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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 27

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 16 2016

## Christians called to restore dignity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Visiting the sick and the imprisoned are works of mercy that not only benefit the suffering and the abandoned, but benefit the visitors who are enriched by being with those who suffer like Christ, Pope Francis said.

While the works of mercy are ancient, they still are rel-

evant today for those who are deprived of freedom and "suffer one of the greatest hardships of human beings," the pope said Nov. 9 at his weekly general audience.

When the living conditions "often devoid of humanity" in which many prisoners are housed are added to the

equation, "then it is indeed the case that a Christian should feel the need to do everything to restore their dignity," he said.

Continuing his series of talks on the works of mercy, Pope Francis began with visiting the sick and highlighted Jesus' ministry as an exam-

ple of the Christian duty to be close to them, especially since "they often feel alone."

Simple gestures such as smiling, caressing or shaking their hand, he added, can go a long way for those who feel abandoned.

"Do not leave sick people alone!" he said.

## PRAYERS FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

### Vatican sends congratulations



**TRUMP  
PENCE**  
New York, New York

CNS PHOTO/SHAWN THEWE, EPA  
President-elect Donald Trump delivers his acceptance speech at the New York Hilton Midtown in Manhattan in the early morning hours Nov. 9. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, spoke about the election early Nov. 9 during a meeting at Rome's Pontifical Lateran University. "We send our best wishes to the new president that his administration may truly be fruitful," the cardinal said. "And we also assure him of our prayers that the Lord would enlighten and sustain him in his service to his country naturally, but also in serving the wellbeing and peace of the world."

## Reaching out to the clergy abuse victims

As the Jubilee Year of Mercy is set to conclude Nov. 20, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has again extended an apology and helping hand to the victims of clergy sexual abuse.

"This year of mercy has focused us on our sinfulness and the need for God's mercy. The sin and scandal of clergy sexual abuse still wounds us and causes us pain," Bishop LaValley said.

"The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us that we are all sinners and that our sins cause harm," the bishop said.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## God's Mercy in God's Country

Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless

and more in Massena  
FULL STORY, PAGES 8-9

## IN SUPPORT OF VOCATIONS



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK  
Rhonda Gruenewald of Houston addressed about 100 Catholics from across the diocese at the "Hundredfold" vocation workshop held Nov. 5 in Norfolk. Story and photos, pages 4-5

**YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICES:** Innocents are remembered on college campus, p. 16

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## The concrete love in our midst

With the close of the Ju-  
bilee Year of Mercy this Sun-  
day, the NCC is  
concluding its series  
"God's Mercy in God's  
Country."

It's fitting that, in  
this issue, we focus  
on the St. Vincent de  
Paul Society in  
Massena where so  
many corporal and  
spiritual works of  
mercy are lived out  
day after day, year  
after year.

Since the beginning  
of September when we fea-  
tured the soup kitchen at St.

Peter's in Plattsburgh, the  
merciful work of faith-filled  
Catholics across our  
diocese has been  
showcased in the  
*North Country  
Catholic*.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

You have been able  
to read how our  
neighbors are caring  
for the sick, visiting  
prisons, giving alms  
to the poor and bury-  
ing the dead,

And, we know that  
we have barely  
scratched the surface  
of all that's happening in our  
midst, in the name of God.

This past week, Pope Fran-  
cis offered one of his count-  
less reflections on works of  
mercy since he launched the  
jubilee year last December.

During one of his morning  
Masses he reminded us "A  
Christian who professes to  
love but does nothing con-  
crete to demonstrate that  
love has turned one of the  
central teachings of faith into  
an abstraction."

"A love that does not take  
flesh like Jesus took flesh," is  
not the love that God com-  
mands us to have," Pope  
Francis said.

He continued: "The truth of

Jesus' earthly, incarnate life  
means that love lived in his  
name also must be concrete.  
Love like Jesus loved. Love  
like Jesus taught us. Love fol-  
lowing the example of Jesus.  
Love, walking the path of  
Jesus. The path of Jesus is  
giving one's life."

There's no question that  
the love lived out in the soup  
kitchens and food pantries  
and prisons of northern New  
York is as concrete as it gets.

And there's no question  
that these works of mercy  
will go on long after the Ju-  
bilee Year of Mercy is a dis-  
tant memory.

## A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

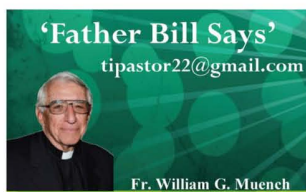
## Moving forward with love and patience

Lately, I have been rereading  
and studying "Amoris Laetitia."  
I hope you remember what I  
am talking about. You see I am  
worried that this magnificent  
document from Pope Francis is  
being put away on a bookshelf  
too quickly.

As I hope you remember,  
"Amoris Laetitia," means "The  
Joy of Love" and is an Apos-  
tolic Exhortation, written by  
Pope Francis. This document  
summarizes the presentations  
and the discussions of the two  
sessions of the Special Synod  
on Marriage and Family Life  
(2015 – 2016). Pope Francis  
carefully gives us the Synod's  
message.

I am thinking that this would  
be a wonderful time to look  
again Pope Francis' message.  
Advent and Christmas is a  
good time to consider family  
and "The Joy of Love" – Amoris  
Laetitia.

One of the chapter titles in  
this document is "Love in Mar-  
riage." This chapter not only  
considers marriage but also  
family life. Pope Francis begin  
this chapter with St. Paul's ode  
to love from St. Paul's First  
Epistle to the Corinthians 13:4-  
7. I am certain you remember  
this passage. It is often read at  
weddings. Love is patient,



kind, not jealous, not irritable,  
bears all things, believes all  
things, hopes all things, en-  
dures all things. What an ex-  
cellent meditation for this time  
of year.

Let us begin today with "Love  
is Patient." Pope Francis begins  
by reminding us that God is  
our perfect model of love, es-  
pecially that God's love is pa-  
tient. We are called to imitate  
our God's patient love within  
the life of our families.

God demonstrates this pa-  
tience in his love toward all of  
us – for God loves us even in  
our sinfulness, even in our fail-  
ings. God's love for us is un-  
conditional – no matter what  
we may do. Our God never  
give up on us. In this chapter,  
Pope Francis reminds us that  
the Old Testament tells us that  
"God is slow to anger."

As Christians, in faith, we  
have hope and confidence that  
God is a patient lover. I recog-  
nize this best in God's constant

readiness to forgive my sins. I  
know only too well that there  
have been times when I have  
separated myself from my  
God. I also know that I do not  
have to be afraid to turn back  
to God in repentance; I have  
complete confidence in God's  
patience and forgiveness. His  
forgiveness constantly changes  
my life. Many times in the  
Gospels Jesus encourages me  
to turn back to the Lord and  
find forgiveness and peace and  
love from my Savior.

Pope Francis then considers  
the importance of patient love  
in our own lives and in our  
families. He looks at it this  
way. Often, we think about  
others and our relationships  
with others, believing that they  
are perfect. Then we discover  
that this is not so. The result  
is that everything that happens  
proceeds to make us annoyed  
and impatient. Every distur-  
bing thing makes us react ag-  
gressively.

We often act angrily because  
of our lack of patience. This  
happens when we discover  
that things do not turn out our  
way. The result is, indicates  
Pope Francis, that we end up  
unable to live together in peace  
and love as a family. Our fam-  
ilies become battlefields.

Christian patience demands  
that we respect others – all oth-  
ers – but especially within our  
families. We must honestly  
recognize that others have a  
right to live just as they are.  
Pope Francis urges us to real-  
ize that. Actually, this should  
be obvious to us. Unhappily,  
our impatience springs from  
some of our judgments and ex-  
pectations. We must never lack  
the readiness to accept others  
– even when he or she acts dif-  
ferently than I would like.

Finally, I would like to share  
with you some of my prayer in-  
tentions – now – at the end of  
this rather divisive political  
season. I want you to join me  
in praying that people, all peo-  
ple, will start talking openly to-  
gether so that they will begin  
to work together for the good  
of all. This is truly important  
in our secular society.

