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Thanksgiving message from Father Muench | PAGE 2

Pope tells new cardinals to be agents of unity | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 28

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 23, 2016

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS



PHOTO BY SISTER MARY EAMON LYNG, SSI
Father Steven Murray, pastor of Holy Family in Watertown and Bishop LaValley joined area priests, family and friends to honor Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy on his 70th anniversary of priesthood. Msgr. McCarthy was ordained Oct. 19, 1946 at the old St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. He was the guest of honor at a Mass and luncheon held Oct. 20 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown where he now resides. This week, the *NCC* celebrates the life and ministry of Msgr. McCarthy and all the priests of the diocese in the annual Priest Appreciation issue.

Year of Mercy comes to an end

Bishop LaValley closed the Jubilee Door of Mercy at St. Mary's Cathedral at the Saturday vigil Mass Nov. 19.

In his homily for the Mass, the Feast of Christ the King, Bishop LaValley said, "As we formally close the Jubilee Holy Door of Mercy at our St. Mary's Cathedral, we thank God for the graces of mercy we have received and thank Him for the blessings of mercy we try to be for others. There is a traditional prayer which says: 'Christ

has no hands but our hands to do His work today; no feet but our feet to lead people in His ways; no tongue but our tongue to tell them how He died, and no help but our help to bring people to His side.'

"As disciples in mission, as members of God's royal family, we are to offer people the love of God," he said. "We are invited to show people in practical ways how loving and merciful God is.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

'CALL ME FR. DAS'

Parishioners of St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's in Watertown welcomed a new Missionary of the Sacred Heart to serve as their parochial vicar. Father Pushpadhasan Santhanthy invited them to call him Fr. Das

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

FUTURE OF FEWER PRIESTS

Parish representatives from Alexandria Bay, LaFargeville and Clayton meet to consider their future as one parish community

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

Advent begins on Sunday



CNS PHOTO/LISA JOHNSTON, ST. LOUIS REVIEW
A lit candle is seen on an Advent wreath. Advent, a season of joyful expectation before Christmas, begins Nov. 27 this year. The Advent wreath, with a candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the liturgical period. Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore writes on the readings for the First Sunday of Advent in this week's Scripture Reflections.

Around the Diocese

PAGE 14

FULL STORY, PAGE 12

NORTH
COUNTRY
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you, Lord, for our priests

What better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than to express our appreciation for the beloved Fathers in our midst?

As you will see - in page after page of 'thank you' messages in this week's paper - the NCC staff wasn't alone in our thinking. Our readers welcomed the opportunity to let their pastors and priest friends know how much they are valued.

It's not easy being a priest these days. Younger ones are asked to take on a long list of responsibilities that can often keep them from nourishing the relationships so critical to themselves and to healthy parish life.

In parishes where two or three or four priests once addressed the pastoral needs of the people, now one priest is expected to serve two or three or four different communities.

Older priests are hesitant to accept a much-deserved retirement knowing that the parishes they leave may close behind them.

Middle aged priests often move from parish life to diocesan work and back again.

Everyone wants Father to take care of himself. And everyone wants Father to keep our favorite Mass on the schedule, visit us in the hospital,

spend quality time with the kids, come to our meetings, join our family at funeral homes, deliver inspiring homilies, keep up with diocesan directives (promote the *North Country Catholic*) and so on and so on and so on.

While our expectations for our priests are not likely to change, it is important that we let them know that their sacrifice and ministry mean the world to us.

For me, I can never thank my NCC priests enough. Msgr. Whitmore and Father Muench are spending their "retirement" years sharing their wisdom in the pages of the diocesan paper. That's not an easy task, especially with an editor who's a little fanatical about the weekly deadline!

And, I know how blessed I am to have Bishop LaValley as our publisher. His support through the years has made it a joy to come to work. And, what a bonus that he is such an accomplished writer.

But, I admit that as grateful as I am, I didn't share my appreciative thoughts in an advertisement in this week's paper. The majority of our priests - who won't see their names in a decorative box - should know that their priest-hood is no less appreciated.

They, alas, have friends like me.

But, they can all be assured that, as we thank God for our blessings this week, every priest in our diocese will be included. You are *each* a blessing to us all!

Mary Lou
Kilian

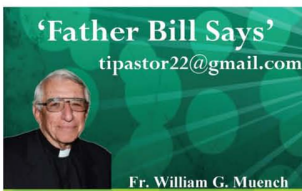
A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

To find happiness, live gratefully

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! What a gift - a day dedicated to gratitude is truly a gift. Dominican Brother David Stienl Rast, a theologian and spiritual writer says this: "Do you want to find happiness, live gratefully."

So, today, let me begin by thanking all of you who join me each week by reading my column. You are in my mind when I put this together each week. I hope my ideas make some sense to you. I must admit that I depend greatly on the Holy Spirit. I want to add my gratitude to my editor, Mary Lou Kilian, for giving me this space each week.

Today, I offer a prayer to God for making me a priest here in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. As a priest of this diocese I add my gratitude today to Bishop LaValley for his dedicated guidance and leadership to our North Country. At the same time, I add my gratitude to all my brother priests of our diocese for their dedication in our efforts to bring God's love and peace to the people of this North Country.



'Father Bill Says'

tipastor22@gmail.com

Fr. William G. Muench

In this effort, I add sincere gratitude to our deacons, religious Sisters, and all the lay people who join together with me in evangelization.

Personally, I want to thank God for my own family and my friends. My Thanksgiving prayer is for all families - and for the very idea of family. I thank God for all the support I have received from my family and friends.

Thanksgiving is all about family. Our traditional image of Thanksgiving is a family joined in a special meal - joined in a time of special prayer, a time of shared gratitude for all the gifts the Lord has given each of us. God blesses each family. God wants to be part of every family. That also goes for the family of each parish.

As you know I have been studying Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, "Amoris Laetitia." Pope Francis writes a great deal about family in this document and I would like to mention a couple of his ideas.

Pope Francis sees something of God in each family - God touches each family. Pope Francis writes this: "To want to form a family is to resolve to be a part of God's dream, to choose to dream with him, to want to build with him, to join in this saga of building a world where no one will feel alone."

There is a certain holiness in all that it means to be family.

In the same place, Pope Francis writes this: "All family life is a shepherding in mercy. Each of us, by our love and care, leaves a mark on the life of others... This is itself a way to worship God, who has sown so much good in others is the hope that we will help make it grow."

Mercy - Pope Francis declared this past year as Year of Mercy. "All family life is a shepherding in mercy." A family is about love and respect but

also about mercy. Family is about love even in the face of failings and disruption and also forgiveness.

