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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 70, Number 32

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 20, 2016

## Faithfulness in mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - God's mercy is constant and limitless; he is faithful in his mercy for his children, even when they are unfaithful, Pope Francis said. The greatness and power of God unfolds in his "love for us, who are so small, so incapable," he said at his weekly general audience Jan. 13.

In his first general audience of the new year, the pope began a new series of talks on mercy, reflecting on its description in the Bible, where from the "Old Testament to the full revelation of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Father is revealed in its completeness."

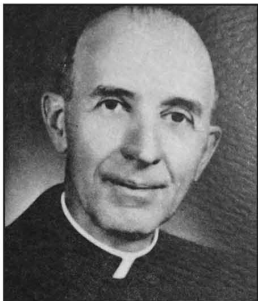
Speaking to some 6,000 people gathered in the Paul VI audience hall, the pope began by reflecting on the biblical description of God who is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger and rich in love and faithfulness."

The pope said the Bible compares God's merciful

love to the tenderness and love of a mother who seeks "to love, protect, help (and) is quick to give everything, even herself" for her children.

"That is the image that this word suggests," he said. It is "a love that can be defined, in a good way, as 'visceral.'"

## Mother Cabrini Shrine



In 1945, Father Harold McCabe began a grassroots movement within the diocese to build a shrine to the newly canonized St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

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## Christian Unity

Bishop LaValley shares his homily for the Jan. 17 Ecumenical Service in Plattsburgh  
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## COATS FOR KIDS



SCHOOL PHOTO

The Canton Knights of Columbus, Sarto Council 1059, has donated warm coats to St. Mary's School, Canton. This is the second year that they have provided warm coats for the children through their "Coats for Children Program." Shown above are Grand Knight Brandon Baldwin, and principal Pamela Neal.

## DAY OF REFLECTION

For those in charitable apostolates



Pope Francis has asked that, as part of the Jubilee of Mercy, there would be a Day of Prayer/Reflection for those individuals involved in charitable apostolates in each diocese. The theme he has chosen for this occasion is: "The love of Christ impels us." The Diocese of Ogdensburg has planned its day for March 8 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg. The presenters will be Deacon Mark and Theresa Bennett of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh and Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin. Bishop Terry R. LaValley will celebrate Mass at 11:30 am. Lunch will follow. This day is open to all who are involved in the charitable works of our parishes and local communities.

FULL STORY, PAGE 14

**HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE:** There's still time to join the April trip to Italy... p. 9

NORTH  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Welcome to the world, little Tommy

It was on Mother's Day way back in 1979 that I knew that I was going to be a mom; our beautiful Benjamin Thomas changed our lives forever in the first month of the new decade.

Fast forward 36 years.

On Mother's Day of 2015 this same Benjamin called us with the best news of *his* life: he was going to be a daddy!

On the tenth day of this new year, Ben called again, this time with 8 lb., 12 oz. Thomas William in his arms.

As the country was buzzing about a billion dollar lottery, Ben knew the real truth.

"I've already won the lottery," he told us.

What a difference a year makes.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

Last January, our family was in mourning as we lost Anna, our mother, and Thomas, our father, in quick succession.

This January, we're all bursting with joy.

That joy is enhanced by the sure knowledge that Ben's Grandma and Pop are with God now; their legacy will be carried on by two little

namesakes, this Tommy and his cousin Anna, among so many others who were created by and nourished with their love.

I won't deny that I have been taking advantage of the new status of my surely-sainted parents, especially my mother.

After the rawest of grief subsided, it occurred to me that I now had a personal saint in heaven and a little intercessory prayer wouldn't hurt.

I thought, and I knew Mom would agree, that we needed more babies in our family.

A couple weeks later, we found out that one daughter-in-law was pregnant and, four months after that, it was Ben and Jolene's turn.

Every time I point this out, my family members smile patiently – and probably shake their heads a little – but, I haven't stopped checking in with "Saint

Anna." I'm not beyond asking for a few more miracles!

But today, I am supremely satisfied with how blessed our family has been: each child of ours has a child (our two) of his or her own.

There is nothing to do except thank God every day for these wee and wonderful gifts of ours.

(Oh, and make a little trip to meet our California kiddo!)

## NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Feb. 3 when we celebrate Catholic Schools Week and report on the 2016 March for Life

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

## The powerful message of Baptism

I found the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord to be very meaningful this year. In my mind, I tried to imagine Jesus standing before John the Baptist seeking his baptism.

John's baptism, as you remember, was for those who were confronting the failings in their lives and now wanted to make some changes, some conversion.

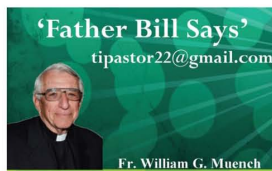
Then John baptized them in the Jordan River as a ritual to remind them of their decision to change their lives.

Here was Jesus – the Messiah and Lord – joining with these others who were seeking some sort of reconciliation.

Jesus walked with these sinners – just as he walks with sinners now – with you and I even in our sinfulness.

His message was that we are good people even in our sins. We are not bad people but may have to go through conversion, a constant conversion, a daily conversion in the forgiveness and love of God.

God expects so much from each of us even as we conquer our sinfulness. We are good people and with God's help we



Fr. William G. Muench

can make this world such a better place.

All four Gospel writers remembered this story.

In John's Gospel story, John the Baptist admits he did not recognize that this was Jesus the Christ coming to him for baptism.

He did so when the voice from Heaven proclaimed "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

From now on, Jesus will be recognized as the Lord and Savior who comes to teach us all of God's great love for all of us.

John the Baptist had proclaimed often the coming of the Savior and he made it very clear to all that he was not the Christ. St. Luke records that he said, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to

loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

You and I have been baptized in the Baptism of Jesus. This is our sacrament, the most important sacrament we will ever receive.

John says this baptism will bring us the power of the Holy Spirit and fire. This Baptism is a new life that Jesus wins for us through his death and resurrection.

Our Baptism is a sacramental life that gives us the life and power of the Holy Spirit to truly live as adopted children of God, to be his disciples in the world, to live like chosen saints, to accept Jesus' challenge to make our world a better place.

John the Baptist further tells us that we will be baptized in fire.

This is the fire of the Holy Spirit – the fire of God to transform us, to make us enthusiastic disciples of the Lord so that we will bring to our world the message of the Lord.

All of us can and should bring the message of Jesus to others. We need to proclaim

that God loves us even in our sins, that God cares about us, that God's Mercy is ours, that God's forgiveness is ours.

With the help of the Lord, we can make this world better by bringing Jesus into our lives and our world.

The whole incident reminds me of Pope Francis.

Shortly after Pope Francis was elected Pope he agreed to sit down for a formal interview. You certainly remember this story. The first question the interviewer asked was "Who are you?" "Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?"

His answer surprised many but now, as we have come to know Pope Francis, we have grown to expect his surprises. Pope Francis' answer was "I am a sinner. I am a sinner who has found the Lord's love and forgiveness and Mercy."

Pope Francis is comfortable walking with sinners – being close to us, sinners – guiding all sinners closer to the Lord.

As we now have begun the Year of Mercy the message of God's love and forgiveness and Mercy has been proclaimed in every Church in the world.

FOLLOW ME

# Christian unity

Bishop LaValley's reflection at the Jan. 17 Ecumenical Service at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh to open the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

That the different Christian churches together agree to set aside one week for special prayer and action this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity shows that we feel the need for more unity among believers in Christ. The disunity in Christianity is a scandal to the world that weakens the Christian message and witness.

Last year during Advent I was blessed to go on my first pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While in Jerusalem, we entered the area of Christ's tomb and were warned not to cross over an imaginary line between two pillars because that was the property of another Christian faith. Christian disunity met me in the face at Calvary in the Holy Land!

What moral weight do we carry when we ask different peoples of the world to get along when we as Christians cannot reconcile our own differences?

Let us today ask God's forgiveness for all of God's children; I pray for forgiveness of Catholic Christians for our participation in the sin of disunity.

Let us resolve to extend a hand of reconciliation and

friendship to our sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Many Christians around the world today are already bound together by their common experience of martyrdom. Pope Francis refers to this as an "ecumenism of blood."

