. After this she attended Adirondack Business School in Malone.

In February, 1940 she married Leo Paul Leroux at the rectory of St. Mary of the Fort Church. In quick fashion they became parents of 10 children, living first in Malone until purchasing a farm in Roosevelt town. The family then moved to Fort Covington where they purchased a smaller more manageable farm.

Madeline worked hard running the household and tending the children while Leo worked the farms. At the same time, he worked at the local Eshelman Feed Store until becoming a school bus driver and later adding on custodial duties at Salmon River Central School.

Life was not easy for Madeline and Leo. During

those early years one of their children contracted polio and another was born with severe club feet.

Through the grace of God both of these sons recovered and were able to lead productive successful lives.

In 1954 when Leo became ill and could not work, Madeline decided to pursue a temporary postmaster position in order to help the family financially. At that time it was a political position so Madeline, with six or seven children in the car went door to door campaigning. She won the appointment and started work.

Leo recovered from his illness but Madeline's temporary position did not stop. She continued for 34 years working as a postal clerk and Postmistress.

During this time Madeline and Leo had four more children. Although hard work was the norm for all the children from a young age, never in all these years were they ever neglected or given proper parental guidance.

In 1961, tragedy hit the Leroux family when son Billy was killed when struck by a car while walking home from his part time job in town. The entire family was shattered by this terrible event and only God knows how Leo and Madeline carried on with love, courage, and faith.



Madeline Leroux

During all this time it was very obvious to all who knew them, that faith and church were very important.

At Madeline's funeral Mass, Msgr. Dumas told how she and fellow parishioner, Georgette Lauzon, had approached him pleading for catechism classes for their children. That summer the services of the Sisters of St. Joseph were obtained to have summer catechism classes. Shortly after this, released time classes were started for all ages. Within a few years, a Catholic school was opened in Fort Covington. There was never a question about Sunday Mass. The family always attended, some at

8:30 Mass, some at 10:00. Sunday was a day for church, a big family dinner, then visiting grandparents, aunts and uncles or other family members. No unnecessary work was EVER done on Sunday.

Not only did the children attend released time religion classes, but were encouraged to get involved in Our Lady's Sodality and CYO. When St. Mary's Catholic School opened all children of the appropriate age attended.

Church life and devotion to Jesus and his saints were a very important part of Madeline and Leo's life. The family often visited St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal along with other shrines.

During Lent, every night after supper and before barn chores were completed, the entire family got on their knees in front of the kitchen chairs and prayed the Rosary together ... no slouching allowed. Fasting and abstinence were a normal part of life. Holy days were always observed.

When Leo again became ill and eventually bedridden, Madeline and some of the children cared for him in a loving compassionate way. When he died at the age of 61, Madeline was left to finish raising the youngest three children alone.

In addition to doing an admirable job of raising her children, Madeline was involved in many activities: Seaway Valley Business Women Club, the Altar Rosary Society, and bowling. She thoroughly enjoyed working as a Postmistress at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. She was always up for an adventure. She loved traveling, visiting the zoo with grandchildren, picnicking, camping and family reunions.

After retirement at the age of 68 she worked as a volunteer mail person at Franklin State Correctional Facility having great compassion for all the inmates

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@cdony.org, or mailed to The North Country Catholic, Post Office Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

with whom she had contact. During the last 16 years of her life, Madeline gallantly battled lymphoma keeping a positive upbeat attitude.

Madeline was an amazing strong faith filled woman although at times he thought she didn't have enough faith. She was a model of Catholic motherhood for her family. She truly was an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

Madeline died at age 76 on March 9, 1996. She was survived by sons Harold, Phillip (deceased), Gerard, John Albert, Paul, Lucien and daughters Sonja Mitchell, Susan Black, Joan Stark, Faylene Chapman, Marybeth Stark and Denise Oakes, all diocesan parishioners along with 49 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren.



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

Warm up with Good News!

Visit our website at www.northcountrycatholic.org
to pay by Credit Card for immediate delivery.

OR Send this coupon with payment to:
North Country Catholic

PO Box 106, Canajoharie, New York, 13317

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery when mailing in your renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 Outside Diocese \$30
I want to be a Patron: \$35 \$50 \$100 \$250 Please send my
 New Subscription Renewal subscription to my
e-mail address:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parish _____

Few life insurers in North America have more than \$100 billion of life insurance in force.

Only **1** of them is Catholic

Discover the Catholic Difference

Find out more at kofc.org/100. Find an agent at kofc.org/findagent.



Knights of Columbus®
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE®

LIFE INSURANCE

DISABILITY INSURANCE

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Commissioned Lay Ministers

Please Join Us...