On the Feast of Christ the King, Pope Francis closed this Jubilee Year of Mercy. This was a year of celebration and a time to emphasize the importance of mercy for us all for all time, in the life of our Catholic Church. Jesus came to this world to win our salvation through his life, death and resurrection even in our sinfulness. God continues to reach out to us in love even in our failings and sinfulness.

The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. The love of a family means that the Lord's presence is a part of all that happens - and this brings joy and peace.

Family love is made up of many, many small but real things, small events. In a variety of gifts and encounters, there is a deep union - God has his dwelling place. May your family be filled with the love of God.

FOLLOW ME

'We thank God for this graced Year of Mercy'

Homily for the Closing of Jubilee Year of Mercy on the Feast of Christ the King Nov. 20

We remember that a few years ago the death of Princess Diana provoked a whole range of discussion, not just in Britain, but around the world, about the nature of royalty in modern society. She was called the "people's princess."

Her life and death continue to raise questions about what makes someone royal, and what the role of members of a royal family should be in today's society.

Another woman who died about the same time as Princess Diana was canonized a saint earlier this year, a woman who many of us consider a "Queen of Hearts" - St. Mother Teresa.

Normally, when we think of kings and queens we picture Cinderella, castles and crowns, jewels, pomp and ceremony. We think of riches, power and glamour.

So, what we could have expected for today's feast would have been readings giving us a description of Christ as a great King, sitting at God's right hand; of Christ sitting on His throne in heaven, judging all the nations of the earth.

But what the Church actually offers us is the story of how Christ died on the cross. Whatever kind of king He is, He's nothing like our human expectations of one.

Recall the scene: His throne was a cross, His crown was made of thorns, His courtiers were His executioners, and the

people closest to Him were common criminals. What kind of king is this?

Why do we call Him a king at all?

The cross shows us what kind of king Jesus is: He is one who cares for us right to the end. He cares enough to suffer and die. He cares enough to be misunderstood and rejected. He cares enough to seem a failure, prepared to make any sacrifice for the sake of those he loves.

We heard in our 1st reading that the Israelites made David their king. What they expected of a king was that he be like God. For them, that meant especially that the king should look after and defend those who couldn't look after themselves.

The king was the one who had to tend the weakest and the helpless, the powerless, the vulnerable. He was to have a special concern for widows, orphans, the stranger, for the poor.

So, on today's Feast of Christ the King, we hear in our Gospel of Christ the King, dying on the cross. And it is at this moment that He is at His most God-like. He is the Man who shows us - fully and uniquely - what God is like, because He gives and doesn't count the cost.

He gives everything He has in order to protect those he loves - and that includes us here today. He saves the weak and helpless, people unable to do very much for themselves.

He loves you and me literally to death.

Christ asks us, His followers, to be kings and queens like Him. That means look-

ing out for others, taking care of the weak and the poor, those without friends or families to care for them properly, those without hope for the future, those without any real sense of their own value.

He wants us to be kings and queens to these people, to care for them, even if it costs us, even if it isn't easy, even if it means we get rejected and misunderstood.

Hasn't that been the pervading theme that Pope Francis been teaching us throughout this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy - to be mindful of and to extend ourselves to the vulnerable, the marginalized, the poor, the forgotten?

Certainly, through the census visits we made recently in our local parishes, we have come to appreciate even more that we must reach out to our neighbors. We cannot be indifferent to the hurting.

As we formally close the Jubilee Holy Door of Mercy at our St. Mary's Cathedral, we thank God for the graces of mercy we have received

and thank Him for the blessings of mercy we try to be for others.

There is a traditional prayer which says: "Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today; no feet but our feet to lead people in His ways; no tongue but our tongue to tell them how He died, and no help but our help to bring people to His side."

As disciples in mission, as members of God's royal family, we are to offer people the love of God. Where else will they find it? We are invited to show people in practical ways how loving and merciful God is.

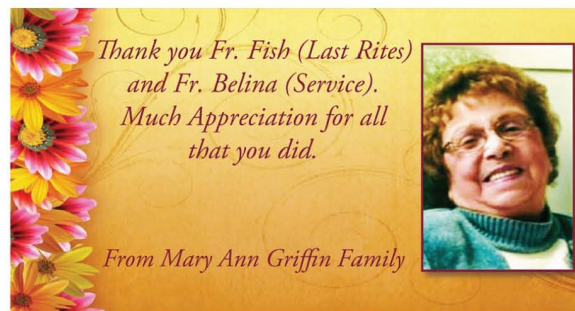
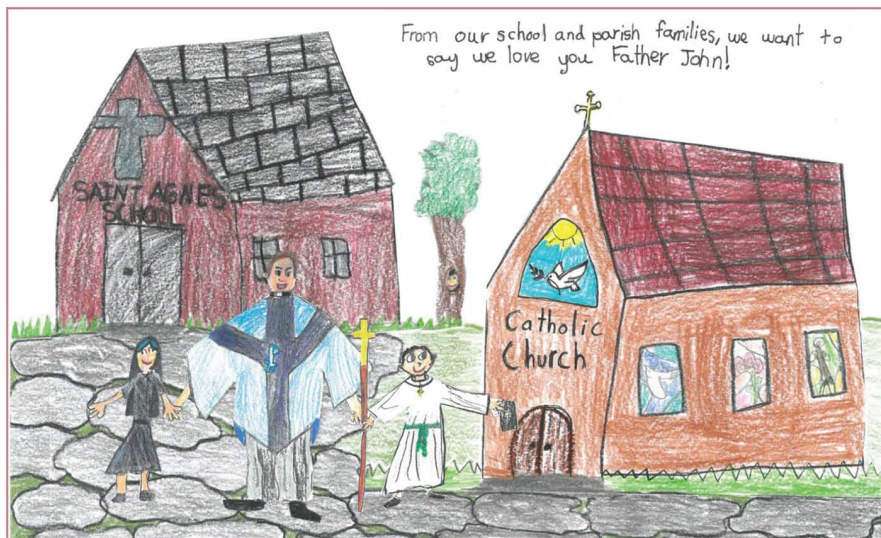
To be royal like Christ, we need to be associated with the unattractive and unpopular, people who are different, laughed at and mocked. We are truly kings and queens when we put flesh and blood on God's love for humanity.

We thank God for this graced Year of Mercy and pray to be mercy in motion every day.