And in less violent, but boldly, increasingly overt ways, we Christians suffer common persecutions in our society, yes even in our nation today.

For instance, by simply trying to live and teach what we believe, particularly concerning life, marriage, and family issues, we are branded as bigots and our freedom to practice our Christian beliefs is denied.

Our disunity makes anemic our proclamation and witness of the faith. It hinders us from carrying out the healing and reconciling mission of Christ in a broken, needy and increasingly terror-filled world.

As this year's theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity reminds us, we are called to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord.

Our disunity is a great obstacle for this to happen. It is virtually impossible to give effective witness to the beauty of what our God has done for all of us if we stay isolated from one another, protecting each other's sectarian turf.

When all is said and done,

we are Christ's and Christ is God's. A church built merely on the large egos, glib speech, and the charisma of its leaders is doomed to fail. Christ must not be divided.

This disunity among Christians is an abuse of God's gifts. Pope Francis reminded us in his Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* (EG,118), "Ecumenism is a contribution to the unity of the human fam-

ily. We must never forget that we are pilgrims journeying alongside one another."

We are all daughters and sons of the one all-merciful, all-loving Father.

Jesus has bequeathed glory to the church. But this glory can only manifest itself when the unity among Christians reflects the unity between Jesus and the Father. Lack of unity takes away from the glory that Jesus intended for the body of believers.

Jesus prayed for us so that the love which the Father has loved Him may be in us.

The unity for which Jesus prayed is a unity based on divine love.

It is a unity that is possible only with the love of God in us. It is not uniformity or a unity that deprives others of their individuality, but a unity of essentials that makes room

for diversity. "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty; in all things, charity."

**What moral weight do we carry when we ask different peoples of the world to get along when we as Christians cannot reconcile our own differences?**

Our common faith in all that is expressed in our baptismal profession, in the Apostles' Creed and in the Nicene-Constantinople Creed expresses the faith professed by the Church since the time of the apostles.

On the basis of this faith, we must develop the concept and spirituality of communion. Communion is the freedom to use legitimate diversities in gifts shared. "If we really believe in the abundantly free working of the Holy Spirit, we can learn so much from one another." (EG,118)

We must develop the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it and prize it as a gift from God. Such communion means that we need to learn how to make room for our sisters and brothers, bearing each other's burdens and resisting the selfish temptations which constantly beset us and provoke competition, distrust and jealousy.

We travel together because we seek inner conver-

sion and holiness of life in conformity with the Gospel and above all with prayer that echoes the prayer of Jesus. We are all members of the one Body of Christ. Christ is not to be divided.

Our theme this year is taken from the First Letter of St. Peter. He reminds us of the relationship between baptism and proclamation, and the calling shared by all the baptized to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord.

Baptism opens up an exciting new journey, a journey of faith that unites each new Christian with God's people throughout the ages.

As Christians seeking the unity of the Body of Christ we are all called to recognize the mighty acts of God in our own lives and the life of the Church.

Let us resolve, in our own little ways, to work for the realization of the full unity of all Christians for which Jesus prayed.

Occasions such as this can fire us with enthusiasm to overcome the difficulties in attaining unity. God can do mighty things, if we allow His grace to flow in our hearts.

Our world today asks each one of us for unity, communion, and solidarity. Why can't we all work to re-compose the unity that has been torn for centuries?

This Jubilee Year of Mercy causes you and me to do some serious soul-searching as we reflect on our answer.

May God be praised... forever may God be praised!



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

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Kelly Donnelly transitioning from Seton teacher to diocesan youth director

# 'I love being around teenagers'

By Shawn Ryan  
Staff writer

PLATTSBURGH - Seton Catholic Central's English and Religion teacher Kelly Donnelly has been chosen for the position of diocesan youth director. She has already started to transition to her new role, which she will assume full-time at the end of the school year.

Donnelly has hit the ground running, working part time at the position since the beginning of December.

When the diocesan position was advertised this past summer, Donnelly, who directs Youth Ministry and the Faith Ambassadors at Seton, didn't think much about it.

Over time though, several of her friends and colleagues came to her and insisted that she think about applying for the job.

"I took it to prayer, and I felt that I was called to apply," she said. "I love being around teenagers and seeing them being passionate about learning new things and



PHOTO BY SHAWN RYAN  
Kelly Donnelly is shown as she teaches one of her classes at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh. Newly hired as the diocesan youth director, she will complete the current school year while working part time as youth director until July 1 when she will become the full-time director.

growing closer to Christ." Donnelly has always been passionate about learning, and teaching. The Tupper Lake native knew very early that she loved literature and writing, and teaching seemed like an obvious career choice.

Between earning her undergraduate degree at Siena

College and her master's degree at SUNY Potsdam, she spent a year volunteering with the Franciscan Youth Ministry in Wilmington, Delaware. Along with teaching in a predominantly Hispanic high school there, she helped with adult English as a Second Language students, and adult basic education and writing in a women's prison.

She has taught at Seton for the past six years, where she is considered to be the backbone of the Youth Ministry

program.

"Every time I have a youth retreat or event, I feel a tangible energy," she said. "To directly work with teenagers to help them to strengthen their relationship with Christ...strength to be committed to the faith...is really exciting."

Paradoxically, she says that being in a position to have that kind of impact on a young person's life can be very intimidating at the same time. She wants to be sure, she says, that she can live up

to everything the position deserves.

But the diocese's gain, will come at a huge cost to Seton Catholic.

"It's a huge loss for us," said Seton Principal Cathy Russell.

Russell says that it will be easier to find a great English teacher, than a great English teacher who also does all the things that Donnelly does with youth ministry and Faith Ambassadors.

"I feel happy for her, Russell said. "Other people are realizing her talents. She'll be a huge loss."

When Donnelly transitions to the position full time July 1, she will have already laid the groundwork for the summer season at Camp Guggenheim, prepared for the upcoming diocesan youth rally and worked with the diocesan Youth Vision Document.

She said that she looks forward to working with parish youth ministers, and helping them to work to their best potential for the youth.

"I want to make sure that youth ministers have the best opportunities to work with the youth," she said, "and help them along their faith journeys, and to help ignite or re-ignite their passion in the faith."



## WIN \$250

A Week for 20 Weeks!

All drawings will be held on "Twenty Week Tuesday" March 1, 2016 to July 12, 2016.

You are eligible for EVERY draw. You do not have to be present to win. You will be entered into the drawing immediately upon the receipt of this form and a \$20 check made payable to Seton Catholic.

You may enter at anytime during the drawing. Please attach all information below for additional entries. Winners announced at [www.setoncatholic.net](http://www.setoncatholic.net).

Seton Twenty Week Club  
206 New York Rd. Plattsburgh, NY 12903

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FAITH IN ACTION IN THE DIOCESE

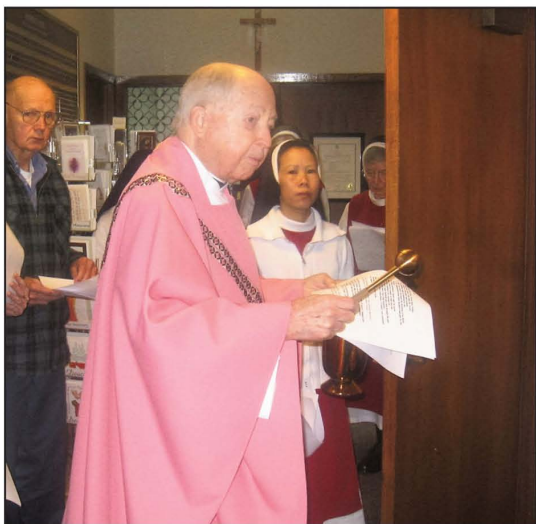
# CHRIST-LED CHRIST-FED



The fifth grade students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh recently helped carry money for the Missionary Childhood Association to the bank to be deposited. During November and December the students contributed over \$700 to help children in need. When the money was put in a box, it was too heavy to lift but the students solved that problem. Each carried a bag with rolls of coins and walked to the bank



Trinity Catholic School in Massena extends thanks to Elsie Scruggs for the way she has embellished TCS. Mrs. Scruggs generously bought letters to add the words "Trinity Catholic School" to the silver cross that has adorned the back of the school for many years. The gift is in memory of her husband, Carl R. Scruggs, Sr. whose children and grandchildren attended the TCS. Larry Legeault donated his time in early December to attach the letters.