Informational Evening

January 15 beginning at 6 p.m.
St. Augustine's Parish Center, Peru, NY

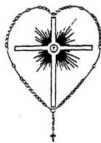
Guest Speakers:
Deacon Patrick Donahue D. Min
"Lay Ministry Today"

Father Scott Seymour
"The Importance of Lay Ministry in our Parishes"

Please join us for a casual, informational meeting to learn more about the Eastern Regional Commissioned Lay Minister's Association (ERCLMA) and have an opportunity to consider how we can re-dedicate ourselves to the mission of our Church and parishes.

Please feel free to invite your spouse, pastor and deacon

Pre-registration is appreciated. RSVP Jeannie Grizzuto
Formation for Ministry Office at: jgrizzuto@rcdony.org
or call 315-393-2920, ext. 1413



Adirondack Center For PEACE

P.O. Box 2748
Plattsburgh, New York 12901
Phone: (518) 561-5083

These Masses for Life are co-sponsored by
Adirondack Center For PEACE
and
Knights of Columbus Council #255

2016	St. Peter's Church			St. John's Church		
	Day	Date	Time	Day	Date	Time
JAN	Sat.	1/2/2016	8:15 a.m.	Mon.	1/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
FEB	Sat.	2/6/2016	8:15 a.m.	Mon.	2/15/2016	9:00 a.m.
MAR	Sat.	3/5/2016	8:15 a.m.	Mon.	3/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
APR	Sat.	4/9/2016	8:15 a.m.	Thu.	4/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
MAY	Sat.	5/7/2016	8:15 a.m.	Sun.	5/15/2016	11:00 a.m.
JUN	Sat.	6/4/2016	8:15 a.m.	Tue.	6/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
JUL	Sat.	7/2/2016	8:15 a.m.	Thu.	7/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
AUG	Sat.	8/6/2016	8:15 a.m.	Sun.	8/14/2016	11:00 a.m.
SEPT	Sat.	9/3/2016	8:15 a.m.	Wed.	9/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
OCT	Sat.	10/1/2016	8:15 a.m.	Fri.	10/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
NOV	Sat.	11/5/2016	8:15 a.m.	Mon.	11/14/2016	9:00 a.m.
DEC	Sat.	12/3/2016	8:15 a.m.	Wed.	12/14/2016	4:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory:
One per month, date and time TBA

Please join us in prayer for a greater
reverence for all human life!

Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 12 - 10:50 a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Jan. 15 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 16 - 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 17 - 11 a.m., Mass at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh
12:30 p.m., Right to Life March at St. John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh
2:30 p.m., Ecumenical Service at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may preregister at www.virtus.org by selecting the registration button and following the directions. All employees and volunteers who participate in church sponsored activities with minor are required to participate. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440

Upcoming sessions:
Jan. 28 - 8 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall, SUNY Potsdam

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 14 - Rev. John M. Neenan, M.S.C., 1879; Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M.Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000
Jan. 15 - Msgr. James Joseph Lacey, 1942

Jan. 16 - Msgr. James Alexander Fix, 1969; Rev. Herbert Skurski, O.F.M.Conv., 1996

Jan. 17 - Rev. Francis A. Menard, 2009

Jan. 18 - Rev. Hugh Shields, 1881; Rev. Telesphore Campeau, 1935; Rev. Paul Martin Hagan, 1980

Jan. 19 - Rev. Benjamin Desroches O.M.I., 1908; Rev. Arthur P. Condon, 1966; Rev. Aloysius R. Isele, 1974

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

JOB OPENING

The Sisters of St. Joseph, Watertown, New York, are seeking a Motherhouse Administrator. The successful candidate will supervise approximately twenty-five employees in the infirmary, housekeeping, maintenance and kitchen areas ensuring each area is properly staffed, recruit for open positions, lead the purchasing cycle, solicits bids for maintenance projects/equipment; manage a vehicle fleet, manage all aspects of the Motherhouse finances and budget, prepare bi-weekly payrolls.

This hands-on position requires strong inter-personal, leadership and communication skills. Experience with MS Office is required. Experience with clinical environments and scheduling is a plus. College degree preferred.

This position offers a faith and family atmosphere in an exceptional work environment, a competitive salary and medical benefits. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to:
Sister Mary Eamon Lyng, Major Superior, Sisters of St. Joseph,
1425 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601 by
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 or send to ssjmsup1@yahoo.com.

Environmental Stewardship

When the Trees Say Nothing

The book, When the Trees Say Nothing, a collection of writings of Thomas Merton, reveals Merton's deep sense of the sacred in nature.

In the midst of winter the trees do seem to say nothing. They seem to be dead. Yet, naturalists tell us that in the dormant time of winter is when the trees sink their roots in deeper, so that in the spring they will burst forth with new life.

During these cold winter days with less light, perhaps their lesson to us is to be still and spend time each day, looking again at the beauties of the ice sculptures on the windows, the snow flocked trees, the footprints of our four-legged winter neighbors, and be amazed at the presence of God reflected in His Creation.

This theme of the beauty and sacredness of all creation seems to run throughout Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si.