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



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley



Father Doug Comstock,
We, of the Catholic Community of Alexandria,
are so blessed in having you as our pastor!
You do such an outstanding job shepherding your flock!
From your parishioners,
St. Cyril's Church, Alex Bay
St. Francis Xavier Church, Redwood

New Missionary of the Sacred Heart comes to Watertown

'Just call me Father Das'

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon
Staff writer

WATERTOWN – The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart have had a presence in the North Country since Father Jean-Baptiste Chappel, MSC, was assigned to St. Mary's Parish in Watertown in December 1875. Since St. Mary's did not have a rectory, he took up residence at the "vast house" on Thompson Street.

Father Chappel also became pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Evans Mills and MSC priests eventually served missions in Chaumont, Belleville, Lorraine, La-Fargeville, Rosiere, Felts Mills, Redwood and Rutland.

Today the Watertown community of the Missionaries is responsible for Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Watertown where Father Jonas Tandayu is pastor and the Catholic Community of Cape Vincent, Chaumont and Rosiere where Father Pierre Aubin is pastor.



Father Pushpadhason Santhanthy, known as Father Das, greets Beverly Williams and Penny Clark during a parish reception welcoming him as parochial vicar of St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's in Watertown.

Father Vincent Freeh and Father David Deluca are retired Missionaries and live in Watertown. They provide assistance to parishes throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Deaneries. MSC

Brother Jean-Paul Paradis also lives in the MSC house.

The most recent occupant of the "vast house" on Thompson Street is Father Pushpadhason Santhanthy.

When he arrived last summer to begin ministry as a parochial vicar for St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's parishes in Watertown, he was quick to tell any new acquaintance, "just call me Fr. Das."

Pushpadhason Santhanthy was born May 20, 1974, the fourth of five children of Santhanthy and Annammal. He had five years of education in a Catholic school with the balance, before seminary, in a public school environment in his home State of Tamil Nadu in southern India.

"I was always around the church," Father Das said. "I was not an altar boy but I was in the choir, I read; something drew me to the church."

Indeed his home parish of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus in Kandavilai drew many young men and women to "the Church". There have been 25 vocations to the priesthood and over 100 to consecrated religious life from St. Therese.

As a boy Pushpadhason was often in the company of five other boys of approximately the same age. Five of

the six are now priests.

Father Das did not hear his vocational call immediately after his schooling. "But there was something missing in my life," he said. "I talked to my friends about it. They encouraged me to explore the priesthood."

Eventually his search brought him to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Following ordination in 2006, Father Das taught in the order's House of Formation, worked in several parishes and then was asked to take a position in the United States at Holy Family Parish in Nazareth Pennsylvania. He was in Nazareth less than two years when his Provincial asked him to transfer to Watertown. Another MSC, Father Joseph Christy had completed two years as Parochial Vicar at St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's and was returning to India. Fr. Das accepted.

"I like parish ministry; I like being with people," Fr. Das said. He was nervous about moving to a new parish and admitted his experience at first in Pennsylvania was difficult. "It is hard to meet new people in a new country," he said, "but here it was different. The people here are very gentle, very friendly."

There are challenges to living in community with his congregation, praying with them and taking meals with them while also honoring responsibilities to the parishes he works in. "The times for a meeting in a parish and prayer with my community can sometimes conflict," Father said, "but they understand at the house."

And Father Das candidly admits he misses his family and friends in India, particularly after a three week visit home recently. That is understandable he said, admitting to a bit of homesickness. "It lasted a day or two; I got over it. What's a little suffering? What I am doing here is for Jesus."

Thank you

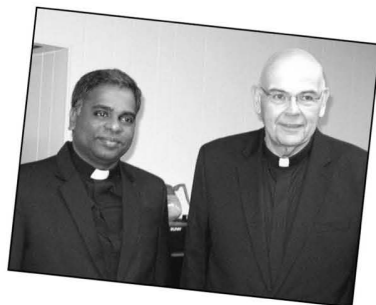
Monsignor Robert H. Aucoin

and

Father Pushpadason Sainthanthy

For your prayers, support and leadership

*St. Patrick's
and
St. Anthony's
Watertown, NY*

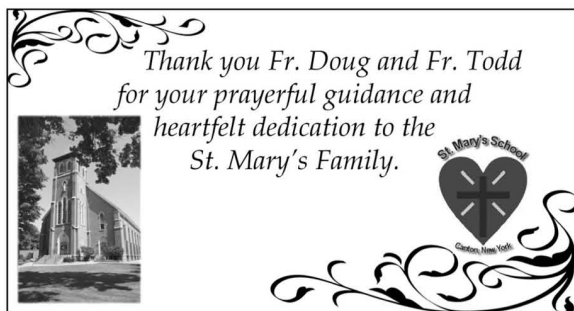


GIFT FOR OUR NEWEST PRIEST



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Local courts of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas expressed their support and appreciation for the priesthood ordination of Father Todd E. Thibault with a presentation of a diocesan chasuble. Father Thibault wore the chasuble during his Oct. 8 ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral. He is pictured, above, following the ordination. The members of Catholic Daughters express ongoing support of religious vocations throughout the year. Many of the 13 local courts send prayers, cards and care packages to diocesan seminarians studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Also annually the Courts of New York State present a check for seminarian training to Bishop Terry R. LaValley at the annual Memorial Mass which was hosted this year by Court Saints Kateri and Andre' #2663, Morrisonville Oct. 1.



**Thank you, Father Venette,
for being a true brother.**

**Knights of Columbus Council 3057
Old Forge**

Bishop LaValley, Fr. Doug and Fr. Tom



**The Vocations Office prayerfully thanks
you for your leadership in creating a
culture of vocation in our diocese!**

**As we celebrate Priesthood Appreciation,
the office extends gratitude to all priests
of our diocese for their continued fidelity
and hard work in promoting the work of
vocations!**

*Ss. Philip and James Altar
Rosary Society
would like to express our
appreciation for our Pastor
Father Kevin O'Brien.*



Fr. Chris
Looby,
You are such
an inspiring
"Good
Shepherd!"
Thank you.

Deacon Bernie

Father Comstock

Thank you for your many years of service.
Looking forward to your Golden Anniversary
in June!

Warm Regards,
Dawn & Deacon Joel



Father John (Mickey) Demo,

*We are so blessed
to have you as our
Parish Priest and
Chaplain of our
CDA Court.
God Bless you
and keep you
safe.*

*Court Mother Admirable
#592
Dannemora & Redford
Parishes*

Bishop's Schedule

Nov. 27 – 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's
Cathedral

Nov. 29 – 10:50 a.m., Mass at St.
Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Nov. 30 – 5:30 p.m., Operation An-
drew Evening Prayer and Dinner at
St. Edmund's Church in Ellenburg

Environmental Stewardship

Will it be the children Who lead us?