Msgr. Paul E Whitmore, chaplain for the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown, blessed the doors of the monastery chapel which has been designated as one of the Particular Churches (pilgrimage sites) for the Jubilee Year of Mercy by Bishop Terry LaValley. The ceremony was taken place with the Universal Church on Third Sunday of Advent Dec. 13.



Bishop LaValley hosted a lunch at his home for several women who clean Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg, after they won the event in a charity auction. In front are Gloria Gilbert, Jackie LaComb, Eleanor Stevenson and Marie Montana; back, Cherie Edwards, Marilyn Luzinski, Laurene Amo, Bishop LaValley, Diane Courtney, Cathy Woods and Donna Roca.

# CDA honors deceased members at annual Mass

**LAKE PLACID** – Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at a Mass for all deceased Catholic Daughters of America Oct. 3 at St. Agnes Church. The diocesan CDA Past Regents Chapter sponsored the annual Mass and CDA Court Dr. Tom Dooley #2183 hosted a luncheon after the Mass at St. Agnes School.

New York State Regent Mary Ziesig presented Bishop LaValley a check from the NYS Court in support of diocesan seminarians.

Fourth Degree K of C were in attendance.

Guest speaker at the luncheon was CDA National Regent-elect/National Supervisor Helene Shepard, who spoke of CDA's theme of "Spirituality and Service" and the importance of increasing membership within and the formation of new courts.

Bishop LaValley spoke

about his trip to see Pope Francis on his visit to the United States, and shared some of his enlightening experiences in New York City and in Washington, D.C.

Other speakers were New York State officers Mary Ziesig, Heather Rave and Emma Lou Smith. Lucky Bucks winners were Court #479 Mary Immaculate, Mary King, and Marycay Doolittle.

Toastmistress for the luncheon was Anna Lucia, outgoing president.

The fall business meeting of the Chapter was held Sept. 19, hosted by Court Mary Immaculate at Plattsburgh.

The next spring meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16 at Peru at which time one topic of vote will be the question of continuing with the fall business meeting a month prior to the Mass/luncheon itself.

## Bishop's Schedule

Feb. 2 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Feb. 3 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact: **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne 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: **Jan. 28 - 8 p.m.**, Wakefield Recital Hall, SUNY Potsdam  
**Feb. 9 - 5 p.m.**, St. Mary's School, Canton  
**Feb. 25 - 1 p.m.**, St. James School, Gouverneur

## NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the *North Country Catholic* will be dated Feb. 3

## Rest in Peace

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

- Jan. 20** – Rev. William D. O'Byrne, 1928; Rev. Joseph Erhard, O.M.I., 1936; Rev. Victor Viaud, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Joseph Ponture, 1940
- Jan. 21** – Rev. Albert W. Giroux, 1991; Rev. Adam Zajdel, O.F.M. Conv., 1997; Rev. Patrick C. Callaghan, O.F.M., 2001
- Jan. 22** – Rev. James E. Joy, 1950
- Jan. 23** – Rev. Jeremiah C. Manning, 1909
- Jan. 24** – Rev. Joseph N. Beaudry, 1897; Rev. M. A. Ryan, O.S.A., 1924
- Jan. 25** – Rev. Eugene Gauvin, O.M.I., 1890
- Jan. 26** – Rev. Antoine Paillier, O.M.I., 1916; Rev. Henry Thamelng, O.F.M. Conv., 1929; Rev. Leon Lamothe, O.M.I., 1937; Rev. Daniel E. Cahill, 1945; Rev. John Emmett Weir, 1990; Rev. Earl W. Nichols, 2002
- Jan. 27** – Rev. Emile H. Mission, O.S.A., 1973; Rev. Mr. Adam S. Crowe, 2009
- Jan. 28** – Rev. James A. McKenna, 1895; Deacon Richard E. Winter, 2004
- Jan. 29** – Msgr. James T. Lyng, 1965
- Jan. 30** – Rev. John T. Sullivan, 1884; Rev. Eusebius Schlingmann, O.F.M., 1937
- Jan. 31** – Rev. B. J. O'Connell, O.S.A., 1925; Rev. James S. McGowan, 1961; Rev. Timothy M. Ladden, 2003
- Feb. 1** – Rev. John B. Doonan, 1949; Msgr. George T. Donnelly, 1968; Rev. Edward M. Delaney, 1977
- Feb. 2** – Rev. William Bennett, O.M.I., 1887; Rev. Amadeus Viger, O.S.A., 1915; Rev. George E. Racette, 1961

## Environmental Stewardship

### How is human trafficking connected to climate change?

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery widespread throughout the world. The term refers to the recruitment, retaining transporting by any means, of any person for forced labor, slavery, servitude in any industry or setting such as agriculture, prostitution, domestic service or marriage.

Trafficking in human beings is the second greatest crime internationally that affects an estimated 36 million people around the world.

Last year Pope Francis proclaimed February 8, the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who is considered a patron saint for trafficking victims, as an International Day of Prayer and Reflection against Human Trafficking.

Born in 1868 in Darfur, Sudan, she was kidnapped at the age of nine and sold into slavery, first in her country and later in Italy.

She died in 1947 and was declared a saint by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000.

How is this crime connected to care for our common home?

Bishop Marcelo Sorondo, the Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Science, said the climate crisis and modern slavery were "interconnected emergencies, stating that" although the poor and the excluded have the least effect on climate change they are the most exposed to the terrible threat posed by human-induced climate disruption."

Those who are deprived of the basic needs of food, shelter, and employment are most vulnerable to being exploited and tricked into slavery.

Vatican spokesman, Cardinal Peter Turkson says "Our awareness must expand and extend to the very depths of this evil and its farthest reaches from awareness to prayer . . . from prayer to solidarity . . . and from solidarity to concerted action, until slavery and trafficking are no more.

To learn more about human trafficking that exists, even here in the North Country, come on January 31 at 1:30-3:30 to Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown.

See Calendar Events for Jefferson Deanery on page 14 of this Week's *NCC* for more information or call 315-782-3460.

# THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

### PRAYER SUGGESTION

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

Replace him with yourself.

Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always.

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (...) Amen.



The Passion of our Lord

DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG, NY **FEBRUARY 2016**

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14 REV. ADRIAN GALLAGHER OFM CONV	15 POPE FRANCIS	16 BENEDICT XVI POPE EMERITUS	17 REV. GARRY B. GYROUX	18 REV. JOSEPH W. GYROUX	19 REV. L. WILLIAM GORDON	20 REV. ROLLAND A. HART
21 REV. ALBERT HAUSER V.F.	22 RETIRED PRIESTS	23 REV. PETER G. HELFRICH	24 REV. THOMAS J. HIGMAN	25 POPE JOHN PAUL II	26 REV. VINCENTE F. JAZMINES	27 REV. DANIEL T. KEEFE
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## A VOICE OF FAITH

# Helping seekers find the Catholic faith

By Midge Fraser

Parishioner, Holy Family Church, Watertown

In early 1987 one of our parish priests asked me if I would be interested in attending an institute with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate in Cleveland, Ohio. I was looking for a new ministry at that time, so I thought I would give it a try.

Helping seekers find the Catholic faith sounded like something I could do. Being a cradle Catholic, it shouldn't be a problem.

Little did I know what a powerful journey it would be for me.

Our first Easter Vigil was in 1988. Father Dan Chapin was an associate pastor at Holy Family Parish at that time. With courage



Midge Fraser

and perseverance we worked together to begin the Process. It was called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). I have never regretted for

a moment the choice I made to begin learning about this incredible process.

Throughout the years I have attended five Institutes, some of which were to understand the catechumenate with children. I have always reminded our team that there is only a slight difference. There is no Rite of Christian Initiation for Children. It is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with some adaptations.

We have a wonderful and loving team of adults who are dedicated year after year to helping seekers find their way into the Catholic Church.

We all love our faith deeply and are more than happy to share it. We meet monthly over covered dish suppers and dessert meet-

ings to keep in touch with each other and to plan for the coming month.