I want to add something else  
to this. There are times when  
our own Catholic Church and  
often each of us, Catholics, in-  
dividually are divided and divi-  
sive. We need to be better at  
talking with each other. We  
need to pray with each other,  
so that we can truly work to-  
gether in making our Church  
and our parish and our world a  
better place.

## As Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to an end

# Diocese reaches out to clergy abuse victims

As the Jubilee Year of Mercy is set to conclude Nov. 20, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has extended an apology and helping hand to the victims of clergy sexual abuse.

"This year of mercy has focused us on our sinfulness and the need for God's mercy. The sin and scandal of clergy sexual abuse still wounds us and causes us pain," Bishop LaValley said. "The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us that we are all sinners and that our sins cause harm.

"This Jubilee Year of Mercy would not be complete without again acknowledging the pain of the victims of clergy sexual abuse and extending to them our apology and help," he said.

While the church has made

**This Jubilee Year of Mercy would not be complete without again acknowledging the pain of the victims of clergy sexual abuse and extending to them our apology and help**

Bishop Terry R. LaValley

documented progress in protecting children and young people and raising awareness of child sexual abuse, Bishop LaValley says that we must never forget those victimized by this sin.

"We have done much to create a safe environment for children and young people in our church, especially since the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: zero tolerance for guilty clergy, full cooperation with law enforcement, comprehensive child safety education for all involved in

ministry or service to children and young people, background checks of those involved in ministries with children, and outreach and assistance offered to the victims," he said.

"Yet, this year in which we celebrate the healing mercy of God calls on us to once again apologize for this scandal and to offer reconciliation and healing to victims," the bishop said. "We need to offer more compassion and help to victims."

"While we cannot make victims whole or make up for the suffering they have en-

dured, we have consistently

tried to acknowledge their pain and alleviate their suffering by offering counseling and any support possible," Bishop LaValley continued. "This Year of Mercy calls us to continue to seek reconciliation and healing for victims of clergy sex abuse. Despite our efforts, there is still need for reconciliation and healing; there is more we can do."

The sex abuse scandal leaves many still suffering and looking for closure. "Many victims are in pain and looking for more compassion

from the church," he said. "To those people I am reaching out," he said. "I invite them to come forward and to allow us the opportunity to help them heal."

The diocese is planning a prayer service to allow the Ogdensburg church to again acknowledge the pain caused and to apologize for the conduct that caused that pain.

"This crisis has impacted all of us in the church, and we need to ask God's help for continued healing," Bishop LaValley said.

Additionally, Bishop LaValley is inviting those who have been victimized by any member of the clergy or employee of the diocese to come forward so that the process of healing and moving forward can continue.

## Sharing the Harvest: CCHD collection is set Nov. 19-20

The combined collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Black and Indian Missions will take place in all of the parishes of the Ogdensburg Diocese on the weekend of Nov. 19-20.

"Thanksgiving is a beautiful season to remember that we are called to share our resources with our brothers and sisters," said Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin who, in her position as diocesan director of Catholic Charities oversees CCHD in the diocese.

"Sharing the harvest is a familiar and treasured concept and set of activities within rural communities, she said. "This combined collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions provides each of us with an additional way of sharing our resources.

Each year 25% of the CCHD collection remains in the diocese to assist in funding local

efforts to address the issue of helping individuals and families rise up out of poverty.

In 2016 local CCHD grants were awarded to two parishes. St. Peter's parish in Lowville received a \$4,000 grant to assist the men and women who lost their jobs at Climax. St. Alexander's parish in Morrisonville received \$4,000 to purchase new equipment that would help them expand their soup kitchen services.

"Your financial gift to the CCHD collection makes a difference on the local and the national levels in alleviating poverty," Sister Donna said.

The religious education programs at Akwesasne receive a substantial annual grant from the National Office of the Black and Indian Missions.

"Supporting these excellent programs for adults and children broadens the evangelization efforts within the diocese," Sister Donna said.

"The Year of Mercy reminds us of our Baptismal call to community," she continued, "Our brothers and sisters should see in our actions the compassion and love of our merciful God. United by our common humanity we have a responsibility to build inclusive, supportive communities.

"The combined collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and the Black and Indian Missions brings us closer together as a caring and strong community," she said.

"Please consider your own resources and then be as generous as possible to this important combined collection," Sister Donna concluded. "Let us celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving through our commitment to sharing the harvest."

Further information is available from Catholic Charities at: (315) 393-2255 or email us at: ccdirect@wad-hams.edu.

## INSTALLED AS LECTOR



PHOTO BY KEN SNOW

Matthew Conger of the Diocese of Ogdensburg was among the 12 seminarians of the Pontifical College Josephinum installed as lectors on Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints. Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, Bishop of Columbus, Ohio, was the principal celebrant of the Mass held at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus. Seminarians installed as lectors typically are first-year theologians and are commissioned to proclaim the Word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. From left are Bishop Campbell, Conger and Msgr. Christopher J. Schreck, rector/president of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

# Hundredfold

*More than 100 gather to learn about building parish vocation ministry*

By Catherine Russell  
Diocesan vocation coordinator

**NORFOLK**— More than 100 people from 32 parishes gathered at the Father Amyot Parish Center Nov. 5 to hear Rhonda Gruenewald speak about how to start a parish vocation ministry.

Creating a culture of vocation is a diocesan priority. Supporting the laity as they rediscover their call to be holy and disciples who share the Good News is key to forming these parish vocation ministries. Bishop LaValley has approved the diocesan vocation plan, **WE ARE CALLED**. (Each parish has a hard copy and an electronic version can be found on the diocesan website.)

Using the diocesan plan and Mrs. Gruenewald's book, "Hundredfold: A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry," parishes have the tools necessary to launch a vocation ministry.

The day began as Bishop Terry R. LaValley and several diocesan priests celebrated a Mass for religious vocations.

Ms. Gruenewald then addressed the group about the importance of this ministry and led them in accessing



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

Rhonda Gruenewald of Houston, Texas, author of "Hundredfold, A Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry," led a workshop on the topic for more than 100 Catholics from 32 parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg Nov. 5 in Norfolk

where their parishes are in the process.

Kathy Lauzon from St. Mary's of the Fort in Fort Covington, one of the first people to take part in this new ministry, said of the day, "As

Rhonda said, we are here to till the soil, make it rich, welcoming and fertile so that when the Holy Spirit plants the seed of a holy vocation it will yield a hundredfold!"

Ms. Gruenewald, a native

Texan and convert to Catholicism, exuded enthusiasm and offered countless ideas for beginning the ministry.

She advocated beginning with a firm prayer foundation. Once that is established, the ministry moves into education.

Deacon Larry Ambeau from St. Cecilia in Adams said, "Rhonda's enthusiasm is contagious! I cannot wait to get our parish vocation group working."

Mrs. Gruenewald also spoke about the key people to look for when starting out: the youth minister and the director of formation/education in the parish. These people are attuned to what can work and who might be discerning a vocation, she said.

Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director, noted the speaker's enthusiasm for building a culture of voca-

tions, the "practical and easy to implement strategies" and left the day "feeling motivated to work and hopeful for the future."

St. Joseph Sister Mary Gregory Munger, the chair of the committee who wrote the diocesan vocation plan, also in attendance, was pleased that the day "reinforced our bishop's priority and gave attendees encouragement and a boost to get started in the parishes."

At the end of the day, participants were sent forth as commissioned ministers of vocation by Father Douglas Lucia, vocation director, and Father Thomas Higman, associate vocation director.

Mrs. Gruenewald congratulated the group and noted how heartening it was to see such a vibrant, large audience from a relatively small diocese who want to make a difference and promote priesthood, consecrated life and sacramental marriage in their parishes.

"I can't wait to see how the ripple effect works throughout the diocese and in each parish," she said. "It will lead to more seminarians, more people in religious formation and more holy marriages."

Kathy Lauzon summed up the sentiment by the end of the workshop this way: "We love our priests and religious. We love sacramental marriage. Here in northern New York we know about working hard to make our tough soil and climate produce good crops. We can do this!"