He says, "Faithful to Scripture, St. Francis invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness."

He continues by quoting the Book of Wisdom 13:5 "Through the greatness and beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker." Indeed, we find in Roman 1:20, "... his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since creation of the world." (Introduction para #12))

Pope Francis sees our recognition and appreciation of all creation as the necessary step to be willing to make changes in our lifestyle that is dominated by consumerism and wastefulness.

As we begin this new year, it may be a good time for us to consider our shopping patterns.

What affect does the accumulation of more things than I need have on me? What affect does consuming more than I need have on the resources shared by all of our sisters and brothers?

BARSTOW
AN AMERICAN R-EVOLUTION GMC ESABARL
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page at: www.barstowmotors.com
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY 13150 765-4800
Your NY's Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

'Soap opera' love isn't true love, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — True love comes from God and is expressed through his mercy and forgiveness, not through sentimental expressions that can easily vanish, Pope Francis said. Although many people use the word 'love,' "when used, it is not known what it exactly means," the pope said in his homily Jan. 8 during his morning Mass in the Domus Sanctae Marthae. "What is love? There are times we think of soap opera love. No, that does not look like love. Or love may seem like enthusiasm for a person and then it is extinguished," he said. The pope reflected on St. John's first letter in which the apostle explains the nature of God's love while acknowledging that "whoever is without love does not know God." The origins of true love, he said, are from God. However, while God is love, not every love comes from God. In distinguishing God's love, the pope said, the one unique characteristic is that God is "the one who loves first." The Gospel, he noted, offers countless examples, from the story of Zacchaeus to the parable of the prodigal son.

Vatican says 3.2 million pilgrims visited in 2015

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 3.2 million pilgrims visited and attended papal events, liturgies or prayer services at the Vatican in 2015, the Vatican said. The statistics, released Dec. 30, were compiled by the Prefecture of the Papal Household, which coordinates papal events and distributes free tickets to papal audiences and liturgies. The prefecture said more than 3.2 million people attended a papal event in 2015. The total was a significant drop from the 5.9 million visitors received by Pope Francis in 2014. It was also slightly more than half the 6.6 million pilgrims who visited the Vatican during the first nine and a half months of his pontificate in 2013. During 2015, at least 704,000 people attended the pope's 42 weekly general audiences; more than 408,000 attended a special group audience; at least 513,000 pilgrims participated in papal liturgies in St. Peter's Basilica or St. Peter's Square; and more than 1.5 million attended the pope's Angelus address on Sundays and major feast days in St. Peter's Square.

Video messages of pope's prayer intentions will hit social media

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will deliver his monthly prayer intentions on video over social media as part of a Jesuit-run global prayer network. The new video messages, featuring the pope asking for prayers and action on various challenges facing the world today, will begin Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Often people are inundated with so much bad news that they might feel helpless, but "to pray together with Pope Francis for these challenges will us help a lot," Jesuit Father Frederic Fornos told Vatican Radio Jan. 4. The Jesuit priest is the head of the international Apostleship of Prayer, a Jesuit-run outreach that has given Catholics the pope's monthly prayer intentions since 1890. Working with the Vatican Television Center, the apostleship will launch the monthly videos of the pope's universal prayer intentions on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. While the pope will speak in Spanish, the videos will have subtitles for a total of 10 languages, Father Fornos said.

God's mercy knows 'no limits,' frees people from despair, pope says

By Carol Glatz and Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God's ability to forgive "knows no limits" as his mercy frees people from bitterness and despair, Pope Francis said.

"The church's forgiveness must be every bit as broad as that offered by Jesus on the cross and by Mary at his feet. There is no other way," he said after opening the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Mary Major Jan. 1, the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and the World Day of Prayer for Peace.

On the first day of the new year, Pope Francis opened the last holy door in Rome as part of the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

"The door we have opened is, in fact, a Door of Mercy," he said in his homily, referring to the Roman basilica's large bronze doors depicting Mary presenting her resurrected son, Jesus.

"Those who cross its threshold are called to enter into the merciful love of the father with complete trust and freedom from fear; they can leave this basilica knowing with certainty that Mary is ever at their side," especially during times of trouble and sorrow, he said.

At the church dedicated to Mary and on her feast day as Mother of God, the pope explained how Mary is the mother of mercy because she bore "the very face of divine mercy," the son of God "made incarnate for our salvation."

"Mary is an icon of how the church must offer forgiveness to those who seek it. The mother of forgiveness teaches the church that the forgiveness granted on Golgotha knows no limits. Neither the law with its quibbles, nor the wisdom of this world with its distinctions, can

hold it back," he said.

Mary offers the world Jesus, who in turn, offers that forgiveness which "renews life, enables us once more to do God's will and fills us with true happiness," the pope said.

On the first day of the new year, Pope Francis opened the last holy door in Rome as part of the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy

"The power of forgiveness is the true antidote to the sadness caused by resentment and vengeance," which do nothing but "trouble the mind and wound the heart, robbing it of rest and peace."