## Looking back on 27 years in RCIA ministry

We have made some mistakes along the way, but in the end we did our best, and we are grateful to serve our Lord. It was a challenge to work with people who needed annulments and who struggled with personal problems.

Our team was and is always ready to help with any need or challenge that arises.

I am so grateful to God for allowing me to share in this ministry and for guiding me through 27 years of service. I have always prayed that if He felt the need for me to

step aside and let someone else take my place, I would listen.

This year, I made the decision to turn the reins over to Kathy Allan who has been a team member for many years. She is more than capable. We also have a marvelous team of people who are equally as dedicated as Kathy.

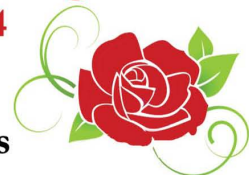
I would like to thank Father Steve Murray for his help and guidance for so many years. He is very welcoming and supportive not only of our team but also of every person seeking the faith.

This is a beautiful process. If you get a chance to be a team member, a catechist or a sponsor, I highly recommend it. It truly is more blessed to give than to receive.

Support the **Respect Life Collection** of the **Diocese of Ogdensburg** in our parishes the weekend of **January 23-24**



Proceeds will be distributed through grants



to various North Country parishes, organizations, and programs for the support of a variety of respect life initiatives.

Thank you for your generosity toward this most special need.

Please continue to pray that all will recognize, honor and protect the precious gift of life.

[www.rcdony.org/pro-life](http://www.rcdony.org/pro-life)

# Mother Cabrini Shrine

The shrine has been a best kept secret because it is in the middle of nowhere. People come across the shrine and it just draws them in. The whole purpose, as it was years ago, is to bring all people closer to God.

Father Alan Shnob, pastor, St. Augustine's Church in Peru

By Michael Langlois  
Contributing writer

*"Give me your tired, your poor; Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free; The wretched refuse of your teeming shore; Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Seventy-five years before Emma Lazarus' words would be forever linked to the Statue of Liberty, a community of Irish immigrants in Peru, New York, was living America's future promise.

Devout Christian settlers sustained through farming and local mills, they were geographically isolated and sought their own place of worship.

St. Patrick's Church, a simple one-room, white clapboard-sided structure nestled beside Huckleberry Mountain and overlooking a picturesque Champlain Valley below, was the result of their toil.

"The church, at that time, was the center of the community," explained Father Alan Shnob, pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Peru. "The church was their life and Sunday was a day of worship."

In a century's time, the "mission" church with hum-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, PERU, NY.

The newly constructed Mother Cabrini Shrine (grotto) awaiting its formal dedication in 1947.

ble beginnings would become a beacon for future multi-cultural American generations. That's because the distinct paths of the Irish community, an Italian-born saint and a French carpenter would eventually converge on the rural church.

The roads close to St. Patrick's – Donohue, McGarr, Mannix, and Allen – have names that bear witness to the area's rich Irish history.

By the mid-1800s, the new Irish-Americans were well-settled on the former Elkanah Watson land patent (today's Patent Road).

Father John Rooney, a fiery priest from the First Roman Catholic Church in Plattsburgh (St. John's the Baptist), of whom it was said, "suited the wilderness far better than less emphatic characters," had championed the church's construction.

The "patent" parishioners continued to work the land or in the area's various iron, grist, or lumber mills. The young were married and raised a new generation of Americans; the old passed on the Irish traditions and, eventually, were consecrated to the church's modest cemetery.

## The fate of St. Patrick's

The fate of St. Patrick's was always tied to the direction given by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Although the flock of the patent church re-

mained steadfast, the shepherds to whom they followed did not. In 73 years – 1858 to 1931 – St. Patrick's became a mission church to the Keeseville, Cadyville and Peru parishes.

In 1931, Father Louis Brisson of St. Augustine's took over St. Patrick's from the Cadyville parish. For an unknown reason, he ordered St. Patrick's to be closed. It wasn't until 1939, after repeated pleas from the patent parishioners, that Bishop Joseph H. Conroy intervened in the matter.

Father Daniel Finnegan, an Oblate priest, assumed the administrative duties of St. Augustine's and Father Brisson was replaced as pastor with Father Arthur Trudel.

"There is great interest being shown in the restoration of this Church and a willingness on the part of many non-catholic as well as Catholics to help," wrote Father Finnegan to Bishop Conroy about St. Patrick's

reopening. "I can assure you that there will be no difficulty in securing money, material, and labor for the repairing of the Church."

In 1945, Father Harold McCabe was installed as pastor of St. Catherine's Church in Clintonville and St. Patrick's became his responsibility. Father McCabe, who like Father Rooney 100 years before him, had a profound reverence for the Irish immigrant influence at St. Patrick's.

In a short time, he would also become passionate in his devotion to an Italian-born woman soon-to-be canonized as America's first saint, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Father McCabe began a grassroots movement within the diocese to build a shrine to the newly canonized saint.

"He was a really excellent speaker," recalled Richard Duprey, who as a 12-year-old boy had known McCabe. "He was very, very good with people. He was very talkative and friendly. He could pretty much talk anybody into anything."

Duprey recalled that it was his uncle, Phillip Duprey, who played a critical role in making McCabe's dream for the shrine a reality.

Phillip Duprey was American born, but a second generation French-Canadian. Richard Duprey and his younger brother, also named Phillip, had worked with their uncle as he built the cobblestone grotto in summer, 1947.

"He was a master carpenter," recalled Duprey of his uncle. "He could cut every member of a house from a framing square. He's the only guy I ever knew who could do that."

"I suppose that it was like a calling to him and he was very dedicated to the church," added Duprey.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## About St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

**Maria Francesca Cabrini** was born on July 15, 1850 in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Lombardy, Italy, near the city of Milan. A frail woman, the Daughters of the Sacred Heart would not permit her to join their organization. In 1880, she proved resilient in spirit and founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Mother Cabrini, who had always hoped to perform missionary work in China, was instead urged by Pope Leo XIII to "go west, not east." In 1889, she set sail for America to help the thousands of desperate Italian immigrants there. By the time of her death in 1917, Maria Frances Cabrini had opened 67 schools, hospitals and orphanages in Europe, Central and South America and the United States. In 1946, she was canonized as Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini by Pope Pius XII and soon was known as the patron saint of immigrants.



# Mother Cabrini

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"There weren't too many people around who could plan (a job) and then do the work."

## The shrine's dedication

A history of St. Patrick's by Victoria Morey and Joyce Lucia Kolb compiled for the church's 150th anniversary recalled the following of the shrine's dedication ceremony:

"Under sunny skies at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 31, 1947, the shrine was blessed and dedicated by the Bishop of the Ogdensburg Diocese, Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart. Members of the Plattsburgh Council of the Knight of Columbus formed a guard of honor, and twenty Christian Brothers from Mount Assumption Institute formed the choir."

On Sept. 3, 1947, the Plattsburgh Press-Republican reported, "an estimated 2,000 persons from four states Sunday witnessed the dedication of the newly erected St. Frances Xavier Cabrini shrine at the "Patent at West Peru."

Bishop McEntegart remarked on the naturally beautiful setting of the shrine. He urged the crowd to emulate the country's only citizen saint to whose creed was, "To do not the possible, but the impossible."

For the next eight summers, thousands of Christian faithful arrived by busloads from as far away as Detroit, Michigan, and Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, to pay homage to Mother Cabrini. Regular church services were held throughout the week and McCabe hosted a Sunday Broadcast of the Mother Cabrini Hour on local radio station WEAV. Many visitors to the shrine claimed to have witnessed miracles at this time.

"It was very busy for the first few years," recalled Duprey. "But then, like everywhere else across America, people stopped going to church."

Phillip Duprey went on to



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LANGLOIS  
St. Patrick's Church as it appears today.

build the 14 stone stations of the cross adjacent to the original Mother Cabrini grotto. Father McCabe remained director of the shrine's seasonal operation until his transfer to St. Cecilia's Church in Adams in 1955.

In 1961, St. Patrick's was transferred back to St. Augustine's under Father Arthur J. Trudel. Father Shnob became St. Augustine's pastor in 2005. Recently, a group of volunteers built an Adirondack style wood pavilion to protect the stone grotto from the elements. And generous benefactors have donated land substantially expanding the church's property.