Lunch was provided by the DOVS, Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society with many members also in attendance.

Parishioners not able to attend who would like assistance in beginning the ministry, should contact the Vocation Office at 315-393-2920.

## Keep Christ in Christmas Car Magnets

The Knights of Columbus Saranac Lake Council 599 is selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets as a fund raisers this year. It is a great way to spread an important message as we enter the Christmas season! The durable and attractive magnets are available in two designs and will last for years. The cost is \$5.00 each. For more information, please contact Past Grand Knight Jim Ammon at 518-396-0991 or [adkammon2@hotmail.com](mailto:adkammon2@hotmail.com)



SEEKING THE PROMISE OF A HUNDREDFOLD

# A DAY FOR VOCATIONS

Catholics from across the diocese gather in Norfolk Nov. 5 to learn how to invigorate vocation ministry in their parishes.



PHOTOS BY PAT HENDRICK

The diocesan priests who joined Bishop LaValley for the opening Mass of the vocations workshop were, from left, Fathers Thomas Higman and Todd Thibault, Msgr. John Murphy and Fathers Douglas Lucia, Mark Reilly, Jay Seymour and Justin Thomas.



Bishop LaValley accepts the Offertory gifts during the Mass at the Church of the Visitation in Norfolk.



St. Joseph Sister Patricia Urbanelli, youth minister for the Ogdensburg parishes, reads from the scriptures for the Mass.



Members of the diocesan vocation team played significant roles during the day. At left Father Douglas J. Lucia, vocation director; and Father Thomas J. Higman, associate vocation director are shown during the Mass. Above, Catherine Russell, vocation coordinator, greets the participants.

## MERCY IN MOTION

# Bishop's Fund assists Catholic School parents

By Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ  
Superintendent of Schools

*"My wife and I would like to say thank you so much for the tuition assistance which helps us to keep our children in a Catholic School."*

*"We just wanted to say thank you for the tuition scholarship. It helped us out in a very difficult time."*

*"Our family would like to extend gratitude to you for helping us to meet our tuition expenses. We are so pleased with our son's experience in the Catholic School and feel truly blessed."*

*"Thanks for the assistance from the Bishop's Fund. It will help us out a lot in our monthly budget. Our son enjoys his school and works hard to keep his grades up. I believe that the positive atmosphere at his school is the reason for his bright outlook."*

*"We really appreciate your consideration in awarding us tuition assistance. A Catholic school education is very important to us. Your help to make is possible"*

The sentiments expressed above are messages of gratitude Bishop LaValley receives from parents who are awarded tuition assistance through the Bishop's Fund appeal. The Bishop's Fund supports the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to aid parents who meet eligibility

requirements with tuition costs. This year the Bishop's Fund allotted \$205,000 to the TAP initiative. With an additional \$13,750 from the Father Mallette Endowment, a total of \$218,750 will be distributed in tuition assistance.

Three hundred fifty-one (351) students or 24 % of our student population in grades K-12 will receive tuition assistance from these combined resources. Such awards are given based on the criteria established for those who qualify for free or reduced lunches by the federal government or on a special need.

The Bishop's Fund affords the faithful of the Diocese with the opportunity to contribute to the needs of the Diocesan family and to provide assistance to individuals and programs within the local parish. The Tuition Assistance Program is one example of money "returning" to the local area. This year approximately \$87,251 will be available for tuition assistance in the Jefferson Deanery (Augustinian Academy, Carthage; Immaculate Heart Central Elementary and Junior/Senior High Schools, Watertown); approximately \$45,495 in the Franklin/Clinton Deaneries (Holy Family, Malone; Seton Academy and Seton Catholic Central, Plattsburgh) approximately \$48,611 in the Saint Lawrence Deanery (St. Mary's, Canton; St. James, Gouverneur and Trinity Catholic, Massena); approximately \$37,392 in the Adirondack/Essex Deaneries

(St. Agnes, Lake Placid; St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake and St. Mary's Ticonderoga).

Education is integral to the Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel. "First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth" (Benedict XVI, Apostolic Visit to United States, 2008). Providing the place to encounter the living God, the place in which faith is transmitted, passed on from generation to generation, is the primary reason why our Catholic schools exist.

Contributions to the Bishop's Fund are an opportunity for the entire Catholic community to contribute to the financial needs of our schools. This assistance helps make a Catholic school education available and affordable for parents who might otherwise not be able to send their children to a Catholic school.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Rest in Peace

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

- Nov. 16** – Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011
- Nov. 17** – Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976
- Nov. 18** – Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931
- Nov. 20** – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939
- Nov. 21** – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968
- Nov. 22** – Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

## Bishop's Schedule

- Nov. 12-17** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' General Meeting in Baltimore, MD
- Nov. 19** – 4 p.m., Mass & Closing of the Jubilee Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Nov. 20** – 5:30 p.m., Thanksgiving Dinner, Special Religious Education Program at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Gym, Watertown
- Nov. 21** – 9 a.m., Prayer Service and Visit to St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake  
11:30 a.m., Prayer Service and Visit to St. Agnes School in Lake Placid
- Nov. 22** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral
- Nov. 23** – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information is available from Atone-ment Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions:  
**Nov. 16** – 2:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

## 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](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

## Environmental Stewardship

### Environmental Care

A daily meditation on the environment is something that was not consciously chosen, it just happened.

Choosing to walk in an area of the Adirondack foothills daily is a longstanding habit of mine. It was during these times that awareness of the grandeur of the world surrounding us became the focus of these meditations.

You can't see the wonder of God's gift of creation without reacting to it.

Each one of the seasons presents another reason to actively work to preserve this gift. Environmentalists and scientists tell us of our effect on the cosmos and many of us make a mental note to change our way of interacting with nature to lessen the negative footprint on the paths we take.

In many ways it is easy to choose certain physical activities that we know will have a negative impact on the sustainability of the world, but this can only happen if we are willing to make a change of heart and mind, which can be much more difficult.

All effects on our world must be scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults.

Motivation to make a difference must be a result of our spiritual formation to care and be stewards of all creation. Pope Francis has stated in so many ways that "leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us."

How do you see yourself in relationship to the world in which you live? All of creation is interconnected. You make a difference in the world about you. It is impossible to be a part of the universe and not have an effect upon it. Will it be a positive one? Will you form a conscience of environmental concern?

In his encyclical *Laudato Si* Pope Francis writes "Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving problems of society."

Each one of us must be a part of that concern.

*Submitted by member of the Faith and Ecology group*



**Attention Snowbirds**  
going south for the winter!

Notify our office so you don't miss a single issue of the *North Country Catholic*! Call (315) 608-7556 with your winter address.

# Ogdensburg parishes to launch Gabriel Project

**OGDENSBURG** - Gabriel Project, a parish-based, crisis-pregnancy apostolate will soon be offered as a collaborative effort between Notre Dame and St. Mary's Cathedral parishes.

Families who need spiritual and material assistance during pregnancy will be able to get the help they seek.

Linda Trill, who spearheaded the effort to begin the St. Mary's in Canton Gabriel Project, and Freda Michaud, St. Mary's Canton's Coordinator, will speak at the Ogdensburg Masses during the weekend of Dec. 3-4. They will explain what the Gabriel Project is and how parishioners can help.

A training session for new "Gabriel Angels" will be offered on Jan. 14 for all those who wish to volunteer or want more information.

The parishes will hold a "Baby Shower" collection in January, so those who wish, can donate new or gently used baby items or make monetary offerings to help stock the shelves at the Gabriel Project room which will be housed on the second floor of the former Bishop Conroy Building. The Ogdensburg St. Vincent de Paul donated the shelving units.