Did you know that 21 children
filed a lawsuit against the gov-
ernment and fossil fuel industry
for violating children's constitu-
tional and public trust rights by
promoting use of fossil fuel?

When we hear the word 'pro-
life' we tend to immediately
think of protecting the rights
and dignity of the unborn child.
These children seem to be look-
ing at the quality of lives as they
grow up.

What will the quality of the
water, the air, the soil for them
and for their children be like?
What will the natural world they
enjoy now look like in their fu-
ture? What animals and other
living creatures will still be here
to enjoy life with them?

All of these questions chal-
lenge us as people of faith to
take our pro-life efforts to a new
frontier.

The scientific facts regarding
the effects on the natural world
by our use of fossil fuels over
time has been acknowledged by
over 175 countries around the
world, including China, India and
the U.S.

In November 2016 these na-
tions signed the Paris Agree-
ment to work towards lowering
our carbon emissions caused by
the use of coal and oil.

Pope Francis in his encyclical
Laudato Si' has brought the light
of our Faith to this current global
reality. He urges all of us to con-
sider our responsibility on the
personal, economical and politi-
cal levels to find ways to reduce
our increasing demands for
more and more energy to sup-
port our current lifestyles. as well
as to invest in affordable re-
newal energy. It is a time to find
ways to protect "our common
home" for the children who will
inherit it. As we prepare for our
Christmas shopping, consider
carpooling, shopping locally,
purchasing items and gifts that
require less energy.

Protecting God's Children

The **Diocese of Ogdensburg** has
scheduled sessions for Protecting
God's Children for Adults. Pre-reg-
istration online is required in order to
participate. Participants may pre-
register at www.virtus.org by se-
lecting the registration button and
following the directions. Further in-
formation is available from Atone-
ment Sister Ellen Donahue,
315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcom-
ing sessions:

Dec. 14 – 6 p.m., Father Amyot Parish
Center, Norfolk

Rest in Peace

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

Nov. 23 – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

Nov. 24 – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857;
Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950; Rev. Norman
E. Poupore, 2014

Nov. 27 – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev.
Maurice O'Neil, 1999

Nov. 28 – Rev. Edward Gabriel Brice,
1929

Nov. 29 – Msgr. Michael Kelly, 1957;
Rev. Peter A. Ward, 1984

To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected
misconduct involving diocesan clergy,
religious, employees or volunteers,
contact: **Victims Assistance Coordina-
tor**, Terriane Yanulavich, Adult &
Youth Counseling Services of North-
ern New York, 413 Ryan Road, Chu-
rusco, NY, 12923; e-mail:
terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com
Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr James
Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for
Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340



THE PARISHIONERS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

ARE SO BLESSED TO HAVE

FATHER TIMOTHY CANAAN AS OUR SHEPHERD

FATHER BILL EDWARDS AS OUR PAROCHIAL VICAR


AND

FATHER NORMAN COTE IN RESIDENCE

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO
FOR OUR FAMILY OF FAITH!

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

*The parishioners of the
Catholic Community of
Morristown, Hammond,
and Rossie are grateful for the
ministry of our pastor,
Fr. Jay Seymour*



In Thanksgiving and
Appreciation for our
Pastor,
Fr. Christopher Carrara.

May God continue to Bless
you in your Ministry.

- The Catholic Communities of
St. Peter's Church, Lowville,
St. Mary's Church, Glenfield and
St. Hedwig's Church, Houseville.



Reverend Father Peter M. Berg, pastor of the parishes of St. Thérèse in Newcomb and St. Henry's in Long Lake, is a loving, generous priest with the heart of a true servant. He labors, and has labored, selflessly and joyfully on a consistent basis to women and men, boys and girls, both inside and outside the Church. Charitable and ecumenically-minded, Father Berg always puts others first and backs up his words of kindness with loving actions. He has been a wonderful priestly friend of mine before and especially after my own ordination. The parishes of St. Thérèse and St. Henry's, I know, are most grateful for his loving leadership, and he is a priestly jewel in the crown of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Sincerely,

Scott Brenon Caton

Reverend Father Scott Brenon Caton, Ph.D.
Priest, Diocese of Rochester
Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and
Professor of History at Roberts Wesleyan
College, Rochester, New York



Court Chaplains,
We appreciate your guidance and support.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Thirteen Local Courts in Diocese of Ogdensburg

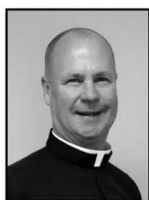
*In appreciation for all that Father Garry Giroux
does in our parishes.
His sermons are always inspiring and his energy
shows his dedication to all.*

ORDINATION MASS



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presides at the Oct. 8 liturgy at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg during which Father Todd E. Thibault was ordained. Priests from throughout the diocese concelebrated.



*Father Tom,
We appreciate everything
you do for us!
May God continue to bless
your ministry among us!*



*Father Looby,
We thank you for your
continued Pastoral work in our
parishes!*

*From,
St. Francis, St. George's, St. Joseph's,
St. Patrick's, St. Mary's &
Our Lady of Fatima Churches*



Monsignor Paul Whitmore

God bless you, Monsignor.

*Thank you
for being our friend
and
devoted Chaplain.
Ad Multos Annos!*

Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
Watertown, New York

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

 #Pontifex

*Fr Joe,
thank you for all you
do for each one of us.
You are a true
blessing from God.*

Deacon Dave & Linda Sandburg



*Father Tim,
Thank you for
being such a
wonderful pastor
and friend.*

Ken & Kathy

*Thank you
for all you do
for us
Father Scott.*

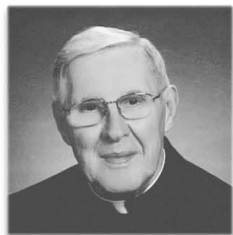
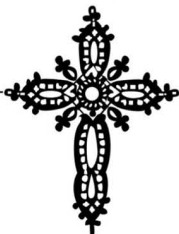
Ms. Cecile Filion

WE APPRECIATE OUR PRIESTS

Fr. Gaffney &
Fr. Muench

*Thank you for your
service to our Parish*

St. Andrew's K of C
and
Altar and Rosary
Society



*Thank you, Fr. John Cosmic,
Retired Parochial Vicar Emeritus.*

*From the parishioners of
St. James, Carthage,
St. Mary's, Copenhagen and
All at Augustinian Academy*

*We are most grateful for your presence
and many kindnesses.*

Thank you for all you do Father Chris Looby!
We are so thankful and grateful to be blessed with
you as our pastor.