After the Mass, the pope symbolically opened another door, this time the large iron gates in front of a smaller chapel housing a Marian icon he is particularly devoted to — the "Salus Populi Romani" (health of the Roman people).

A deacon told the congregation to pray together with the Holy Father and ask Mary "to take us by the hand and lead us to the Lord Jesus." After the pope pushed open the gates, he brought up a small floral arrangement of white lilies to the altar and prayed in silence before the icon.

Earlier in the day, the pope further marked the World Day of Peace in his noon Angelus address, when he said peace must not only be cultivated but also conquered in a spiritual fight being waged by war and indifference.

Christians are called at the beginning of the new year to open their hearts and "reawaken the attention to one's neighbor, to those who are closest," he said.

"War is not the only enemy of peace, but also indiffer-

ence, which makes us think only of ourselves and creates barriers, suspicions, fears and closures. These are the enemies of peace," the pope said.

Recalling the church's celebration of the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the pope asked for her intercession so that the faithful may imitate her in guarding and meditating on all that happens in their hearts.

The pope also celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in the morning to mark the Marian feast day.

God is present in human history, he said, despite signs and events that "tend to make us think instead that he is absent."

"Sometimes we ask ourselves how it is possible that human injustice persists unabated, and that the arrogance of the powerful continues to demean the weak, relegating them to the most squalid outskirts of our world," he said.

"How can the fullness of time have come when we are witnessing hordes of men, women and children fleeing war, hunger and persecution, ready to risk their lives simply to encounter respect for their fundamental rights?"

Pope Francis went on to say that notwithstanding those events, the "swollen torrent" of misery is powerless "before the ocean of mercy which floods our world." The grace of Christ "brings our hope of salvation to fulfillment" and gives Christians the strength to build a more "just and fraternal world."

"Where philosophical reason and political negotiation cannot arrive, there the power of faith, which brings the grace of Christ's Gospel, can arrive, opening ever new pathways to reason and to negotiation," he said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

The showing of Jesus to the world begins

The Christmas season is now completed with last Sunday's celebration of Jesus' baptism by John. We now have four Sundays of "ordinary time".

Today's Gospel is all about Jesus' first miracle, his changing of water into wine at a wedding.

What was Jesus doing at a wedding?

Quite probably the couple were friends or relatives of Mary and Joseph. The village of Cana wasn't that far from Nazareth. Jesus had already chosen his disciples, and



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

was about to show them His "glory" as John mentions. Someone obviously slipped up on the supply of wine for the seven-day celebration, and Jesus' mother is sympathetic with the newly-weds for the embarrassment this will cause them.

When she mentions this to Jesus, he seems quite indifferent. Some scholars see in the text of his reply what is actually a question, "Has my hour come?"

In a flash, both of them discern a new relationship

between them. It is now Jesus' turn to give the orders! In any case, as soon as Mary tells the waiters, "Do whatever he asks," Jesus asserts full authority, and performs a miracle that dramatically relieves the situation!

At the same time, in the changing of water into wine, the Church sees tremendous spiritual meaning.

The fullness of Jesus' "hour" will occur on the Cross, when He will provide the wine of salvation to all peoples. For the present, however, his disciples witness the glory foretold in today's first reading by Isaiah. This is written at the

JAN. 17

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

time of Israel's release from captivity in Babylon.

They have made up for their former infidelity, and Isaiah proclaims that "nations shall behold your vindication and all the kings your glory."

Of course, they have to wait a few hundred years for that to happen.

The second reading today

from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, states that the Holy Spirit has distributed to all those baptized in Jesus many gifts.

Some have received the gift of wisdom, others the gift of faith,

Still others have received the gift of healing.

Why? So that all of us who proclaim to be followers of Jesus may show forth the glory of the Messiah, and so give to others the reason to believe in their salvation through Christ.

Christmas may be over, but the Epiphany, or showing forth of Jesus to the world, has just begun for us in the new year.

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

At the heart of the tragedy of addiction

Addiction can be extremely harmful, and in some cases, fatal for those individuals ensnared by it. It can be seriously disruptive and damaging to those around them.

Who is to blame when it comes to addiction?

Family and friends may think to themselves, "Why can't Jane just stop drinking?" Or, "Doesn't Joe understand that his gambling addiction is bankrupting the family?" Or, "Can't Bob see how his pornography habit is destroying his marriage and his relationships?"

For those facing addiction, it seems they ought to be able to recognize their behavior as harmful, and turn away from it by a resolute decision.

Family and friends, however, can face years of frustration when they see their loved ones fall into a slow motion "crash and burn," spiraling downwards as they remain unwilling or unable to step away from their addiction.

The individual caught in the web of addiction objec-

tively falls prey to a loss of personal freedom. His will becomes weakened, and he becomes enslaved in a way that limits his ability to recognize the right order of goods in his life.