"The Ogdensburg Gabriel Project was a natural progression due to the fact that three of the 'Angels' who now help out in Canton, are

from Ogdensburg", said Ms. Trill said. The temporary coordinator of the Ogdensburg location will be Dorinda Mallette

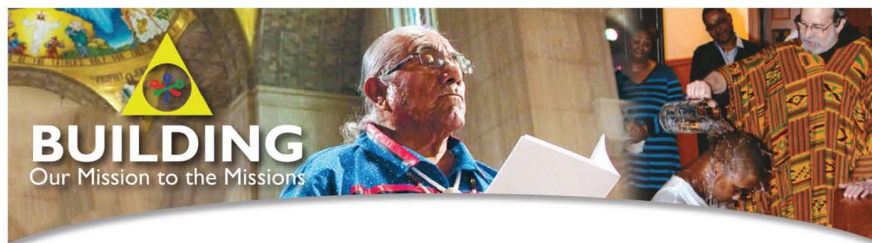
The late Father Jerry Bleaux, who introduced Gabriel Project to the diocese, said that Gabriel Project is a wonderful way for pro-lifers to "put their money where their mouth is."

Each of the ten current

Gabriel Projects in the diocese functions as a parish entity. Parishioners support this outreach, often holding fundraisers and community-building projects. When a mother is in need of a material item, it is posted in the parish bulletin. Some hold Mother's Day gatherings and Christmas parties for all those served through the program.

Ogdensburg joins Gabriel Project locations Potsdam, Gouverneur, Plattsburgh, Massena, Dannemora, Keeseville, Schroon Lake, Ellenburg, Brasher Falls and Canton.

Further information about Ogdensburg's Gabriel Project, is available from Ms. Michaud at 315-347-2364 or Ms. Mallette at 315-261-1086.



**T**he Black and Indian Mission Collection (BIMC) exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God.

Every year, it is the amazing generosity of Catholic faithful just like you who enable the Black and Indian Mission Office to support the following important priorities:

#### Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

Grant funds from the BIMC enables us to support parish-based catechetical programs. We help form and train catechists who will form children to be disciples of Jesus in the world, and get bibles and catechisms in kids' hands so they can learn the ways of the Lord and take their place around His altar.



#### Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you'll help support good teachers to help African American and Native American kids learn, like Sheryl Ashley at Saint Augustine Indian Mission in Winnebago, Neb. Saint Augustine kids recently made a 60% improvement in reading scores in three years! In 2014, your donations reached over 4,000 students in more than 100 schools and parishes across the United States.



#### Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds help offices of Black Catholic and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation to encourage the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. Mr. Ansel Augustine, shown here with a friend, coordinates the Office of Black Catholic Ministries in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



#### Encouraging Vocations

We need men and women living the consecrated life to give witness to a radical Christian life. We need priests in order to have the Eucharist! Supporting the BIMC enables us to help diocesan communities encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



## Bishop's Fund

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Our Catholic schools are indeed special *places* where "God's active presence in human affairs is recognized and in which every young person discovers the joy of entering into Christ's being for others" (Benedict XVI).

Our schools offer so much more than the human knowledge and skills necessary for personal growth. They offer the words and deeds of Jesus, our rich Catholic heritage and tradition and a community of faith which teaches not only by words but by the witness of lives committed to Christ.

What a wonderful investment in the lives of our children and the future of the Church!

On behalf of the parents

and children who receive financial assistance through your generosity, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your contribution to this year's Bishop's Fund and its effort to pass on our Catholic faith from generation to generation.

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THE CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY... FEED THE HUNGRY, CLOTHE THE NAKED, GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY, SHELTER THE HOMELESS

# St. Vincent de Paul Society

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

MASSENA – Deacon Thomas Proulx and his wife, Linda, could not have known how a simple “yes” would change their lives when they accepted an invitation to join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul upon their arrival in Massena in 1991.

At his brother's request, Deacon Proulx started volunteering in the food pantry.

These days, he makes sure that enough food is ordered to handle 300 emergency food calls in a month and up to six bags of groceries for some 200 households at a monthly food distribution day.

Deacon Proulx also spent 12 years as treasurer of the organization.

Mrs. Proulx currently serves as second vice president in charge of the Gabriel Helping Hands Program which was brought under the auspices of St. Vincent de Paul 12 years ago.

The Gabriel Program offers material and spiritual assistance to families with children ages three and under.

The Proulx family support for St. Vincent de Paul extends to the next generation



PHOTO BY MARY LOU KILIAN

Linda Proulx is in charge of the Gabriel Helping Hands Program of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Massena. She and her husband, Deacon Thomas Proulx, are shown in one of the Gabriel rooms, overflowing with baby clothes and other necessities. Deacon Proulx oversees the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and both support every aspect of the charitable organization.

as their daughter Alice Felix works as program manager for the organization.

## The programs

The various programs offered meet a wide range of needs:

- The SVPD Thrift Store, staffed by volunteers led by Carole Toomey, accepts used clothing, furniture and household goods to sell at reasonable prices. Often the items are given free of charge to those who demonstrate need.

Money realized from the sale of these goods is used for operating expenses and to supplement charitable projects. This insures that all money donated to St. Vincent de Paul goes directly to charitable works.

- The Food Pantry, located behind the Thrift Store at 128 Main St., operates on an

emergency basis seven days a week.

Under the direction of Deacon Proulx, a team of two members is on call daily to fulfill orders from clients.

In addition, a food distribution day is usually held on the third Saturday of the month for one and a half hours.

- The Gabriel Helping Hands Program is available to mothers, fathers, grandparents or caretakers of an infant and/or children up to the age of three.

Gabriel “Angels” provide help networking with various agencies that can assist with housing, adoption, counseling, medical care, spiritual direction and material needs.

St. Vincent de Paul provides diapers, formula, baby food and clothing to families who cannot afford these items.

Mrs. Proulx points out that

an annual grant from the diocesan Respect Life collection covers about half the costs of the Gabriel program

- On Thanksgiving Day, a number of volunteers join to share a meal and time with people in the community who would otherwise be alone.

Martha Slack is in charge of this year's meal.

- Through its Christmas program, the agency provides a large box containing three meals a day for five-seven days for each family.

Three wrapped gifts for each child in the household is also included.

This year's Christmas program will be run by Kitty Samuel, Carol Toomey and Deacon Proulx.

- Other services offered by the society include help with emergency medical prescriptions as well as assistance as clients apply to receive ben-



efits for rent, fuel, electricity or other utility bills to prevent the disconnection of vital services.

## About St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a volunteer Catholic lay organization comprised of 850,000 members in 131 countries who provide comfort and spiritual support to those in need.

It was founded in Paris, France, in 1833 by Frederick Ozanam, a 20-year-old college student and his companions to bear witness to the Church and the mission it received from Jesus.

Placed under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul, the society derived its inspiration from the saint's thinking and work, one of active support for the poor and underprivileged.

## In Massena

The Massena St. Vincent de Paul Society began in the 1950's out of a need seen after the completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway project.

At that time, many families were left without simple living necessities when fathers moved to other construction sites and left them behind.

The organization offers charity in the name of the Catholic churches in the area – Sacred Heart/ St. Lawrence Parish and St. Mary/St. Joseph Parish.

Currently there are 85 members and many associate members who volunteer in one or more programs.

Funding comes from local

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



The sign at 128 Main Street in Massena.



# St. Vincent de Paul

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Catholic churches, industries, organizations, businesses and individuals in the community.

The food pantry receives federal support with bi-monthly deliveries from the Food Bank of Central New York.

## Proclaiming the Gospel wordlessly through compassionate care of the most vulnerable

St. Vincent's also accepts food from the Feeding America program. Local grocery stores – BJ's, Aldi's, Price Chopper and Walmart – provide food that is close to its expiration date or with damaged packaging to be distributed to those in need.

These contributions have allowed the food pantry to serve 23,535 meals this past October and around 230,000 in 2015.

As program manager, Mrs. Felix has seen the need for food rise in the summer when children are not receiving lunches in school.

Ironically, the need for util-

ity support also increases in the summer when programs like HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) are not available.

The most recent addition to the St. Vincent de Paul complex is a furniture barn, refurbished with a \$60,000 grant from Alcoa. Volunteer Mike Rayome has overseen the insulation and siding of the building.

Previously, donated furniture was stored on the front porch of the thrift store.