In its 175th year, St. Patrick's doesn't get the crowds it once did. It's mostly local people seeking quiet meditation or the occasional out of town visitor who stops for curiosity more than devotion.

A walk along the church's grounds reveals Italian, French, Turkish and German heritages in the predominately Irish cemetery.

It is a testament to how St. Patrick's is as relevant today as when it was first built, says Father Shnob.

"At this time in history, we have a question of immigrants (in our country)," he said. "We can't let terrorists in, but families (we should). Canada will let woman and children (immigrants) into the country, but not men. That is inhumane."

"Whether people know it or not, everybody is on a journey," he added. "The shrine has been a best kept secret because it is in the middle of nowhere."

"People come across the shrine and it just draws them in. The whole purpose, as it was years ago, is to bring all people closer to God," Father Shnob said.

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

April 5 - 17, 2016

Rome • Venice • Florence  
Siena • Assisi • Orvieto

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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.

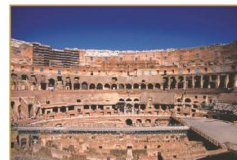


A Holy Year offers unique opportunities for spiritual growth. This Holy Year Pilgrimage to Italy promises to be a time for prayer, an increase in faith, and a whole lot of enjoyment for all the pilgrims. The frosting on the cake: gaining the plenary indulgence associated with such a pilgrimage during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



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[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org) for more information

## VATICAN LETTER

# Politics of mercy

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Italian comedian talking about a new Pope Francis book was not joking when he said being a minister of God's mercy can have social and political implications.

## Pope knows 'welcoming the stranger' is controversial

The corporal works of mercy of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked might not be controversial, but they are socially relevant actions.

None of the corporal works, though, is as politically charged in the West today as "welcoming the stranger," particularly if that stranger is a Muslim.

"We are called to serve Christ the crucified through every marginalized person," Pope Francis said in the new book, "The Name of God Is Mercy." "We touch the flesh of Christ in he who is out-cast, hungry, thirsty, naked, imprisoned, ill, unemployed, persecuted, in search of refuge," the pope continued. "That is where we find our God, that is where we touch our Lord."

The U.N. Refugee Agency reported last June that at the end of 2014, the number of people forcibly displaced because of persecution, conflict and violence reached the highest number ever recorded; it had grown to "a staggering 59.5 million compared to 51.2 million a year earlier and 37.5 million a decade ago." The U.N. estimated the number had surpassed 60 million by the end of 2015.

The chief cause of the increase was the conflict in Syria, a conflict that is ongoing and continues to send people fleeing.



CNS PHOTO/STEPHANIE LECOCO, EPA

A refugee drinks tea in front of his tent in the refugee camp in the coastal town of Grande-Synthe near Dunkirk, France, Jan. 10.

In 2015, the U.N. reported, 244 million people, or 3.3 percent of the world's population, lived outside their country of origin.

The plight of migrants and refugees has been at the heart of Pope Francis' concern as pope. Soon after his election in 2013, he went to the Italian island of Lampedusa to pray for migrants who had drowned attempting to reach Europe and to meet those who made it safely and those who have welcomed them.

Meeting Jan. 11 with ambassadors representing their nations at the Vatican, the pope made his concern for migrants and migration the key focus of his speech.

While acknowledging the social and political challenges that come with welcoming migrants, Pope Francis insisted on the human and religious obligation to care for those forced to flee in search of safety or a dignified life.

The pope's concern for refugees is not just talk.

In September, the Vatican's St. Anne parish welcomed a family of four from Damascus, Syria, providing

an apartment, food and other assistance because under Italian law, asylum seekers are not allowed to work for the first six months they are in the country.

The parish of St. Peter's Basilica is hosting Eritrean refugees. A woman, whose husband is missing, gave birth to her fifth child shortly after arriving in Rome. She, the newborn and two of her other children are living in a Vatican apartment; she hopes soon to embrace her other two children, who are now in a refugee camp in awaiting the completion of family reunification procedures. In the meantime, the woman is hosting another Eritrean woman and her child in the apartment.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican observer at U.N. agencies in Geneva, said the corporal work of mercy of welcoming strangers is "very political" and people's fears are natural. "It's something unavoidable that when you come into contact with the unknown, you are frightened."

"When we are detached,

when we don't know them, we fear them and they fear us. The first reaction is suspicion," he said. To overcome fear and fulfill the Christian obligation of welcome and care, "the first step is to get to know each other."

Setting aside policies and procedures for determining how many refugees to accept, from where and how to vet them, Archbishop Tomasi said governments and politicians must pay greater attention to concrete steps for integrating newcomers. "That is what determines how people will react."

"We must say to migrants, 'You are in need. You are welcome here. We will give you housing, education, security. But there are values you must accept: the separation of religion and politics; respect and equality for women; respect for differences,'" he said.

In Europe and North America, integration is not adequately addressed, the archbishop said, "so it leaves room for misunderstanding, fear and is a way of justifying the rejection of

persons who have a right to protection."

Speaking to the diplomats at the Vatican, Pope Francis said an exaggerated concern for oneself leads to indifference toward others and, worse, to "fear and cynicism."

But those forced to flee their homelands are the ones who have the most legitimate fears: Will they and their families survive? Which borders will be open to them? Will they be accepted? Will someone reach out a helping hand as they try to re-establish themselves?

Pope Francis insisted that people are the "paramount value to be cared for and respected." A lack of concern for migrants, he said, stems from the same sense of self-preoccupation and fear of change that views some human beings as "not yet useful" -- like the unborn -- or "no longer needed" -- like the elderly."

Welcoming the stranger is not always easy, the pope said. "The massive number of arrivals on the shores of Europe," for example, "appears to be overburdening the system of reception painstakingly building on the ashes of the Second World War."

In addition, large numbers of newcomers with a different culture and religious tradition leads to obvious questions about respecting differences while preserving a nation's traditional cultural and religious values.

"Equally significant," he said, "are fears about security, further exacerbated by the growing threat of international terrorism."

Politically, Pope Francis said, nations must "find the right balance" between two serious and binding obligations: protecting the rights and safety of one's citizens and ensuring assistance to and acceptance of migrants.

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Profile of a refugee: Former Colombian journalist, now deacon

**QUEBEC CITY (CNS)** -- A well-known personality in Colombia, he fled to Canada to stay alive. Uprooted, new to the French language, he lived in precariousness in Quebec City, drawing strength to live from his family and his faith. Now he is in charge of the Latino community of the Archdiocese of Quebec. Here is the exceptional story of a refugee. Deacon Arismendy Lozada glanced at his cellphone. News alerts flashed on his screen, alternating among soccer, religion and politics. From his office in Saint-Mathieu's rectory in the Sainte-Foy borough of Quebec City, he still follows the feats of Bogota's Santafecio soccer club. However, the ever-present news about Canada's plan to welcome 25,000 Syrian refugees made him pensive. "We come with a luggage full of dreams. When the plane touches down, everything is wonderful," he said, thinking about refugees now arriving on Canadian soil. He knows what he is talking about: In order to stay alive, he fled Colombia in 2003 and ended up in Canada. If he could speak with every single Syrian refugee, he would say: "Stay hopeful, stay faithful." Born in the 1960s in the Colombian department of Caqueta, he grew up to become a respected journalist, writing and doing some radio and television. Known for his social sensitivity, he was elected journalist-of-the-year by his association in 1989. But his life took an unexpected turn when, hospitalized, a blood transfusion left him with hepatitis C. Cirrhosis almost killed him. "When we face death, we start to question ourselves," he said.