By repetitively choosing the addictive behavior, it becomes ingrained, and the ability to choose better, alternative behaviors becomes enfeebled, if not seemingly impossible.

For these reasons, there is almost always diminished personal responsibility in situations of addiction.

To be accountable for our acts, we must freely choose those acts, but the internal pressure and downward spiral of the addiction may have already co-opted the individual's ability freely to choose otherwise.

Eventually this bondage can appear to be permanent, and addicted individuals can imagine themselves pathetic and hopeless to such a degree that they almost give up. In the words of a formerly-addicted individual:

"I believe that I did not

have a choice to stop.... It never became clear to me that I could live another way until a medical intervention from my physician and friends took place. Willpower plays a small role here, but it too cannot work if one has a malfunctioning brain. I speak for myself here... I could not stop. Period. Now, I have stopped. Not just because of the intervention, but because I have turned my life and my will over to the God of my understanding. That is something 12 step programs have taught me."

This radical loss of freedom lies at the heart of the tragedy of addiction.

Because we are creatures of habit, the choices we make, either for good or for evil, form us in one direction or the other, so we become individuals who are either capable or incapable of choosing the good freely.

Virtue is a habit of good,

while vice is a habit of evil. Early choices leading down the road towards addiction, freely made, can quickly snowball into vice, addiction and a loss of freedom.



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

As one recovered addict graphically described it:

"My beef is with those who claim that they never chose to become an addict or never chose to hurt their families.... While

tend to end up helpless, dysfunctional people who [hurt] our loved ones, the choices we made put us at risk of ending up in a sorry state where we were capable of doing things we would have never dreamed of. Unless you were raised on Mars, we all deep down knew the risk of our choices, especially if you're talking about coke, crack, meth, or heroin but we chose to roll the dice anyway. At a certain point, when I was starting to do

coke almost every weekend, I knew that it would be wise to stop, but I chose not to because I was having fun and I told myself it will never happen to me. By the end, I was going on solo three day benders with alcohol and cocaine, and I landed in treatment.... my point is that I made the choice to try the substance, the choice to begin to use the substance more regularly, and the choice not to quit when I could have."

While there may have been significant moral culpability at the beginning of an individual's descent into addiction, it is still critical for us to never stigmatize, patronize or abandon those who are in the throes of addiction. They may feel they are defined entirely by their addiction, unlovable and wretched, rather than seeing that they are, in fact, human beings who are precious to God and those around them, and even now endowed with some tiny space of remaining freedom.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

AT THE MOVIES

THE REVENANT

By Joseph McAleer
Catholic News Service

If your idea of entertainment is watching Leonardo DiCaprio gorge on the raw liver of a freshly killed buffalo, then "The Revenant" (Fox) is for you.

This wilderness survival drama, directed and co-written by Alejandro Inarritu ("Birdman"), is chock full of squeamish moments. But for adults with stomachs strong enough to last the duration, rewards await: a powerful film with first-rate performances, stunning cinematography, and timely messages about good versus evil, and of redemption versus revenge.

DiCaprio stars as Hugh Glass, a real-life explorer and fur trader. In 1823, Glass joined an expedition up the Missouri River, led by Capt. Andrew Henry (Domhnall Gleeson).

In what is present-day South Dakota (but filmed in Canada and Argentina), the company of men traps

beavers for their prized pelts while enduring the ravages of winter and frequent raids by Native Americans.

Glass sympathizes with the latter, as he married a Pawnee woman (Grace Dove), who was killed by a U.S. soldier. Their mixed-race son, Hawk (Forrest Goodluck), is a member of the expedition.

Disaster strikes when Glass is attacked by a grizzly bear, an especially grisly scene. Barely alive and unable to move or speak, he must remain behind while the others go for help. Three volunteers agree to stay with him: John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy), a trigger-happy hunter; Jim Bridger (Will Poulter), a wide-eyed innocent guide; and Hawk.

Capt. Henry's instructions are clear: care for Glass, but should he succumb, provide a decent burial.

Fitzgerald seethes as Glass' accident has set back his lucrative hunting plans. So he decides to smother Glass to put an end to his

misery, and allow the others to move on.

Hawk intervenes to stop the murder, but is killed by Fitzgerald, who proceeds to toss the still-alive Glass into a shallow grave, to Bridger's horror. The two men then depart, leaving Glass for dead. Or so they think.

Glass refuses to succumb, crawls out of the grave, and embarks on a 200-mile odyssey through vast uncharted lands to avenge his son's murder and bring Fitzgerald to justice.

As such, he becomes a "revenant," or one returned from the dead.

Glass' reappearance made newspaper headlines at the time, but the details of his story were sketchy, to say the least.

Along the way, Glass is assisted and befriended by a lone Pawnee, Hkuc (Arthur Redcloud). His family was also killed by the "white man," but he offers measured advice.