Women of Grace of Evans Mills,
St. Mary's, St. Joseph and St. Theresa



Father Philip Allen

Father - Thank you for being you!
You are a true inspiration to the two of us!!

Deacon Jim and Chris Chaufy

Thank You
Pastor Scott Seymour and
Priest in Residence,
Rev. William Gordon,
Retired Priests
Fr. Gilbert Menard &
Msgr. Peter Riani
for all that you do for us
here at the
RCC of St. Alexander
& St. Joseph Church!

Your hard work and dedication
does not go unnoticed.

**From your Staff and all your
parishioners.**



Fr. Kevin,

thank you for your years of faithful care for all of the parishioners, students, staff and volunteers of St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's school. You have guided, inspired, uplifted and most importantly, brought us closer to Christ.

May God bless you today and
always--

St. Mary's Parish and St. Mary's School
Ticonderoga, NY

Fr. Kevin blesses our "pets" on St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day

FATHER AND HIS FURRY FRIENDS



Father Ted Crosby officiated at the first Pet Blessing held at Sacred Heart Church in Chazy in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Father Crosby was assisted by Max Barcomb.

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Thank you Fr. Kris Lauzon for being our pastor since 2009. It has been a pleasure serving with you and for you during that time at Holy Name, St. Matthew's and St. Margaret's.

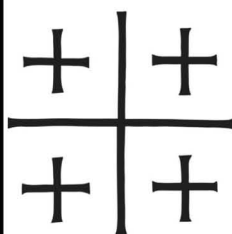
Deacon John Ryan



Rev. Clyde Lewis:
Thank you for all you do for St. Patrick's and St. Mary's.

Your Parishioners

Thank You, Father Chris



For All You Do For Us!

Indian River Catholics

Thank you Father Kevin McEwan for all you do for St. Mary's, Ticonderoga.

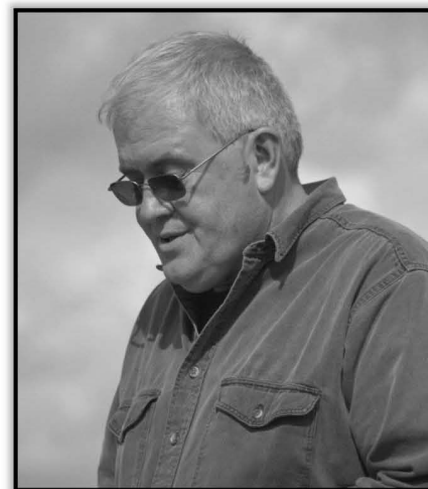
The Peterson's



Fr. Shane Lynch

We are thankful for your service, as pastor and chaplain.

St. James, Gouverneur,
Sacred Heart, Edwards,
St. Hubert's, Star Lake



Father Alan Shinob

St. Augustine's Parish- Peru, NY

In recognition as our Chaplain, for your spiritual guidance, dedication and devotion to Mother Mary's cause, as you lead us in service to her divine son, Jesus. For your personal care and concern for St. Augustine's parishioners and all who seek your guidance and assistance. For your staunch support and personal participation as Chaplain for both the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Monica #2598, the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Rosalia #2598 and the Knights of Columbus, Council #7273, we thank you. May our prayers be answered for your continued good health and leadership in our faith community.

Thanks

Fr. Mark Reilly and Fr. Tojo Chacko for all that you do for the Catholic Churches of Massena.

Deacon Tom & Linda Proulx

Father Marullo,

Thank you for always being there for all of us.

The members of your four parishes:

St. John's Church, Lyons Falls
St. Martin's Church, Port Leyden
St. Mary's Church, Constableville
St. Mary's Nativity, West Leyden

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Protecting planet is ethical, moral obligation, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The vulnerability of the poor and of future generations to the impact of climate change creates a "serious ethical and moral responsibility to act without delay and as free as possible from political and economic pressure" to slow climate change and protect the environment, Pope Francis said. In a written message to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in Marrakech, Morocco, Pope Francis praised the 100 countries that formally joined the Paris climate agreement adopted last year, but emphasized that implementing the agreement must involve multidisciplinary cooperation and special measures of solidarity with the poor. "Technological solutions are necessary, but not sufficient," the pope wrote to the conference, which was meeting Nov. 7-18. Governments must recognize there are "ethical and social aspects" of working for a new model of development that is sustainable and respectful of both the planet and the poor. "The current situation of environmental degradation," he said, is "strongly connected with human, ethical and social degradation."

NYS court rules Sheen remains should be transferred to Peoria

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) -- The Supreme Court of the State of New York ruled Nov. 17 in favor of the family of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen regarding their request to allow the transfer of the sainthood candidate's remains to Peoria, where he was raised and ordained a priest. On Nov. 1, Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Arlene Bluth heard arguments in favor of the transfer from lawyers for Archbishop Sheen's niece, Joan Sheen Cunningham, as well as those from the Archdiocese of New York, which sought to keep the remains of the famed orator and media pioneer at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, where he was entombed following his death on Dec. 9, 1979. The Diocese of Peoria has been a promoter of Archbishop Sheen's canonization cause for more than 14 years. The ruling is seen as a key factor in allowing his cause to move forward. There was no immediate response from the New York Archdiocese. "The petitioner (Joan Sheen Cunningham) is granted the right to remove the remains of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York ... to St. Mary's Cathedral (in Peoria)," ruled Bluth at the close of a 10-page decision. The court, she said, deferred to the wishes of the family "because petitioner has set forth a justifiable, good, and substantial reason for moving the remains."

Texas cardinal, L.A. archbishop elected USCCB president, VP

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was elected president of the U.S. bishops' conference Nov. 15 for a three-year term to begin at the conclusion of the bishops' annual fall general assembly in Baltimore. Cardinal DiNardo collected a majority of votes on the first ballot of voting during the second day of the bishops' public session. Based on the number of bishops voting, 104 votes were needed for election, and Cardinal DiNardo -- the current vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops -- received 113. He will succeed Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, whose three-year term as president concludes at the end of the meeting. Elected vice president was Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles. He was elected on the third ballot by 131-84 in a run-off against Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans.

Pope calls new cardinals to be agents of unity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - The Catholic Church's 17 new cardinals must dedicate their lives to being ministers of forgiveness and reconciliation in a world - and sometimes a church - often marked by hostility and division, Pope Francis said.

Even Catholics are not immune from "the virus of polarization and animosity," the pope told the new cardinals, and "we need to take care lest such attitudes find a place in our hearts."