The current leaders of Massena's St. Vincent de Paul are Norman (Pete) LaFrance, president of the society;

Doris Chevrier, vice-president; Mrs. Proulx, second vice-president in charge of the Gabriel Program; Margaret Rile, secretary and Terry Mossow, treasurer.

In addition to Mrs. Felix, the paid staff includes Dennis Sharp in charge of maintenance.

With the support of Massena parish leaders, scores of volunteers and benefactors, the St. Vincent de Paul Society strives to live up to the mandate it professes: "to proclaim the Gospel wordlessly through compassionate care of the most vulnerable."



Alice Felix, program manager for the society, works to insure that all the services offered by St. Vincent de Paul run as compassionately and efficiently as possible.



Pete LaFrance, current president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Massena, is shown in the Thrift Shop, which is all decked out for Christmas shoppers.


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**Special Collection to be held with Black and Indian Mission**  
**November 19 - 20, 2016**

*Catholics' postelection to-do list:*

# Work for unity and healing

By Carol Zimmermann  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) - All the distrust, vitriol and rancor stirred up during the 2016 presidential election campaign did not go away when votes were tallied.

The Nov. 8 election's outcome, for many, only added more layers of frustration, anger and fear, prompting dozens of protests across the country.

**The answer is not angry words or violence in the streets. It never solves anything. It only inflames it more**

Political leaders, including Hillary Clinton, President-elect Donald Trump and President Barack Obama, acknowledged the disunity and urged people after the election to try to work together.

Catholic leaders have been making similar pleas, not only for the nation, but also recognizing the division that exists among the church's own members who split their vote -- 45 percent for Clinton and 52 percent for Trump.

Four days before the election, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, told a Catholic group in Arlington, Virginia, that regardless of the election's outcome, "our country will remain deeply divided and those divisions are, to a very real extent, also reflected within our own Catholic faith community."

The question before



CNS PHOTO/KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

President-elect Donald Trump gestures during a Nov. 10 meeting with U.S. President Barack in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. Both men acknowledged the disunity in the country after the election and urged people to try to work together.

Catholics, he said, is whether we will be "a source of unity and reconciliation, or whether we will be a cause of further division."

Putting it succinctly was an Election Day tweet by Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis: "Whatever happens at the polls, God will reign. Our work begins tomorrow, building bridges and healing wounds."

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said: "Every election brings a new beginning. Some may wonder whether the country can reconcile, work together and fulfill the promise of a more perfect union. Through the hope Christ offers, I believe God will give us the strength to heal and unite."

Days before the election, Jesuit Father Jim Martin, author and editor at large at America, a weekly magazine published by the Jesuits, said after the election Catholics might want to say the "Prayer

for Christian Unity," which is meant for interfaith unity but has an apt message at a time when many "will feel excluded and unwelcome."

It turns out the Catholic "Prayer for After an Election" also highlights unity, asking God to "heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead."

The very notion of unity after a more contentious presidential campaign than most can remember might seem far-fetched but some Catholics stress it should at least start at the parish level.

Father Thomas Berg, vice rector and professor of moral theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York, said the differences of opinion revealed in this election "should never be allowed to become occasions of separation and rupture. Disagreement is an invitation to encounter, dialogue and to witness to the faith we presumably share."

"Postelection, at the parish level, how wonderful it would be if we could engage each other dispassionately in calm rational dialogue about our differences with regard to the candidates," said the priest, who is currently writing a book, "Hurting in the Church: A Way Forward for Wounded Catholics."

Sherry Weddell, co-founder of the Catherine of Siena Institute, a group based in Colorado Springs, Colorado dedicated to strengthening parishes and lay Catholics, said the big post election question is: "How can we help rebuild our relationships with one another now that the shouting is over?"

For Catholics, she said the answer is found in embracing the church's mission in outreach to others. "Being apostles together slowly builds remarkably strong bridges of trust and hope over the divides that separate us," she said, adding that doing this "can actually heal and transform us as well."

And for many, part of the mission is simply to keep up

the work at hand and encourage others not to lose hope.

**We need to be people of peace, people of compassion. Love not hate. Mercy not revenge**

Peggy Lewis, interim dean of business and graduate studies at Trinity Washington University in Washington, said she advises students who are disheartened by the election, especially immigrants covered by the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, that the "fight is still on."

Lewis, highlighted with Trinity students in a Nov. 9 Chronicle of Higher Education news video, said she has been urging these students not to give up.

"Getting students from anger, where I still am, to thinking about the future, is something we're striving to do," she said.

Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, during a Nov. 10 interfaith prayer service for peace, solidarity and unity at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, offered similar encouragement to the immigrant community after the election.

"Tonight in America, children are afraid. Men and women are worried and anxious, thinking about where they can run and hide," he said.

"The answer is not angry words or violence in the streets. It never solves anything. It only inflames it more. We need to be people of peace, people of compassion. Love not hate. Mercy not revenge," he said.

"These are the tools to rebuild our nation and renew the American dream. Tonight we promise our brothers and sisters who are undocumented: We will never you leave you alone," Archbishop Gomez said.



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Voters reject nearly all ballot measures on issues of Catholic concern

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In this year's election, voters went against nearly all of the ballot initiatives backed by Catholic leaders and advocates, except the referendums on minimum wage increases and gun control measures. Voters passed an assisted suicide measure in Colorado and voted in favor of the death penalty in three states and in favor of legalized recreational marijuana in four states and against it in one. They also voted for minimum wage increases and gun control measures in four states. In Colorado, the only state with an initiative to legalize assisted suicide, voters passed the measure, making the state the sixth in the nation with a so-called "right-to-die law" joining Washington, Oregon, California, Vermont and Montana. "The decision the voters of Colorado have made to legalize physician-assisted suicide via the passage of Proposition 106 is a great travesty of compassion and choice for the sick, the poor, the elderly and our most vulnerable residents," said Jenny Kraska, executive director of the Colorado Catholic Conference. "Killing, no matter what its motives, is never a private matter; it always impacts other people and has much wider implications," she said in a Nov. 9 statement.

## Diocese investigating priest over political video of fetus, altar use

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, said in a statement it is investigating the incident of a pro-life priest who placed "the body of an aborted fetus" on an altar and broadcast it on Facebook Live to get people to vote for Republican Donald J. Trump, causing "the desecration of the altar." "We believe that no one who is pro-life can exploit a human body for any reason, especially the body of a fetus," said Amarillo Bishop Patrick J. Zurek in a Nov. 8 statement. Its use for political purposes by one of the diocese's priests was "against the dignity of human life," he added. Pro-life supporters in the Catholic Church denounced activist Father Frank Pavone for what he said was an "emergency situation" on the eve of the U.S. presidential election. The priest, no stranger to controversial situations, said he was trying to drive home, in a visual and impactful way, what it meant to choose one presidential candidate over the other on Election Day. Father Pavone, appealing for votes for Trump, said he was showing "the Democrats' support of baby-killing." Bishop Zurek said the diocese "deeply regrets the offense and outrage caused by the video for the faithful and the community at large."

## Mercy Fridays give pope a year of stories, tears, hugs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Tears, prayers, caresses -- but most of all, listening -- were the hallmarks of Pope Francis' "Mercy Friday" visits during the Year of Mercy. As the jubilee began last December, Pope Francis said he would ditch the media one Friday afternoon each month and personally try to give life to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Throughout the year, he used his weekly general audiences and monthly Saturday jubilee audiences to teach about the reality of God's mercy and the obligation of sharing mercy with others. But the Mercy Friday visits -- even the two that were not held on a Friday -- were about presence. While top personnel at the places he visited had some advance notice, in most cases the guests, residents or patients did not. The Mercy Fridays gave them a chance to tell the pope their stories and, usually, to share a late afternoon snack with him.