## New six-part video series on creation available on disc and online

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** -- God may have needed just six days to make all of creation, but for the new video series "Creation," well, it took a bit longer. Salt and Light Media started working on the project in 2010, according to Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann, the producer and host of "Creation," a six-part series. "We shot the pilot in 2011, and started working on the next two" episodes in the series. And then came word that Pope Francis was writing an encyclical on the environment, which turned out to be "Laudato Si'," issued last June. "We thought, 'Can we time it?'," Deacon Guevara-Mann told Catholic News Service from Salt and Light's studios in Toronto, noting the Canadian Catholic cable channel wanted to be able to have its episodes coincide with the encyclical's release. "When we found out it was coming out in June, we said, basically, let's put the pedal to the metal. But we were able to have only the first three done." But "Laudato Si'" proved to be a great boost for interest in "Creation," the deacon said. The initial three episodes premiered in June to dovetail with the encyclical. "We cracked down on the last three last year," he added, which allowed Salt and Light to present them in late November and early December, as the world's gaze was shifting to the world climate summit in Paris. "Creation" highlights stories from all over North America focused on Catholic environmental principles, drawing attention to such issues as waste management, species conservation, urban and local farming, water shortages, contamination and wastewater treatment. Individual episodes can be seen at <http://saltandlighttv.org/creation>.

# Pro-life advocates shift movement's approach in current abortion climate

By Jessica Trygstad  
Catholic News Service

**ST. PAUL, MINN. (CNS)** -- As a mother of six, Leah Jacobson is watching other parents try to raise children in a society that no longer supports sisterhood among mothers.

And that's a shame, said the founder and president of The Guiding Star Project, a Duluth-based organization seeking to combine under one roof a variety of holistic health care services for women and families.

"If we stop duplicating services and start using donor dollars to share space ... we can save thousands and thousands of dollars that can be directed to services" and better compete with Planned Parenthood through brand power, said Jacobson, 34, a parishioner at St. Joseph in Crosby in the Diocese of Duluth.

"This is so much bigger than abortion. This is about supporting motherhood," she told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Forty-three years into legalized abortion in the United States - the Supreme Court's landmark decision of Jan. 22, 1973 - pro-life advocates say their mission to save babies is broader than preventing abortions. These same advocates from several Minnesota-based organizations have been working to change how pregnancy resource centers operate in the advent of smartphones and other technology, which have created new ways women seek information and obtain abortions.

Pregnancy resource centers want to be clear that they strive to serve women with authenticity and sincerity because they care about them and their situations, said Sarah Mealey, a market-

ing and strategic planning consultant who helped streamline a merger of two established Twin Cities pro-life pregnancy resource centers to form Abria Pregnancy Resources last fall.

"And in the process, we hope and pray that she chooses life," Mealey said. "When you respect somebody's intellect and free will, you come at it very much less about 'we're right, you're wrong' and more about 'we actually care about you (regardless of your circumstances)'. We see and respect the human person."

Focusing on a woman's or family's needs during an unexpected pregnancy or other volatile time allows pregnancy resource centers to earn trust and build relationships. What's most important, advocates say, is that this is done tangibly and not merely through a mission statement.

Mealey acknowledged that while some affiliates of the pro-life movement might prevent abortions through shock or shame, advocates are asking, "At what cost?"

"We want these young women not only to choose life, but also to be effective, strong parents, or to choose adoption," said Mealey, who serves on Abria's board and is a parishioner of Holy Family in St. Louis Park. "A lot of these women don't understand the inestimable worth of their own soul, and so they can't possibly understand the inestimable worth of their child's soul."

Mealey said Abria's biggest challenge is reaching millennials (commonly defined as those born between 1980 and 2000) who are highly engaged through mobile devices and also are most likely to have an abortion. That's why Abria's website is mobile-friendly, and staff members are capable of providing information via online chat

and texting.

And while they've seen success evident in abortion numbers declining longitudinally nationwide, pregnancy resource centers have determined they can propel that trend by reaching people before they're in a crisis situation by starting important conversations about dignity, fertility and sexual health with adolescents.

Today, abortion's implications are magnified when women are able to initiate a chemical abortion in the privacy of their homes using the oral pill RU-486. That, too, is where pregnancy resource centers have a place, Mealey said.

"It's one thing to go in and have a very sterile 'medical procedure' done by a doctor and a nurse, and then it's over and you don't see the consequences," she said. "It's another to take two pills in your own home, go through the pain, go through labor, and then take the nascent life that is now dead and flush it away -- literally -- in your own bathroom."

Mealey noted that Abria wants to add RU-486 reversals to its medical services.

As certified life coaches with Pregnancy Choices in Apple Valley, Kristin Wermus and Kearston Lazaretti have a goal to change the conversation with women who are "abortion vulnerable or determined."

Most women who walk through their doors seeking a variety of free services are between ages 20 and 24 and want to take a pregnancy test. Upon the result, Wermus, Lazaretti and the center's other life coach, who's bilingual, become partners accompanying the women through an eight-week process, providing them "the right tools," such as connecting them to the values they've defined for themselves.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Treasure of hope found in Sunday's readings

After much prayer and guidance from the Holy Spirit, Pope Francis has wisely designated this year of 2016, a Holy Year of Mercy.

We, too, must open our ears and hearts to the Holy Spirit as we ponder the Scriptures each week.

There we will find food for bolstering our hope in a world that seems so deaf to God's urging us to care for one another, especially refugees and all who need security and respect.

Fortunately, there is a treasure of hope in this Sunday's readings, beginning with Nehemiah, appointed

by King Artaxerxes to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, which lay in ruins following the exile.

The spirits of the people also needed rebuilding, so Ezra, the priest, dusts off the neglected scrolls of the law, and calls all the people together, even children who are old enough to understand.

From morning to night, Ezra reads to them the Law. Most had neglected its precepts for years.

As they hear it read and explained by Ezra, they begin to weep tears of joy and of sorrow.

After recommitting their

lives to the Lord, they express their joy with days of feasting.

Today's Gospel describes an even greater reason for hope.

As Jesus formally begins his mission on earth, he starts with Capharnaum in Galilee. There, in the synagogue on a Sabbath, he reads to the people from the passage in Isaiah which proclaims the coming messianic age.

In a voice filled with the fire of the Spirit, he announces to them Isaiah's prophecy of a coming messiah who will bring relief to the poor, liberty for captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom for the oppressed.

Then, handing the scroll



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

Jan. 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
READINGSNehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
1 Corinthians 12:12-30  
Luk 3 1:1-4; 4:14-21

to an attendant, he proclaims to all present, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing".

These words are the core of Jesus' message to both the people of His day and of our times! Talk about a reason to hope!

In today's second reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians, we find a blueprint for acting on the two readings we have heard.

"As a body is one though it has many parts...so also Christ...You are Christ's Body, and individually parts of it."

St. Paul tells us that some parts are more important than others, but each part depends on the other parts. We must each support one another in love..

Just a few weeks ago, our Holy Father has published a new book called "God's Name is Mercy". Just as an essential aspect of God is His Mercy, so, too must we treat one another with understanding, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy.

Our Holy Father is setting the tone for the whole of society in this year of 2016, the Year of Mercy...and Hope.

## THE HOLY LONGING

## Living, but forever being 'ahead of our souls'

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI  
NCC columnist

Sometimes nothing is as helpful as a good metaphor.

In his book, *The God Instinct*, Tom Stella shares this story: A number of men who made their living as porters were hired one day to carry a huge load of supplies for a group on safari. Their loads were unusually heavy and the trek through the jungle was on a rough path. Several days into the journey they stopped, unshouldered their loads, and refused to go on. No pleas, bribes, or threats, worked in terms of persuading them to go on. Asked why they couldn't continue, they answered: "We can't go on; we have to wait for our souls to catch up with us."

That happens to us too in life, except mostly we never wait for our souls to catch up. We continue on without them, sometimes for years.

What's meant by this? Mostly it means that we struggle to be in the present moment, to be inside our own skins, to be aware of the richness of our own experience. Mostly our experiences aren't very soulful because we aren't very present to them. For example:

For the past twenty years, I've kept a journal, a diary of sorts. My intent in keeping this journal is to record the deeper things that I'm aware throughout each day; but mostly what I end up actually writing down is a simple chronology of my day, a daybook, a bare, no-frills, recounting of what I did from hour to hour.

My diaries don't much resemble Anne Frank's

diary, Dag Hammarskjöld's, *Markings*, Etty Hillesum's, *An Interrupted Life*, or Henri Nouwen's, *Genesee Diary*. My journals resemble more what you might get from a schoolboy describing his day at school, a simple chronology of what happened.