Creating 17 new cardinals from 11 nations Nov. 19, the pope said the College of Cardinals - and the Catholic Church itself - must be a sign for the world that differences of nationality, skin color, language and social class do not make people enemies, but brothers and sisters with different gifts to offer.

Three of the new cardinals created during the prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica were from the United States: Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Joseph W. Tobin, whom the pope asked to move from being archbishop of Indianapolis to archbishop of Newark, New Jersey.

The Gospel reading at the consistory was St. Luke's version of Jesus' discourse to his disciples: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

"They are four things we can easily do for our friends and for those more or less close to us, people we like, people whose tastes and habits are similar to our own," Pope Francis said. But Jesus, not mincing his words, calls his followers to more.

With people we consider our opponents or enemies,"

the pope said, "our first instinctive reaction ... is to dismiss, discredit or curse them. Often we try to 'demonize' them, so as to have a 'sacred' justification for dismissing them."

In God, he said, there are no enemies. There are only brothers and sisters to love. All people are embraced by God's love, he said. "We are the ones who raise walls, build barriers and label people."

Just as God loves and forgives the pope and the cardi-

nals for their sinfulness, Pope Francis said, so they must love and forgive others, undergoing "the conversion of our pitiful hearts that tend to judge, divide, oppose and condemn."

As the Year of Mercy was ending, Pope Francis called on the new cardinals - and everyone present in the basilica - to continue to proclaim "the Gospel of mercy," going out to where people live, giving them hope and helping them become signs of reconciliation.

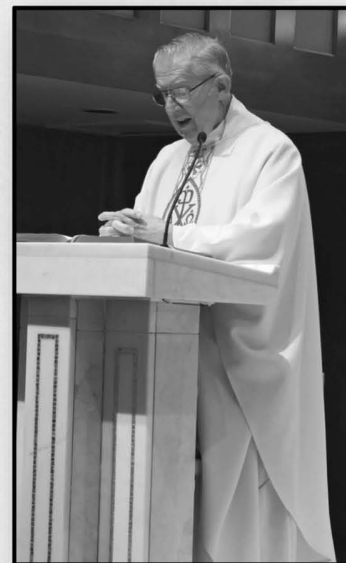
Father,

We appreciate your service.

God Bless



~William and Athalie Wiley



SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Peace starts in the heart of believers

Another Advent begins this Sunday. It's a time to prepare for the coming of the Messiah again.

It's a time to stir up in our faith communities the reason for celebration.

Even though Pope Francis closed the Holy Door in Rome last Sunday, it's now our turn to open the doors of our hearts to God's Son who comes again from heaven to save us from new sins and betrayals of His

love and mercy.

In the first reading from Isaiah, God invited the divided kingdom of Israel to climb the holy mountain to His house.

There He will melt down their swords, and turn their hearts to thoughts of peace. What seemed to them an impossible dream actually came true seven hundred years later when Jesus was born.

The kingdom was united,

and peace ruled the whole world, Scripture tells us. The message for us is clear. We must continually strive to work for a peaceful and just world, so that Christ may have room in all hearts.

How? We must listen carefully to the daily preaching of Pope Francis!

Peace starts in the hearts of believers.

The second reading from Paul to the Romans insists that we wake up, and throw off the works of darkness.

If we follow Paul's advice to walk in the light, then Advent is a time for sincere riddance of sinful ways and sluggish response to the teaching of Jesus and His Church.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns

us that we must be prepared, for "at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come". We wonder for how many people, this Christmas will be the last time they will celebrate on this earth. We need to take this Advent seriously, for the Second Coming of the Lord will be not just a beautiful Christmas, but the actual day of judgment.

As the inscription on an old sundial in an English garden says, "It's later than you think!"

The readings this Sunday alert us to something about to begin, and we must be ready for the newness. Night is ending. Dawn is at hand.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

NOV. 27

The First Sunday of Advent

Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:31-44

"Stay awake." Put on "the armour of light." And "let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." There is a sense of anticipation.

Advent is that anticipation, that moment of joyful hope, lived out across four weeks. We symbolize that, and ritualize it, with the Advent wreath.

Let's not rush it this year. We don't light all four candles at once.

We go one at a time so that our light will gather and grow. And so will our Christmas joy.

MONSIGNOR PAUL

Thank you for being a priest!!!

Thank you also for being a matchmaker

15 years ago!!

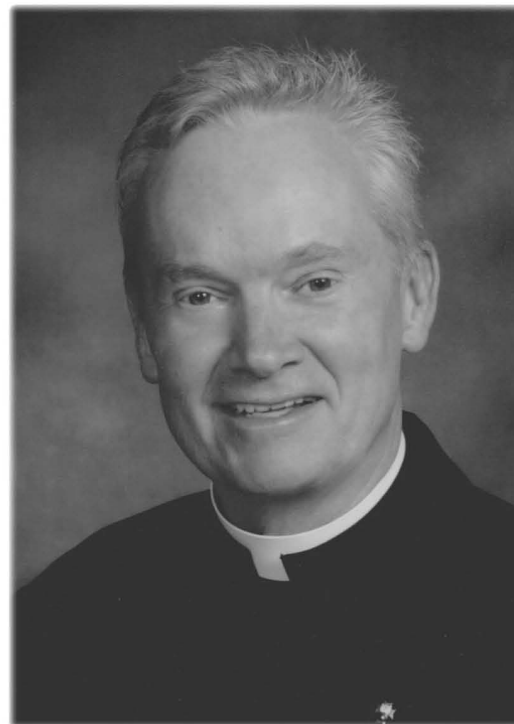


Deacon Jim and Chris Chaufy

*Thank you Fr. Don,
we are blessed to have you with us.*

*From the parishioners of
St. James, Carthage,
St. Mary's, Copenhagen and
All at Augustinian Academy.*

*We are most grateful for your presence and
many kindnesses.*



AT THE MOVIES

THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

A sense of missed opportunities looms over the coming-of-age comedy "The Edge of Seventeen" (STX).

The film features many of its genre's familiar elements: a precocious, angst-ridden teen girl, awkwardness with the opposite sex, a sense of deprivation despite a loyal friend, a supportive brother and a very compassionate teacher.

What's distinct - and disturbing - about "Edge" is that the lead character, Nadine (Hailee Steinfeld), is a 17-year-old high school junior who's exceptionally foul-mouthed, obsessed with sex and who eventually finds herself in a situation that may make viewers wonder who the target audience for this movie really is.

Writer-director Kelly Fremon Craig would seem to be up against a paradox, having made an R-rated movie that most teen girls - who would presumably be expected to identify with Nadine - can't see.