"Revenge is in the Creator's hands, not man's," he tells Glass.



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Leonardo DiCaprio stars in a scene from the movie "The Revenant."

Indeed, since seeking revenge is contrary to Christian teaching, we correctly leave the final judgment to God. Whether Glass takes this advice remains to be seen.

The film contains bloody violence and gore, several disturbing images, a sexual assault, brief nudity, and frequent rough, crude, and profane language. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose

problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro and Edgar Ramirez star in a scene from the movie "Joy." Loosely based on the life of Joy Mangano, inventor of the self-wringing "Miracle Mop" and a cable television sensation, this madcap tale about a dysfunctional family hoping to hit the big time is written and directed by David O. Russell. The heroine's gadget turns out to be far more interesting than the gaggle of human characters surrounding it. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Addiction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

That tiny space will become key to determining whether they ultimately choose the behavioral changes needed to improve their situation and recover the human freedom that is rightfully theirs.

We should support, encourage and love them in ways that will help lead them toward those good

choices and successful outcomes.

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

Visit our website
www.northcountrycatholic.org

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

Find us on Facebook!



The Diocese of Ogdensburg
NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

is on
FACEBOOK



- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

Like

CLINTON

BUSTO MARCH IN D.C.

Plattsburgh – Seats are still available for the Lake Champlain Bus for Life to the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Schedule: Meet at St. Peter's Church Jan. 21 at 7:15 p.m. for the Jan. 22 March for Life. Free time in morning to attend Mass, sightsee, lobby representatives. Rally and march start at noon on the National mall. Meet at St. Peter's Church in Washington at 4:45 p.m. for trip home
Price: \$30

Contact: To reserve a seat or to obtain more information, please contact Karen Smith at 566-6229 or Betty Buffett at (518) 536-6640. To sign up for a seat on the bus or to make a donation—please mail your check to St. Peter's Church 114 Cornelia Street Plattsburgh, New York 12901. Make a note on the memo line: "Bus for Life." You can also reach Karen Smith at karen.smith2028@gmail.com

MARCH FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – March for life to be held.

Date: Jan. 17

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: From Newman Center to St. John the Baptist Church

Features: Praying for families and their unborn children. Guest speaker, Lori Kehoe, NYS Right to Life will speak at 1:15 p.m. Refreshments to follow

SPAGHETTI DINNER

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

Date: Jan. 16

Time: 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12, \$2.50; 5 and under, free; Families, \$20 (Parents and children).

Features: Take-outs are available. Profits assist local charities, council programs.

BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

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

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: Immaculate Conception Church

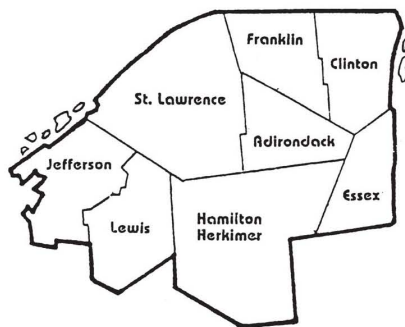
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

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



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.

FRANKLIN

PARISH BREAKFAST

Brushton – St. Mary's Parish is holding a breakfast buffet sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic Church events committee

Date: Jan. 17

Time: 8 a.m. to 12:30

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center; take outs available by calling 518 529 6580

Price: adults, \$8; seniors, \$7; children ages 6 to 12, \$4; children under five, free; immediate family of five or more (parents, school age children), \$25

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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

Date: Jan. 28

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, \$7.75 each

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

CANDLELIGHT PRAYER VIGIL

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown is sponsoring a respect life candlelight prayer vigil.

Date: Jan. 25

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Municipal Building

Features: Participants will pray for renewed respect for all human life – particularly those most vulnerable. Refreshments to follow at First Presbyterian Church on Washington Street.

Contact: Fran at 315-686-3050 for more information.

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

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

Date: Jan. 16

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7; Seniors, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free

HUMAN TRAFFICKING! HERE?

Watertown – Find out more about Human Trafficking and what you can do.

Date: Jan. 31

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

Place: Srs. of St. Joseph Motherhouse,

Cost: Free

Speakers: Kristyna Mills, Jeff. Co. DA; and Roni Dickhaut, Special Agent, H.S.I.

Features: Prayer service followed by panel & discussion. Light refreshments

Contact: For reservations, call: 315-782-3460 For further info, email srbrthessj@gmail.com

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

LEWIS

BUS TO MARCH FOR LIFE IN D.C.

Port Leyden – The Lewis County Right to Life and Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C.