**Most of us, I suspect, live most of our days  
not very aware of how rich our lives are,  
forever leaving our souls behind**

Yet when I go back and read an account of what I did each day, I'm always amazed as how rich and full life was on those days, except that I wasn't much aware of it at the time. While actually living through those days, mostly I was struggling to get my work done, to stay healthy, to meet expectations, to carve out some moments of friendship and recreation amidst the pressures of the day, and to get to bed at a reasonable hour. There wasn't a lot of soul there, just a lot of routine, work, and hurry.

I suspect that this is not atypical. Most of us, I suspect, live most of our days not very aware of how rich our lives are, forever leaving our souls behind.

For example, many is the woman who gives ten to fifteen years of her life to bearing and raising children, with all that entails, tending constantly to someone else's needs, getting up at night to nurse a child, spending 24 hours a day on constant alert, sacrificing all leisure time, and put-

ting a career and personal creativity on hold. And yet too often that same woman, later on, looks back on those years and wishes she could relive them – but, now, in a more soulful way, more deliberately aware of how wonderful and privileged it is to do precisely those things she did with so much dram and tiredness.

Years later, looking back, she sees how rich and precious her experience was and how, because of the burden and stress, how little her soul was present then to what she was actually undergoing.

This can be multiplied with a thousand examples: We've all read accounts wherein someone shares what he or she would do differently if he or she had life to live over again. Mostly these stories rework the same motif: Given another chance, I would try to enjoy it more the next time, that is, I would try to keep my soul more-present and more-aware.

For most of us, I fear, our souls will only catch up with us when, finally, we are in a retirement home, with diminished health, energy, and opportunity to work. It seems we need to first lose something before we fully appreciate it.

We tend to take life, health, energy, and work for granted, until they are taken away from us. Only after the fact do we realize how rich our life has been and how little of those riches we drank in at the time.

Our souls eventually do catch up with us, but it would be good if we didn't wait until we were in the retirement home for this to happen.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## AT THE MOVIES

# NORM OF THE NORTH

By Joseph McAleer  
Catholic News Service

A wisecracking polar bear ventures south to save his home environment from destruction in "Norm of the North" (Lionsgate).

Though suitable for all ages, this animated comedy is unlikely to make much of an impression - either on targeted kids or on the long-suffering adults who accompany them.

Still, while it's certainly not in the Disney/Pixar league, and relies too heavily on scatological jokes to win cheap laughs, first-time director Trevor Wall's film does deserve some recognition for incorporating positive messages about family and friendship.

The eponymous creature (voice of Rob Schneider) suffers from a kind of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" syndrome: He just doesn't fit in with his ursine peers. He dislikes hunting seals for dinner, and would rather disco dance than growl at the gawking tourists on visiting cruise ships.

"I put the soul into solstice," he brags, twirling in the snow.

Norm is different in another way: He can "talk human," a gift shared only by his Grandpa (voice of Colm Meaney), the species' former sovereign.

"Polar bears are the icons of the north," Grandpa intones. "An icon with a voice can be very powerful indeed."

Norm learns that lesson for himself when a maniacal developer named Mr. Greene (voice of Ken Jeong) decides to build luxury houses on the polar ice shelf, threatening the ecosystem and the bears' way of life. Greene's assistant, Vera (voice of Heather Graham), is a reluctant participant in his scheme.

The mogul must be stopped at the source, and only a bear able to speak the lingo can do the job. Since Grandpa has mysteriously vanished, Norm is persuaded by the resident sage, a seagull named Socrates (voice of Bill Nighy), to hitch a ride to

Manhattan and visit Mr. Greene's high-rise headquarters.

He's accompanied by a trio of lemmings, the Arctic's smallest creatures. Like Scrat, the saber-toothed squirrel in the "Ice Age" films, these voiceless but cuddly stooges get into all sorts of mischief. In a misguided bid for giggles, they also relieve themselves in public as frequently as possible. Having reached the Big Apple, Norm makes an ally of Vera and of her precocious daughter, Olympia (voice of Maya Kay). Young Olympia heavy-handedly schools the bear -- and thus the audience -- in the wickedness of corporate greed and its impact on our fragile planet.

Overall, "Norm of the North" is silly and rather tedious. Yet, in less time than it takes the picture's protagonist to shout, "Holy icicle!" all memory of the movie will probably have dissipated -- like a morning mist over frozen tundra.

The film contains mild cartoonish violence, some



CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE

Norm, voiced by Rob Schneider, and other animated characters, appear in the movie "Norm of the North."

bathroom humor, and a bit of adult wordplay.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Pic-

ture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

## ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/WEINSTEIN

Kurt Russell, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Bruce Dern star in a scene from the movie "The Hateful Eight." 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.

## Living

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Like the porters who dropped their loads and stopped, we need regularly to stop and wait for our souls to catch up.

Early on in his priesthood, when Pope Francis was in charge of school, he would at a certain point each day have the public address system cut in and interrupt the work that was going on in each classroom with this announcement: Be grateful. Set your horizon. Take stock of your day.

We all need, regularly, to lay down our burdens for a minute so our souls can catch up with us.

*Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website [www.rolheiser.com](http://www.rolheiser.com). Now on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser](http://www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser)*



## ADIRONDACK

## 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 contact Karen Smith at 566-6229 or karen.smith2028@gmail.com or Betty Buffett at (518) 536-6640.

## BLESSSED SACRAMENT ADORATION

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

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church

## 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

## FRANKLIN

## FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

**Malone** – A Family Guggenheim Winter Event has been planned

**Date:** Feb. 13

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Family School

**Cost:** \$10, includes lunch

**Features:** Fun, food, and prayer. Connect with old friends, meet new friends

**Contact:** Please RSVP by contacting Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org, or (315) 393-2920.

## 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

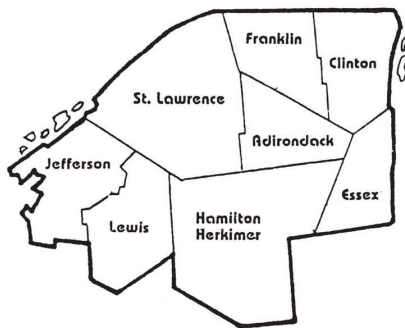
**Watertown** – The Altar Rosary Society will be having a spaghetti supper.

**Date:** Jan. 28

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7

**Place:** St. Anthony's Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children, \$4.50; under



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.

3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

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

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** – Bereavement meeting to be held with speaker Toby Schilling

**Date:** Jan. 25

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse

## SECULAR FRANCISCANS MEETING

**Watertown** – The St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity of the 3rd Order of Secular Franciscans meetings are set

**Date:** last Sunday of the month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** McCarthy Hall, Holy Family Parish

## 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:** Refreshments to follow at First Presbyterian Church

**Contact:** Fran at 315-686-3050

## 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 srbethssj@gmail.com

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

**Watertown** – Holy Hour for vocations

**Date:** Mon.-Fri.

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

**Place:** Holy Family Church

## 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

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** Feb. 7

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** Evening Prayer, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

**Contact:** 348-6260.

## 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 for high school students 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

## 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

## IMPACT NIGHTS

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

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

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

## ST. LAWRENCE

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Canton** – The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a pancake breakfast to help support St. Mary's School.

**Date:** Jan. 31

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's School Gym

**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 5 and under, free; Family of 4 or more, \$20

## FAMILY GUGGENHEIM

**Gouverneur** – A Family Guggenheim Winter Event has been planned

**Date:** Feb. 27

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. James School

**Cost:** \$10, includes lunch

**Features:** Fun, food, and prayer. Connect with old friends, meet new friends

**Contact:** Please RSVP by contacting Steve Tartaglia at startaglia@rcdony.org, or (315) 393-2920.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 10

**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

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

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

## 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

## LENTE DAY OF REFLECTION

**Ogdensburg** – A Lenten Day of Prayer & Reflection for all involved in charitable apostolates in the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been planned.

**Date:** March 8

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2:30

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Program:** The presenters will be Deacon Mark and Theresa Bennett of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh and Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Donna Franklin, D.C.