Nadine's issues are rooted in the death of her idolized father, Tom (Eric Keenleyside), back when she was 13. This only receives superficial mentions.

Krista (Haley Lu Richardson), her best friend from elementary school, has always been there to provide emotional support, even when Nadine's mother, Mona (Kyra Sedgwick), was too busy venturing out on wildly bad dates.

Nadine's idealized father

figure is teacher Mr. Bruner (Woody Harrelson), to whom she confesses all her anxieties.

The first crisis emerges when Nadine finds her brother, Darian (Blake Jenner), in bed with Krista, an event that snaps her bonds with both.

She explores the beginning of a dating relationship with the shy and equally awkward Erwin (Hayden Szeto).

But she also pines after Nick (Alexander Calvert), a scruffy bad boy who has

only one thing on his mind.

This sets up the second crisis, when Nadine sends Nick a sexually explicit text by mistake. Complications ensue, falling just short of sexual violence.

The film contains a semi-graphic sexual assault, implied nonmarital sexual activity, underage drinking and pervasive rough, crude and crass language.

The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted.



CNS PHOTO/STX PRODUCTIONS
Haley Lu Richardson and Blake Jenner star in a scene from the movie "The Edge of Seventeen."

The people of Holy Family parish are grateful for the many prayers and blessings bestowed on us by our pastor

Fr. Steven Murray,

and our retired priests in residence,

Fr. Leo Wiley and

Msgr. Paul Whitmore.

Thank you for your always kind, gentle, and loving service!



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gabarnett@touraidtravel.com

ADIRONDACK

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. Lunch served and childcare is available.

Contact: Vendor space is available. Please call 518-523-3771 or email at infor@stagnesp.org

CLINTON

SETON CHRISTMAS DINNER

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic Central will be held at Seton Catholic Central.

Date: Dec. 4

Time: 12 p.m. to 5

Price: \$10, general admission, \$8, senior citizens and veterans. Under five are free

Features: Turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Theme baskets to be raffled off and we also have a cash raffle..

MODEL UN BENEFIT CONCERT

Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic Central to present Patrick Fitzsimmons, an RCA recording artist and indie/folk legend.

Date: Dec. 10

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:30

Cost: Adults, \$10; Students, \$6

Features: Proceeds benefit Model UN's trip to Boston and NCCS.

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.

Dates: Dec. 4; Jan 29; Feb 12; Mar 5; Apr 2 and 23; May 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Bartholomew's Rectory

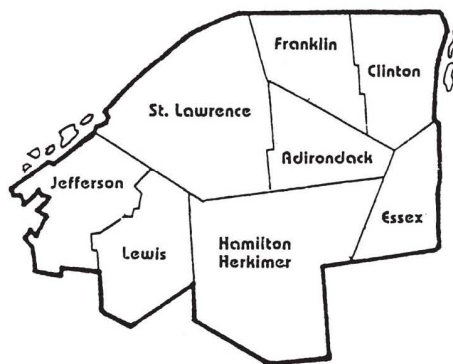
Features: Reflection, Vespers & dinner. Juniors in high school and older.

Contact: Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.st-barts@roadrunner.com/ 315-369-3554;

JEFFERSON

IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS ADVENT

Watertown – IHC Mystery Players to present 'The Birth of Jesus.'



The North County 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@northcountycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

Schedule:

Nov. 27, Summit Village, Watertown at 2 p.m.;

Dec. 4, Immaculate Conception Church, Brownville at 6:30 p.m.;

Dec. 11, at St. Peter's Church, Hammond at 6:30 p.m.;

Dec. 18, Holy Family Church, Watertown at 7:15 p.m.

Contact: Mystery players is also currently looking for spots to perform during Lent 2017. Interested churches please contact Terry at tburgess@spar-tanpride.org

ADVENT TIME PRAYER

Sackets Harbor – Advent Time of Prayer with Fr. Kevin O'Brien is set

Date: Dec 10

Time: 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Andrew's Parish Center

Features: A light lunch of soup, no charge and all are welcome.

FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS

The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Mary's in Clayton and St. John's, La-Fargeville, will present "The Birth of Jesus – A Franciscan Christmas".

Schedule:

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 dra-

matic 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

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

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. Santa will be on hand, photos with this jolly old soul are also offered (family photos too). Chil-

dren'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.

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

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

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

Date: Dec. 4

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

CRAFT FAIR

Gouverneur – Craft fair to be held with a visit from Santa.

Date: Dec. 3

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

Place: St. James School

Cost: Donation

Features: Santa will visit at 1:30 p.m. Over 50 vendors selling: Jewelry, wood-crafts, ceramics, stuffed animals, homemade dolls, leather goods, candles, knitted items, country crafts, Christmas ornaments and decorations, baskets, etc. There will also be a book sale. Lunch

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Potsdam – The K of Council 340 is hosting a community Breakfast.

Date: Dec. 4

Time: 8 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@lucia.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 crussell@rcdony.org with any questions or to register.

NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

ADVENT RETREAT

Syracuse – Light Blazing, Darkness Undone: An Advent Evening of Renewal.

Date: Dec. 8

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

Place: Spiritual Renewal Center

Cost: \$20 or whatever you can afford
Features: How does one wait for the coming of a Savior? This opportunity for reflection and renewal will explore that question drawing upon Scripture, world literatures, Ignatian and Celtic Spiritualities, and the wisdom of the prophets
Our presenter is Jesuit novice Brendan Coffey, a dynamic and insightful teacher.

Contact: Register online at spiritualrenewalcenter.com/events or contact the center at (315) 472-6546 or mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com.



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

Near and far: we appreciate priests

From the Director's Desk

Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Diocesan Mission Director

The Diocese of Ogdensburg is blessed many wonderful priests. These grace-filled, hard-working, tireless individuals are deeply rooted in faith in Jesus Christ. They are aware of the needs of their people in the North Country as well as the developing lands. They walk through busy days filled with both planned and unplanned events, showing both care and forgiveness. Priests witness the impossible, guide our hearts, heal the broken and encourage peace. They minister with prayer and instill in us that trust will grow our their faith in the journey.

Recently, I received an email from Father Dan Chapin, former pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Croghan. Now retired from the Diocese of Ogdensburg, he works in Central America. You may also know that Father Dan served in Molendo, Peru.