# Divine Mercy is 'bridge' that unites God and people to one another

By James Ramos  
Catholic News Service

HOUSTON (CNS) - From the beginning of his papacy, St. John Paul II emphasized the Divine Mercy devotions and recognized St. Faustina Kowalksa's message as an "action of the compassion and mercy of the Father, Son and Spirit," according to Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

"In his first encyclical, 'Redemptor Hominis,' he already mentioned Divine Mercy," the cardinal said. "St. John Paul II, quietly, but step by step and then more urgently, pushed us on to recognize that in the 21st century, what we need is Divine Mercy."

That Divine Mercy, he said, flowed through St. John Paul, Pope Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis, who "pushed it" to the outlands, "starting from the center and moving out" calling the Church to be "missionary disciples of mercy."

Cardinal DiNardo made the comments in his homily as celebrant of a Mass during the Second North American Congress on Mercy at Prince

of Peace Catholic Church in Houston.

Presented by the Marianists of the Immaculate Conception and Fullness of Truth Ministries, the event focused on the role of the Divine Mercy in the lives of Catholics.

It was held on the weekend of the feast of St. John Paul, which is Oct. 22.

More than a thousand were there to learn more about the message of Divine Mercy, the devotions of St. Faustina, whom Pope John Paul beatified in 1993 and canonized in 2000. In 2000, he put Divine Mercy Sunday on the church's universal calendar; it is observed the Sunday after Easter.

St. Faustina was a Polish Sister of Our Lady of Mercy. She had visions of Jesus saying he would show mercy to those who prayed for it and shared it with others.

Walking through Pope John Paul's life in Krakow, one rife with loss, war and suffering, Father Machniak said that the young Karol Wojtyla would pray in the chapel of the convent where the sisters displayed an image of the Divine Mercy. That image of Christ is how St. Faustina said he had appeared to her:

in a white garment, with rays of white and red light emanating near his heart.

He began praying the Divine Mercy chaplet, and years later, as archbishop of Krakow and then pope, he would read St. Faustina's handwritten journal. He called for the veneration of the image of Divine Mercy, saying it was a "message for our time."

Father Machniak said Pope John Paul's personal experience of World War II influenced his testimony and his writing.

"I am very happy that I can speak to you today about this message of Divine Mercy because I am convinced you can be like Sister Faustina," Father Machniak said. "As apostles of Divine Mercy in your families, parishes, you can give testimony of Divine Mercy of God to show that God is really merciful."

"I wish that, like in the life of John Paul II, Pope Benedict and Pope Francis, you feel this presence of mercy and you are able to give this testimony to Divine Mercy." Father Machniak said. "Mercy is a way that unites God with men and men with men, like a bridge from ourselves to another people."



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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Celebrating Christ, the King of the Universe

Today is a very significant day in the liturgy of the Catholic Church, this year especially.

Today ends the Year of Mercy that Pope Francis began a year ago. In Rome, he will close the Holy Door at St. Peter's, and Bishops and Priests all over the world will do the same in their local churches.

It also celebrates the Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe. Next week, we begin the holy sea-

son of Advent. How fitting that this Thursday we will give thanks to God for all the blessings of the past year!

All intelligent life on earth was meant to worship someone or something.

If we don't worship God, we will inevitably worship someone or something else, whether it be excessive love for a person, or focusing our whole lives on power or money or riches.

It might be our career. We

may say that we worship God, but we often don't show it in our lives.

We say that's we're just too busy to pray to the King, or worship Him in Church on Sundays.

This is a good day for us to make some adjustments to bring out words and our deeds into conformity.

There is, after all, only one real King that deserves our worship.

The first reading today is from Samuel (the last judge of Israel) who ushered in the reign of Kings,-- first Saul and David, then their successors for another two

NOV. 20

The Feast of Christ,  
King of the Universe

READINGS

2 Samuel 5:13

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

the first generation Christians, using a familiar hymn that is rich in describing Jesus as "the image of the invisible God...He is before all else that is...all things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together".

In the Gospel, as Jesus hangs on the cross with a sign over his head, "Jesus, King of the Jews", only a thief worships him. This last Sunday of the church year is a good time for us to cry out with the him: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!".

hundred years. Kings are expensive to maintain. It wasn't until the Father sent His Son to live as a humble and poor man, that we had a real King, worthy of our total worship.

The second reading today shows Paul's efforts to unite

## A VOICE OF FAITH

## Emotions and the role they play in being human

By Charles Leonard  
Contributing writer

Having read an installment on family and friendship written by Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father

Vincent T. Freeh, former pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Wattertown, I gained a different perspective and understanding of the role emotions play in our culture.

It is true, emotions play a significant role in what it means to be human. As a person, we cannot be whole unless we mold the physical with the spirit.

Today, we have been infiltrated with self-centered, greedy, politicized, and non-Christian attitudes, all of which are holding captive the hearts and minds of youth and leaders of the next generation.

Here are some of my viewpoints as they contribute to the problems of emotions:

1) In my days of scouting, we were taught the values of trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, curtesy, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thriftiness, bravery, cleanliness and reverence.

Today, the number of

scouts is diminishing and these values are being torn apart by worldly desires.

2) What has happened to the training, encouragement and enthusiasm for altar servers?

As elementary students, we were honored and anxious to serve the Lord. Our ranks were full and parental support was great. Our training inspired us to be faithful and respectful to the "rules of

order" while in the presence of God and His congregation!

3) Most parishioners, especially the "part timers" have forgotten church etiquette (genuflecting, sign of the cross, the significance of holy water, talking out loud, the prayerful preparation for the sacraments they are about to receive, the herding and faithful wave to friends at communion or a thoughtful prayer of thanks after communion).

It is time for public education!

4) We are teaching our kids that self-esteem is

more important than religious pride. Their "emotions" are affected by the clothes they wear, the language they speak, and by the friends they keep.

### The emotions of love, faith and perseverance must be included in our journey

Thoughtless bullying and un-censored social media are the abusive "tools of the trade" by today's standards.

5) The economic well-being of a majority of our families is causing undue stress and internal abuse. The pressure to provide is causing divide. It used to be unconditional support between adults, but today what seems fair for one isn't interpreted to be fair for all. Arguing incurs, even in front of the children. Love is stretched and the "walk away" marital mentality wins, leaving destruction and abandonment- the reality of the day.

6) All the feel good drug marketing today has an answer for everyone.

Aging, metabolism, sexual

additives, whatever your mind suggests, let's do it and be happy!

7) Permit the silent attacks on the church, education, marriage; support the abusive under-pinning of our constitution; encourage job displacement by illegal immigration and union influence; lessen court authority and defame legal authority; weaken the national defense; bailout corrupt institutions; revise historical data or don't teach it at all; sabotage our tax laws; create an entitlement culture... we aren't enhancing positive emotions - we're destroying them!

To quote a recent retreat specialist, "our bodies are like a school house, we're all learning, suffering along the way; we take a test and hope to graduate to heaven."

The emotions of love, faith and perseverance must be included in our journey. We cannot deny the presence of spirit nor can we as believers participate in the mal-functioning, mis-represented, un-orthodox disregard for the ten commandments of life.



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## AT THE MOVIES

## ALMOST CHRISTMAS

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

Writer-director David E. Talbert's ensemble comedy "Almost Christmas" (Universal) is clearly meant to be a crowd-pleasing holiday treat.

While its fundamental values are savory enough, however, dialogue larded with vulgarity taints the familiar recipe Talbert employs. Along with some mature themes and references, that makes the resulting dish unfit fare for kids.

As yuletide approaches and his combative relatives gather at his Birmingham, Alabama, home, recently widowed family patriarch Walter Meyers (Danny Glover) has only one goal in mind: keeping the peace.

The principal challenge to his desire for harmony comes from the longstanding rivalry between his two daughters, successful dentist Cheryl (Kimberly Elise)

and cash-strapped, newly divorced single mom Rachel (Gabrielle Union).

The roving eye of Cheryl's husband, Lonnie (JB Smoove), as well as the unresolved grief and consequent prescription-drug addiction of Walter's youngest child, college athlete Evan (Jessie T. Usher), also threaten to cause disruption.

As the dysfunction-driven proceedings follow their predictable path, the mood ranges from raucous to sentimental.