The day will consist of a morning and an afternoon conference. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Terry LaValley at 11:30 am. Lunch will follow. This day is open to all who are involved in the charitable works of our parishes and local communities. Members of the Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Project Gabriel, Catholic Daughters of America, Soup Kitchens, Food Pantries, Visiting Nurses, etc. are invited and encouraged to be part of this day.

**Registration:** There is no fee for the day, but participants are asked to complete the registration form available from pastors or the online registration at [www.rcdony.org/lenten](http://www.rcdony.org/lenten) by March 1.

## DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

**Dates:** Jan. 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

@stmrypatrik.net, 315-265-9680;

Father Douglas Lucia,

frdoug@twcny.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@rcdony.org

# Pauline Jaricot: ‘The match that lit the fire’

As we mark the anniversary of the death of the foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Venerable Pauline Jaricot, we recall and share the lessons of her life.

Commitment to mission every day. For Pauline, mission was not reserved for certain moments, but for every day. The “circles” of workers in her family’s silk factory pledged daily prayer and regular sacrifice.

Each day, may we offer a prayer for those who serve in mission churches across the world, and for the poor and vulnerable who hear their message about the “hope that saves”!

A vision of the whole world. Pauline felt strongly that help offered to the Missions of her day should be universal – that no one be forgotten.

And when the Society for the Propagation of the Faith was formally established on May 3, 1822, that same vision prevailed – prayer and sacrifice for the world’s Missions.

Live in love. As a young woman, Pauline expressed the desire to “love without measure, without end.”

Whether it was her work for the Missions, or for the sick or the poor, love motivated the actions of Pauline Jaricot. Indeed at the heart of the mission vocation is the commandment to love.

Our love should pour forth into the community, extending beyond ourselves, to those faraway places, where nobody is watching, where the vulnerable are forgotten, and the poor are often abandoned.

That’s where the missionary will be. And that’s where, through the Pontifical Mission Societies, each of us can be – through daily prayers and regular sacrifices.

May our own efforts for the Missions continue to reflect the generous missionary heart of Pauline Jaricot!



Pauline Jaricot

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

## OBITUARIES

**Adams** – Gertrude A. (Doyle) LaRock, 69; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2016 at the Piddock Funeral Home; burial in Lorraine Cemetery.

**Altona** – Marjorie J. “Betty” Cornea-Stansbury 75; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2016 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Black River** – William J. Cleaver, 71; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2016 at the Bruce Funeral Home; burial in Felts Mills Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – Marie Ann (Nolan) Seares, 78; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Brushton** – Mary Grace (Williams) Rabideau, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 19, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

**Chazy** – Betty P. (Harvey) Pombrio, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church.

**Croghan** – Viola “Vi” M. (Pate) Dutton, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2016 at St. Stephen’s Church; burial in St. Stephen’s Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Milton “Josh” Bulriss, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2016 at St. Edmund’s Church; burial St. Edmund’s Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Charles C. LaFountain, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 21, 2016 at St. Mary’s Church.

**Keeseville** – Mable A. “Cookie” (Perrotte) Fredenburg, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2016 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lowville** – Clara E. (Augustyn) Kovacs, 98; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2016 at St. Peter’s Church; burial in St. Peter’s Cemetery, New Brehman.

**Lyon Mountain** – Alexander M. “Chick” Kourofsky, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2016 at St. Bernard’s Church.

**Malone** – Real Pomainville, 80; Funeral

Services Jan. 16, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Lucille M. (Bourdeau) Burnham, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 11, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Leanore A. “Sissy” Love; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2016 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Moosers** – Donald R. Rabideau, 81; Funeral Jan. 15, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Moosers Forks** – Marjorie M. (Beger) Hemingway, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2016 at St. Ann’s Church

**Ogdensburg** – Randy Crosby, 55; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Carl E. LaPierre, 83; Funeral

Jan. 11, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Ingraham Cemetery.

**Rouses Point** – Emma M. (Pinsonneault) Favreau, 96; Funeral Services Jan. 16, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Church; burial Maple Hill Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Robert H. McLroy, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in St. Mary’s Cemetery, Evans Mills

**Watertown** – Doris “Casey” Wilder Shortt, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 15, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church.

**West Chazy** – Elizabeth A. (Noonan) Favreau, 76; Funeral Services Jan. 13, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church; burial in Point au Roche Cemetery.

**West Chazy** – Shirley Mae (Coon) Breen Gimber, 76; Funeral Services Jan. 12, 2016 at St. Joseph’s Church.

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\*Hosted by Holly Middleton\*

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# Volunteering: 'it keeps me going'

By Melissa Howard  
Contributing writer

TUPPERLAKE—Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg hosts two volunteer programs that may interest older Catholics in the North Country: The Foster Grandparent Program and The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federally funded agency that has built volunteer based programs over 50 years and counting. Two of these programs are right in our backyard.

The purpose of the Foster Grandparent Program of Northern New York is to provide opportunities for low income persons aged 55 and older, to provide person to person services in health, education, and the welfare of children ages 21 and below.

Foster Grandparents are placed in a classroom setting with a child or children who are in need of emotional support, development of basic



Gert Roberts from Tupper Lake is one of 40 volunteers of the Foster Grandparent program sponsored by Catholic Charities. She regularly reads to children in the library. More volunteers are welcome for the Foster Grandparent program as well as for RSVP, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

learning skills, to provide friendship, companionship, encouragement, individual attention, and unhurried help.

The Foster Grandparent also receives a small non-taxable stipend bi-weekly that cannot be held against any current benefits they may college. Mileage expenses are

also covered and participants receive paid holidays, vacations, sick and personal leave.

The program currently has 40 volunteers and serves more than 100 children per year.

"Sometimes when you get to be my age, you wake up and say what good am I" said

that late Roy Foote at the age of 83. "Along came the Foster Grandparent Program that keeps me going!"

RSVP

The purpose of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Franklin County is to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for older Americans. RSVP volunteers provide

service to those that prove to be in need throughout Franklin County.

The volunteer hours served will help not only the people served but their families as well. Volunteer hours will encourage healthy living and independence and help to combat loneliness and depression, and give the youth of our community an upper hand in education.

This goal will be accomplished by placing volunteers with homebound and hard to reach elders/and or children by providing friendly visiting, running errands, medical transport, delivering meals, friendship and assisting children with reading and tutoring. Reimbursement for travel is provided

Further information about volunteering in either of these program is available at the Tupper Lake Catholic Charities office at 518-359-7688. Vivian Smith, program director; Melissa Howard, volunteer coordinator; or Claudine Dailey, program assistant, staff the office.

## Local teens take part in nat'l youth conference

By Christine Woodley  
Contributing writer

Seven members of St. Mary's and St. John's Youth

Group of Clayton headed by Christine Woodley and Tim Orvis along with seven members of the Catholic Communities of Cape Vincent, Rosiere, and Chaumont

headed by Sharon Turner had the opportunity to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis Nov. 19-22.

Each day began and ended with general sessions in the Lucas Oil Stadium with keynote speakers and inspirational interactive music.

During the day, the teens and adults chose from a vast variety of activities including workshops on various topics, opportunities to meet with bishops and ask questions, visiting booths of various vendors ranging from music to information on vocations, and making confession.

The youth and adults mingled and exchanged hats and pins with 23,000 other youth from all 50 states.

The conference ended with an anticipated Mass with a

procession of approximately 200 deacons, seminarians, priests, and bishops.

**I love going there because everyone is so joyful and happy and expresses the love of God**

Two girls from Clayton shared their reaction to the experience:

"The reason I went to NCYC was because when I went two years ago I wanted to go again because I loved the experience," said Claire Sheley. "I love going there because everyone is so joyful and happy and expresses the love of God. I wish I could be more like that but living here sometimes not everyone understands God and my love for church.

"My favorite part about going to NCYC was the music, especially Matt Maher," Claire said. "Also I loved going to confession. I didn't really know what I was doing but it's OK because the priest helped me. It felt so good to be cleansed of all my sins after and go to the prayer room and pray after."

"I hope to spread the love of God throughout church and attend church more often," she said.

Hannah Woodley said, "My NCYC experience was incredible. I had so much fun with three of my closest friends and really got a lot out of it."

"The adoration was my favorite part because it was so silent and you could really feel the Holy Spirit over everyone there," she said. "It is a great experience for anyone."

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