Father Dan writes, "I'm doing well, gradually settling in and becoming used to Bolivian realities here in Cochabamba at the "Maryknoll Mission Center in Latin America" ("CMMAL" in Spanish); I'm living at the Maryknoll Center House with six other priests; one is Argentinian, a Maryknoll Associate like myself; one is Korean; the rest are American (PA, NJ, TX and MA.). There is another priest and a student from Toronto, Ont. who live in one of the barrios, but comes here for visits every week. I was here in 1976 to learn Spanish for the first time in preparation for work in Peru; I returned here in 1978 for a refresher course.

After living alone for some 25 years in big rectories and a former monastery, it is good to live in community and with such an international group of missionaries. Within three days of arrival, I assisted at two weddings at a local parish, Our Lady of LaSalette; I have presided and preached there as well on the weekend; I was at St. Monica's Parish on Friday afternoon and evening, hearing confessions for 4 1/2 hours straight!

It is the time of year when parishes are celebrating First Communion and Confirmation, so there are many opportunities offered for people to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The two priests at this parish are natives of Costa Rica. I presided and preached at the Catholic Community of Luis Espinal on Sunday, "World Mission Sunday", although Bolivia celebrated it the previous weekend; I shared with the congregation some of Pope Francis' reflections on the characteristics of a community of missionary disciples as indicated in his exhortation of 2013, "The Joy of the Gospel..."

I offer my prayers to Bishop Terry R. LaValley and all of our dedicated priests in their zeal for ministry to assist people in their joy and enthusiasm in encountering Christ. God bless you and God Bless our Priests!

OBITUARIES

Constable — Shaylyn Maru Bushey, 38; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2016 at St. Francis of Assis Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

Croghan — Cassandra A. Lashbrooks, 25; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2016 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

Houseville — Isabel A. (Wieczersak) Stanton, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2016 at St. Hedwig's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lake Placid — Doris Madeline (Goodreau) Branchaud, 92; Funeral Services Nov. 12, 2016 at the M.B. Clark Funeral Home; burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Lowville — Virginia "Ginny" Mary Reed Howell, 89; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2016 at Isenecker Funeral Home, Inc.; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery, Glenfield.

Malone — Mary Ellen (Missert) Abbott, 90; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Malone — Patricia (Marshall) Livernois, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Malone — Albert H. Nason, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 21, 2016 at the Brusco-Des-

oyers Funeral Home.

Malone — Larry J. Stewart, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Massena — Elwood W. Fregoe, 86; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart.

Massena — John L. "Jack" Morgan, 67; Funeral Services Nov. 19, 2016 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena — Robert J. "Boston" Rothwell, 80; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2016 at the Donaldson Funeral Home.

Ogdensburg — Rebecca (Cook) Brunet, 93; Funeral Services Nov. 18, 2016 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

Ogdensburg — Mary L. Fort, 102; Memorial Services Nov. 19, 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Ogdensburg — Thomas V. Whitcombe, 91; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2016 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru — Patricia M. Galarneau, 62; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Church of the Assumption, Cemetery, Redford.

Port Henry — Maureen J. Hanson, 70; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church.

Port Leyden — Janice A. Corrice, 61; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2016 at St. Martin's Church.

Redford — Stephen A. Burkush, 68; Funeral Services Nov. 15, 2016 at Church of the Assumption.

Saranac Lake — Iva Marie (Bruso) Martin, 77; Funeral Services Nov. 4, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Harrietstown Cemetery.

Saranac Lake — Elizabeth "Betsy" Sageman, 62; Funeral Services Nov. 18, 2016 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in Pine Ridge Cemetery.

Star Lake — Leo J. Chatelain, 83; Funeral Services Nov. 17, 2016 at St. Hubert's Church.

Tupper Lake — James "Jim" Harlan LaFave, 57; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church.

Tupper Lake — Susan (Bonnabeau) Scotti, 61; Funeral Nov. 21, 2016 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Watertown — William Paul Plante, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

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A VOICE OF FAITH

Facing a future with fewer priests

By Dan Haycock
Parishioner, St. Mary's Clayton

Three weeks ago, parish council members and finance council members of The Catholic Community of Alexandria, St. John's of LaFargeville and St. Mary's of Clayton joined together for the first of a series of meetings. The 32 parish representatives were called by Father Douglas G. Comstock, pastor in Alexandria Bay and Father Arthur J. LaBaff, pastor in Clayton and LaFargeville to form the Living Stones Planning Group (LSPG).

The purpose of the first meeting was to give an overview of the past, look at the current situation and consider what the future will bring to parishioners of the river parishes.

For those who wonder, the *past* reference points to the abundance of priest that Catholics enjoyed for generations. There were churches in all the small villages



Parish representatives from The Catholic Community of Alexandria, St. John's in LaFargeville and St. Mary's in Clayton gathered earlier this month to discuss the ramifications of their future as one parish community.

across the diocese. The larger towns and cities had numerous churches.

Today, because of the declining number of priests, churches have been closed or combined with neighboring villages.

People of the Diocese of Ogdensburg has been talking about how to handle this situation for many years. This is where the Living Stones Planning Group comes into being.

The parishes in Alexandria Bay, Clayton and LaFargeville are to become one community and will share a priest. Similar parish groupings will happen across the North Country.

Catholics will have to make sacrifices about all aspects of parish life, but don't think for one instant that our Church will die and fade away.

I have often heard it said, "We, you and I, all of us here

and others who we pray with, who come together to share the Holy Eucharist with, are the Church. Church is not the building, rather, the building is a place for the 'church' to gather, to come together in comfort."

Yes, I'm sorry that we don't have the number of priests that we used to have, but every Catholic has a job to do.

First and foremost we need to pray for vocations. We still have women and

men entering religious life, just not enough. So we must pray for more to hear the call.

Secondly, we need to support the priests and religious we already have. As they get older, they need extra help and that's where you and I come into it.

The diocese offers all sorts of training/ education about how we can get involved in parish ministry.

There are also many options on how to get our youth involved: Guggenheim, retreats, March for Life, Mystery Players, just to name a few.

Finally, I ask you to pray for us, your sisters and brothers who are part of the planning process in parishes across the diocese. The group in my community will be meeting once a month from now until late spring. Each meeting will focus on a different subject, with experts being brought in to talk about them.

Decisions will be made, tears will be shed. We ask for the strength to do God's will.



FR. KRIS LAUZON

*For your dedication, guidance & all you do for our Parish.
We Thank You!*

The Catholic Community of Keeseville

✠ *Father Marullo*

St. John's Parishioners in Lyons Falls, St. Martin's Parishioners in Port Leyden, St. Mary's Parishioners in Constableville and St. Mary's Nativity Parishioners in West Leyden want to thank Father Marullo for all he does. He is a wonderful priest!!!!

Father Kevin,
Our prayers are with you!



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