Talbert uses flashbacks to showcase the model marriage Walter shared with Grace (played in youth by Rachel Kylian and in maturity by A. Sabrena Farmer). His script also sends the whole clan to an upbeat church service and some of its members to help out at a homeless shelter.

Despite Walter's long-standing attachment to it, the latter institution is endangered by the political ambitions of his elder son,

would-be congressman Christian (Romany Malco).

At the behest of his scheming campaign manager, Alan Brooks (John Michael Higgins), Christian agrees to seek the backing of real estate developers who want to gentrify the area around the shelter, forcing it to shutter or relocate.

Cue more conflict -- and some heavy-handed moralizing.

The sadness caused by Grace's absence receives more skillful treatment than the machinations. On the whole, though, "Almost Christmas" fails to make much of a lasting impression.

The film contains off-screen adultery, drug use, some sexual humor, a few instances of profanity, a handful of milder oaths and frequent crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Danny Glover stars in a scene from the movie "Almost Christmas."

## ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Forest Whitaker stars in a scene from the movie "Arrival," a mesmerizing and unusually intimate science-fiction drama about an American linguist (the excellent Amy Adams) trying to communicate with aliens inside a spacecraft hovering over a Montana field -- one of a dozen such vessels that have descended at various spots around the globe and which threaten to trigger panic and geopolitical instability. Some potentially frightening scenes and a single instance of rough language. 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.



CNS PHOTO/DREAMWORKS

Animated characters Poppy, voiced by Anna Kendrick, and Branch, voiced by Justin Timberlake, appear in the movie "Trolls." The film is a loopy but charming animated comedy in which two Trolls set out to rescue a group of their friends (voiced by, among others, James Corden and Gwen Stefani) who have been kidnapped by an evil chef (voice of Christine Baranski) from a race of Troll-eating giants called Bergens. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

**ADIRONDACK**

**DIOCESAN ENVISIONING PROCESS**

**Tupper Lake** - There will be a presentation on the Diocesan Envisioning Process:

**Date:** Nov. 21  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 8:30  
**Place:** Holy Ghost Parish Center  
**Speakers:** Sr. Ellen Rose Coughlin, SSJ: Revisiting the Proclamation; Deacon Patrick Donahue: Living Stones & the Catechetical Community; Kelly Donnelly: Diocesan Vision for Parish Youth Ministry; Sr. Mary Gregory, SSJ: Creating a Culture of Vocations; Pam Ballantine: Family Catechesis Through the Seven Sacraments  
**Features:** Dinner will be provided.  
**Contact:** To register call the Eastern Regional Formation Office in Plattsburgh at 310-3669 or email apage@rcdony.org no later than Wed. Nov. 16th

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

**Lake Placid** - St. Agnes School to have its Annual Christmas Bazaar.  
**Date:** Dec. 3  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Features:** Toys, trees, wreaths, poinsettias, gifts, baked goods, crafts, raffles and so much more. Lunch will be served and childcare is available.  
**Contact:** Vendor space is available. Please call 518-523-3771 or email at infor@stagneslp.org

**CLINTON**

**FALL CRAFT FESTIVAL**

**Chazy** - The Fabulous Fall Craft Festival to be held.  
**Date:** Nov. 19  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Place:** Sacred Heart Parish Center  
**Features:** 25 vendors from New York and Vermont. Hot lunches, raffle, baked goods, hundreds of handcrafted items.  
**Contact:** Noreen Barcomb, csacred-heart@twcny.rr.com, 518-846-7650

**FRANKLIN**

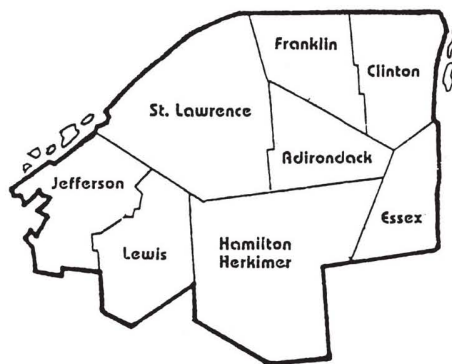
**CHRISTMAS TEA**

**North Bangor** - St. Augustine's Parish will hold their annual Christmas Tea  
**Date:** Dec. 4  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Place:** Parish Hall  
**Features:** crafts, baked goods, Cake Walk, a Chinese Auction and raffle. Lunch will be available. Visit from Santa

**HAMILTON-HERKIMER**

**DAYS OF DISCERNMENT**

**Old Forge** - Discerning men are invited to consider the call to the priesthood.



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.

**Dates:** Dec. 4; Jan 29; Feb 12; Mar 5; Apr 2 and 23; May 7  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Bartholomew's Rectory  
**Features:** Reflection, Vespers & dinner. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.  
**Contact:** Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.st-barts@roadrunner.com/ 315-369-3554;

**JEFFERSON**

**FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS**

The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Mary's in Clayton and St. John's, LaFargeville, will present "The Birth of Jesus - A Franciscan Christmas".  
**Schedule:** Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's, Clayton  
 Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament, E. Syracuse  
 Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's, Syracuse  
 Dec. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at St. James, Carthage  
 Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. at St. Anthony's, Watertown  
**Features:** Through the use of special lighting and sound, this moving dramatic meditation on the birth of Jesus promises to enrich our celebration of the Advent and Christmas seasons. A free-will offering is appreciated.  
**Contact:** For more info, contact the parish office at 315-686-3398

**ENVIRONMENTAL PRESENTATION**

**Watertown** - Presentation on "The Global Water Crisis: Abroad and at Home" to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 20  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m. to 3:30  
**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse  
**Speaker:** Dr. Adrienne Rygel, Associate Professor and Department Chair of Civil and Environmental/Engineering Technology, SUNY Canton.  
**Features:** She will speak on water issues at the global and national level and discuss the issues. Discussion on the local concerns will follow. The event is sponsored by Social Justice Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Public is invited. Event is free. Light refreshments

**JINGLE BELL RUN**

**Carthage** - Augustinian Academy to have a 5K Fun Run and 1.5 mile walk  
**Date:** Dec. 10  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$25 for 5K; \$15 for 1.5 mile walk; \$30/\$20 after Nov. 15  
**Features:** Register online at imathlete.com and search for Jingle Bell Run. To benefit Augustinian Academy.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT ADORATION**

**Watertown** - The St. Joseph Cupertino chapter of the Secular Order of Franciscans will sponsor adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for vocations  
**Date:** Nov. 26  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to Noon  
**Place:** St. Anthony's Parish

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

**Watertown** - St. Anthony's Church Altar Rosary Society is to have a spaghetti dinner.  
**Date:** Dec. 1

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers  
**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

**HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR**

**Clayton** - Holiday Food fair to be held.  
**Date:** Dec. 3  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center  
**Cost:** Food Fair, \$6; Photos with Santa, \$3; Children's Lunch (3-12) and Fun Room, Free  
**Features:** Over 50 special dishes prepared by parishioners from favorite family recipes for sampling to include beverages, appetizers, entrees, desserts and more. Santa will be on hand, photos with this jolly old soul are also offered (family photos too). Our Children's Fun Room provides the little ones the opportunity to create crafts for themselves or to give as gifts at no cost. At 1 p.m. the raffle drawings will be held (\$1 each or 6 for \$5. These are available right now at various Clayton stores, the parish office or from parishioners). There are 10 cash prizes valued at \$50 each.

**BEREAVEMENT MEETING**

**Watertown** - An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.  
**Date:** Dec. 5  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Hearthside Hospitality Room  
**Program:** Sister Norma Bryant, SSJ, on holiday grief

**LEWIS**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Lowville** - All are invited to Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction.  
**Date:** Nov. 17  
**Time:** 4 pm. to 8  
**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS**

**Houseville** - Divine Mercy Devotions for the month of December will be held.  
**Date:** Dec. 3  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Hedwig's Church  
**Features:** Evening Prayer, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Benediction.