Date: Jan. 21 – 23

Cost: Adults, \$25; Youth, Free

Schedule: The bus will leave Jan. 21 at 9 p.m. from Port Leyden Lock 96. We arrive Jan. 22 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at approximately 6:30 a.m. Upon arrival, we will tour the Basilica, attend Mass, and eat breakfast. We then board the subway to travel to the National Mall for rally and march. Regroup after March at St. Peter's Church and board bus at 4:30 p.m. On the return trip we stop for dinner at Mountain Gate Family Restaurant. We will arrive back at Loch 96 in Port Leyden early morning of Jan. 23

Contact: Paul Campeau at (315) 346-6575 or (315) 486-7928. Or Robert Kraeger at 348-8482

K OF C BRUNCH

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

Date: Jan. 24

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. John's Church Hall

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

HOLY HOUR

Lowville – All are invited to a holy hour.

Date: Jan. 21

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: Adoration & Silent prayers. Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Lowville – Middle School Youth Group to meet.

Date: third Wednesday of each month

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

ST. LAWRENCE

K OF C ANNUAL MEETING

Ogdensburg – The Annual Meeting of the Msgr. A. D. Charbonneau Council 258 Kof C Building Association. will be held.

Date: Jan. 14

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: K of C Hall

Features: The agenda includes the annual financial report and election of rotating directors.

Contact: Tim Baker 394-1008 or the Club Rooms at 393-7990 after 4 p.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room.

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

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's is holding a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: Thursday before the First Friday

Time: 7 p.m. concluding with Benediction at 8 p.m.

Place: Deacon Winter Chapel

DIOCESAN EVENTS

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Plattsburgh – Bishop LaValley will preside at the diocesan Ecumenical Service.

Date: Jan. 17

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: 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

at stmaryspatrick.net, 315-265-9680;

Father Douglas Lucia,

frdoug@tcwncy.rr.com or Father Bryan

Stitt, diocesan vocation director

bstitt@rcdony.org



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@rcdonoy.org

Viewing our wonderful world in a new light

As people of faith, we see the whole of creation as the ndiwork of God. Experiencing the wonder of God in the ocese of Ogdensburg is an easy task to undertake. We are asessed with the beautiful Adirondacks and the gorgeous raplain Valley. We have the Thousand Islands in the mastic St. Lawrence River and the beautiful farm lands and lling hills in between. In our depths, we are aware that e greater community of creation sustains not only our dies, but also in some way our spirits.

Jesus, too, seems to have experienced God in the midst of eation. He went out into the wilderness "with the wild asts" for 40 days before beginning his active ministry, d every time the Gospels describe Jesus in prayer, he is ce again outdoors. Jesus' parables and teachings are full metaphors drawn from nature: the birds, the lilies of the old, the mustard seed, the fish in the sea, and the cultiva- on of the soil. Just as "God so loves the world," we are lled to love and care for the Earth and all its creatures. t, we are now living in a time of unprecedented ecological isis, The entire balance of the intricate web of life that d created is being undermined, and this is happening as 'esult of human activity. As people of faith, how should e respond to this unfolding crisis? All of creation can be en as a revelation of God. The great Christian mystic, ister Eckhart, wrote nearly 800 years ago that we should, pprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every iple creature is full of God and is a book about God. ery creature is a word of God."

In this sense, the Earth and all its creatures deserve our ve and deep respect. Each time we lose a species or a for- t, each time we defile the Earth, it is as though we were aring out a page of sacred scripture and destroying it for- er. Of course, we all depend on other creatures for our rivial — we must eat food, clothe ourselves, and build elter. However, in doing so, we must respect the overall tegrity of species, ecosystems, and the Earth itself. The destruction of the Earth we are witnessing makes it ident that we are not living in a way that respects God's eation. We are called to radically change the way we ink, live, and act. We are called to conversion.

In recovering a sense that all life is sacred, that all cre- ion in some way reveals the presence of God, we can find spiration to act. Our love for creation can motivate us to dduce our consumption, avoid the use of dangerous chem- als, and advocate for policies needed to achieve both jus- e and ecological harmony. It is time that Christians, gether with all people of good will, begin to re-orient our tions and practices to reflect the need to right our rela- onship with the Earth and to establish more just and liv- g human communities. As we begin a new year, let this be ie resolution for the New Year!

OBITUARIES

Lottie Ryan

AUSABLE FORKS—A Mass of Christian Burial for Lottie Arlene Ryan (Dot), age 80, wife of Deacon John J. Ryan, was held Jan. 6 at Holy Name Church. She died Dec. 31 at home; a private burial will be held at a later date.