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**ST. MARY'S ANNUAL AUCTION**  
**Canton** - St. Mary's School to have their

13th Annual Auction.  
**Date:** Nov. 18  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$15 in advance, or \$20 at the door.  
**Features:** Hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live entertainment by A Fine Line. More 200 items will be available for bidding in silent and live auctions. Items include handmade gifts (jewelry, pottery, quilts), local artwork, gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses, antique furniture, a piano, more  
**Contact:** To purchase your ticket, donate an item, or for more information please call St. Mary's School at (315) 386-3572.

**COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

**Potsdam** - The Knights of Columbus Council 340 is hosting a community Breakfast.  
**Date:** Dec. 4  
**Time:** 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Place:** Potsdam Town Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$6; Children 12 and under, \$4; under 4, Free  
**Features:** All proceeds benefits Council 340 to continue service to the church and the community.  
**Contact:** For more information contact Grand Knight Colin Myers at colinmyers@gmail.com or (315) 265- 6168

**DAYS OF DISCERNMENT**

**Potsdam** - Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.  
**Dates:** Dec. 4 Jan 29; Feb 12; Mar 5; Apr 2 and 23; May 7  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory  
**Features:** Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.  
**Contact:** Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Stephen Rocker, pastorsmsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**

The Vocation Office has scheduled three Operation Andrew dinners and two women's discernment retreat days.  
**For men:** Operation Andrew Dinners for Discerning Men will be on Nov. 30 in El-lenburg, Dec. 5 in Carthage, and Dec 13 in Canton.  
**For women:** Women's Discernment Retreats will take place on Nov. 26 in Watertown and Jan. 7 in Morrisonville  
**Contact:** Please contact Cathy Russell, Vocation Coordinator: 315-393-2920 or russell@rcdony.org with any questions or to register.



## 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

# Mercy: foundation of Church life

As the year of Mercy's end draws near, we look back on the origins of this wonderful celebration.

Last year, Pope Francis said, "Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ."

The Holy Father reminds us that "Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life."

As we have rediscovered the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy through the Gospels, Jesus urges us to follow His example.

As we are called by our baptism to be Missionaries, there are ways that as missionaries, we are better able to serve our brothers and sisters in need in the Mission Lands.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are directed toward serving the body and tailor made to remind us how to be more merciful, especially for those in the Mission Lands.

The seven works of Corporal Mercy are:

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Shelter the homeless
5. Visit the sick
6. Visit the imprisoned
7. Bury the dead

When you support the Missions, as many of you do so often, you invoke the Corporal Works of Mercy and enable good things to happen in the Mission Lands.

Through supporting the Missions by prayer, sacrifice and upholding the Corporal works of mercy, you too are solidifying the very foundation of the Church's life.

May God Bless all of you and may mercy be shown upon those who need it the most right now.

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

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

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[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

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

Find us on Facebook!



## OBITUARIES

**Altona** — Paul F. Robare, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2016 at Holy Angels Church.

**Black Lake** — Joseph Michael Hays, Sr, 59; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2016 at the French Funeral Home; burial in the New St. James Cemetery, Gouverneur.

**Brasher Falls** — Mary Elizabeth "Liz" (Hourihan) Compeau, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** — Rita H. (Plumadore) Michaud, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

**Brushton** — LeRoy D. Hozley, 61; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Burke** — Leo A. "Buck" Charland, 82; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2016 at St. George's Church; burial in Burke Center Cemetery.

**Canton** — Irene F. (Dugas) Faucher, 104; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Clayton** — Isabelle J. (Slover) Rockefeller, 93; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Vincent De-Paul Cemetery, Rosiere.

**Croghan** — Juanita Mae (Veitch) Briot, 83; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Croghan** — James S. Kerfien, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Riverside Cemetery Annex, Beaver Falls.

**Fort Covington** — Jeanne M. (Saumier) Collett, 81; Funeral Services Dec. 16, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** — Jean Ada Miles-Francher, 88; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

**Harrisville** — Jesse Jon Ritz, 26; Funeral Services Nov. 5, 2016 at the Harrisville Fire Dept.; burial in St. Francis Solanus Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** — Rita J. Swamp, 74; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2016 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** — Sandra J. (Diebow) Terrence, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2016 at St. Regis Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Malone** — Clara Mae Southwick Wood, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2016 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

**Moers Forks** — Thomas W. Manor, 76; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2016 at St. Ann's Church.

**Norfolk** — Faith R. Barney, 65; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2016 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Peru** — Doris M. (Rock) Loop, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg.

**Plattsburgh** — Howard J. Abare, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Columbarium.

**Plattsburgh** — Bonnie L. (Rascoe) Frederick, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 7, 2016 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** — Robert Richard "Dick" Walker, 78; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Riverview Cemetery, Chazy.

**Ogdensburg** — Scott A. Farrand, 45; Funeral Services Nov. 11, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in parish cemetery

**Ogdensburg** — Alfred L. Sovie, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 10, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Redford** — Curtis Plumadore Sr., 84; Funeral Nov. 8, 2016 at Church of the Assumption; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** — Ernest John Tobin, 94; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Valley View Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Mary I. (Harnett) DeFranco, 91; Funeral Nov. 7, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** — Arlene E. (Jerome) Lettiere, 85; Funeral Nov. 12, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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## YOUNG CATHOLIC VOICES

# In honor of the innocents

By Amanda Conklin  
Canton campus minister

Respect Life Month has always had a special place in my heart. I was raised in a very pro-life household and then went on to complete my internship and first job in the pro-life field. Of course Respect Life Month has to do with more than just the abortion issue but this is a centerpiece of the cause.

My college internship was working in crisis pregnancy centers in New York City. This experience threw me out of the frying pan and into the fire. Nothing could have prepared me for the reality that although legal, abortion is not safe, nor rare.

I heard horror stories of coerced abortions. I met women who had experienced upwards of 12 abortions. I had to watch the helpless baby on the ultrasound screen as a 16-year-old girl who was in her second trimester looked into my eyes and told me she would abort her baby and nothing could change her mind.

My first job out of college was with Rachel's Vineyard national office and it more accurately opened my eyes



PHOTO BY AMANDA CONKLIN

The Newman Club of St. Lawrence University in Canton set up a "cemetery of the innocents" outside of the student center. The display featured 330 flags with crosses on them to represent the approximately 3,300 abortions that occur each day in the United States.

to the other "half" of the pro-life argument, the women themselves. I can say after my time in this ministry, that abortion is bad for women. I listened to many women over our hotline cry as they explained the circumstances of their abortion and the intense pain and grieving afterwards.

I knew that thousands of women were going through these healing retreats all

over the United States as I dealt directly with the retreat sites as the executive administrative assistant at the office.

I knew this was a cause that would never die in my heart.

This passion has been passed on as a Catholic Campus Minister to my students who also hold a similar flame for this human rights issue. I see myself in one particular student who

that occur each day in the United States (each flag represented 10.)

It speaks to the character of these students to stand for life before their peers. Even as we set up the display, many were walking by making negative comments and one student even ran from the student center pointing to our display with her mouth hanging open.

We obviously struck a nerve on campus as the Women's Center, nicknamed the "dub" appeared the next day in the Student Center with a table providing pro-abortion material and offering the students an opportunity to fill in the blank "I support women's rights because..."

I also want to commend the students who weren't comfortable being visually present while setting up the display, but who still helped in their own way by prayer, helping to draw crosses on flags etc.

There are many ways to help advance the culture of life. This has started a dialogue on campus. Christ calls us all to spread the message of the Gospel, the Gospel of Life, to all we meet. For some, that may mean being a visual, audible messenger. For others it may mean deep prayer and contemplation "behind the scenes."

However God is calling you, I encourage all to take a note from these courageous young people, and stand in this difficult time, for life.

has taken up a specific torch for this issue. She approached me about wanting to do something pro-life on a very pro-abortion campus. This very campus held a "support Planned Parenthood" rally that marched from campus to Planned Parenthood in Canton last year and included many faculty and staff.

So, after much planning, prayer and preparation, we went through the correct channels and Newman Club of St. Lawrence University set up a "cemetery of the innocents" outside of the student center. The display had 330 flags with crosses on them to represent the approximately 3,300 abortions

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