In addition to Deacon Ryan, her husband of 59 years, she is survived by her sister, Gertrude Miles of Clifton Park, N.Y.; her five children and their spouses, John and Joann Ryan of Au Sable Forks, Bob and Pam Ryan of Au Sable Forks, Sue and Larry McDonald of Jay, Vickie Ryan-Snyder and her partner Patrick Craig of Ancramdale, N.Y., B.J. and Mike Brown of Au Sable Forks and Keeseville; and her nine grandchildren, Laura Quinn and her husband Patrick of Au Sable Forks, Sarah Holzer and her husband Cliff of Au Sable Forks, John Ryan III of Au Sable Forks, Lindsay Cumber and her husband Scott of McGuire AFB, N.J., McKayla Snyder of Burlington, Vt., twins, Dusty and Andrea Snyder of Ancramdale, N.Y., Hunter Brown of Au Sable Forks, Troy McDonald of Jay; a special niece, Kathryn Calhoun Lanigan of Brooklin, Maine; five great-grandchildren, Nathan, Shawn, Keegan, Michael and Eleanore; and numerous other nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents; her sisters, Linda, Pearl, Jane, Lucretia (Pat); her brother, Wallie (Bud); and her grandson, Logan.

Mrs. Ryan was born April 8, 1935 in Au Sable Forks, N.Y., the sixth child of seven born to Wallie and Jesse Hewston. A 1954 graduate of Au Sable Forks High School, she married John J. Ryan, on April 28, 1956.

An expert seamstress, Mrs. Ryan opened a fabric and sewing shop, The Sewing Basket, in Au Sable Forks, in the

mid-70s. She also worked as a waitress, picked apples at local orchards, and was a concert assistant for ORDA.

She was active with her community as a member of the Holy Name Parish Council, a lector and a Eucharistic Minister, served on the Au Sable Forks High School Alumni Committee, served on a 4-H committee, was a volunteer with High Peaks Hospice for ten years, volunteered at the Au Sable Forks Free Library and supported her daughters' equestrian passions as one of the active parents in the Au Sable Valley Pony Club in Clintonville.

Memorial donations may be sent to High Peaks Hospice, PO Box 840, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 or the Au Sable Forks Free Library at 9 Church Street, Au Sable Forks, NY 12912.

Altona - Raymond Devens, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2016 ay Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Brushton - Sandra A. (Bashaw) Malette, 66; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Chaumont - C. Adam Bock Jr., 83; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2016 at All Saints Church.

Ellenburg - Faye Ellen (LaClair) Gregory; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2016 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum, Ellenburg Depot.

Gabriels - Gloria Anne (Reed) Byno, 93; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2016 at Church of the Assumption; burial in St. Paul's Cemetery, Bloomingdale.

Keeseville - J. Rodney Stone, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Douglas Cemetery.

Massena - Arthur Cunningham, 83; Fu-

neral services Jan. 4, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena - Ricky J. Frederick, 59; Funeral Services Jan. 8, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

Morrisonville - Ruth (Parrotte) LaPoint, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2016 at St. Alexander's Church.

Norfolk - Donalda F. "Donnie" (Dyer) LaShomb, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2016 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

Norwood - Rita C. Hurley, 87; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2016 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

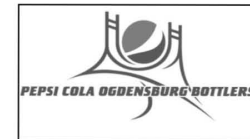
Peru Kathryn (Wrisley) Bezio, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Plattsburgh - Margaret S. "Maggie" Wells, 102; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in Church of the Assumption Cemetery, Redford.

Rouses Point - Thelma M. (LaValley) LaFountain, 86; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Mooers Forks.

Watertown - Carlton Curtis Pike Jr., 84; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

West Chazy - Richard "Dick" L. Hebert, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Plattsburgh



NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC HAS GONE GREEN

You now have the option to start receiving your *North Country Catholic* in your e-mail rather than in the mail. Fill in your information and send this form to

Please switch my current *NCC* subscription to E-mail

Name _____ PO Box 326
Ogdensburg,
NY 13669

Current Account Number (found on your mailing label) _____ OR Call
Christine at
315-608-7556

Address _____ to make the
change

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

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

Week of Prayer



For Christian Unity

“CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE MIGHTY
ACTS OF THE LORD”

1 Peter 2:9

Ecumenical Service
St. Peter's Church
Plattsburgh

Sunday, January 17, 2016
2:30 p.m.

ECUMENISM
from ancient Greek OIKOUMENIKOS:
"the people of the whole earth who live in a
common house"

COMPUTER FUN



SCHOOL PHOTO

Jean Hakim, professor and chair of Vermont Technical College's Computer and Information Systems Department in Williston, Vermont, and a communicant at St. Mary's Church in Ticonderoga, worked with students at St. Mary's school during Computer Science Education Week Dec. 7-13. Students learned programming skills using a Lego compatible robot using a graphical programming language. The robots were programmed to avoid obstacles, perform line tracking and respond to sounds. Above, seventh grade students Aidan Stacey and Jarrett Banish practice their new skills.

**Plattsburgh Wholesale
Homes**
We process all VA loans



New or Used Manufactured and Modular Homes

Located on 7109 State Route 9

518-563-1100

www.pwmh.com

WE ARE OPEN ON SUNDAYS 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
YOUR BEST DEAL CAN BE FOUND ON SUNDAY!!

Special: 28x48 used Double, Excellent Condition.
\$49,900 Delivery and Setup, no tax.