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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 34

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 11, 2017

'Reach out with tears'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - In the depths of despair, when no words or gestures will help, then cry with those who suffer, because tears are the seeds of hope, Pope Francis said.

When people are hurting, "it is necessary to share in their desperation. In order to

dry the tears from the face of those who suffer, we must join our weeping with theirs. This is the only way our words may truly be able to offer a bit of hope," he said Jan. 4 during his weekly general audience.

"And if I can't offer words

like this, with tears, with sorrow, then silence is better, a caress, a gesture and no words," he said.

In his first general audience of the new year, the pope continued his series of talks on Christian hope by reflecting on Rachel's inconsolable sorrow and mourning for her children who "are no more," as written by the prophet Jeremiah.

Rachel's refusal to be consoled "expresses the depth of her pain and the bitterness of her weeping," the pope said.

AT ST. JAMES, CARTHAGE

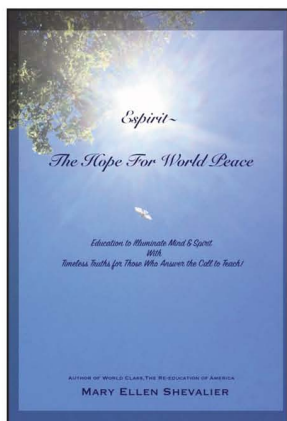
Inherited From the Past - Preserving for the Future



Parishioners of St. James in Carthage have completed a successful capital campaign, raising more than \$875,00. Work on stabilizing the church tower and completing interior upgrades with painting, flooring and lighting, will begin in the spring.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

Inspirational role of teachers



FULL STORY, PAGE 5

Bell choir shares talent

Group from Indian Lake enhances liturgical celebration in Wells.

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HOLY FAMILY CELEBRATES THE HOLY FAMILY



Father Scott Belina, parochial vicar of St. Andre Bessette parish in Malone, led the children of Holy Family School in a celebration of the Feast of Holy Family during a Mass at the school on Friday. Pictured with Father Belina are the third graders who participated in the liturgy. Kneeling from left, are Winter Harrington, Eryn Petrelli, Mackenzie LaPlant and Barbara Gronquist-Tough; standing, Ryan Hesselstine, Denali Woodward, Trenten LaCroix, Adam Perkins, Brady Fitzpatrick, Cheyenne Dillabough and Madison Tebo.

NEW YEAR'S REFLECTION: Every single day is a chance to begin anew... p. 16

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Taking a breath... moving forward

January isn't the easiest month to love as the bright lights of Christmas are put away and the bright days of springtime are still a distant hope.

But this month has a distinctive beauty (which, I admit, may be easier to see in Ogdensburg this morning where it's sunny than in Tug Hill where it's not.) The frenetic holiday pace of the past several weeks has given way to ordinary time and not just on our liturgical calendars.

January is a time for simple, hearty meals and simple homey activities.

Those who love the snow rediscover the ski trails and snowmobile runs that bring so much joy.

The rest of us find pleasure in warm homes with books, favorite TV shows, knitting nee-

dles, computer games... the list is a varied as the people in our lives.

At least in our part of the world, there aren't many special events on the schedule.

We won't be invited to travel across dangerous roads for diocesan gatherings; these are wisely planned for May or September.

This pause in activity allows us the time to regroup a bit and consider what we have learned over the past few months.

2016 was a critical year in our diocese as we took a concerted look at vocations and personal holiness, particularly during our historic summit "Inspire: Called to Love."

The 4000 of us who traveled

to Lake Placid listened to acclaimed speakers. We connected with friends from across the north country. And

together we connected with God, in prayer and song and in each other.

But the sacrifices and hard work that made the day possible mean nothing if the inspiration of "Inspire" doesn't stay with us as we move into a new year. We owe it to ourselves – as individuals and as members of a parish and a diocese –

to continue our journey towards holiness, enlightened and informed by what we heard on Sept. 25.

This year is also a significant moment in our diocesan envisioning process. It was almost

three years ago that Bishop LaValley proclaimed the Pastoral Vision of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at the 2014 Christ Mass.

Since then, teams of priests, deacons, religious and lay people have worked tirelessly to meet diocesan priorities. Goals have been met; plans for vocational awareness, youth ministry, family catechesis and pastoral planning have been adopted.

Now comes the real challenge: bringing the brilliant words to life in every parish community.

One of the priorities of the *North Country Catholic* in 2017 will be to share the good news about the growth of all our diocesan priorities in year three of our five-year vision.

How's that for a life-giving New Year's resolution?

**Mary Lou
Kilian**

FATHER MUENCH SAYS...

To find happiness: STOP.. LOOK...GO

I would like to continue today the vision of a "new year." I again wish to all of you a "Happy New Year." Let me begin this new year by thanking you for being part of my family of readers. I do appreciate your joining me each week in this spot.

The traditional new year greeting – "Happy New Year" – is rather intriguing, isn't it? We wish to each other the gift of happiness throughout a whole new year. Each of us will face the challenge of discovering our happiness.

Recently, I listened to a podcast dedicated to the theme of happiness presented by the TED Radio Hour. The podcast included several interviews of psychologists whose centered on "scientific answers" to finding happiness. They were rather interesting.

The last portion of this pod-

cast was a surprise for me. This portion was a talk given by Brother David Steindl-Rast – a Benedictine Brother.

**Rev. William G.
Muench**

I have included some of Brother David's ideas here before. His talks are always terrific. This particular talk is a message about happiness. His theme: if you want to find happiness, be a grateful person. I would like to share with you my take on Brother David's idea.

Everyone had much to be grateful for. Happy people are grateful people. They are happy because they are grateful. Many happy people don't have much, but they are grateful for what they do have. Each experience becomes a gift, a valuable gift from the Lord. We can and should express our gratitude to the Lord for every moment – every moment is a given moment, a new

opportunity, a time to be grateful.

Brother David does make it clear that there are some things we will never be grateful for – like violence and war. However, we are constantly given a new moment that leads to hope for our future. This gift of hope leads us to gratitude that shows us the happiness of a Christian.

We have been gifted with hope by our God. If you are grateful, you are not afraid, you are not violent, you respect equally all who you meet.

Brother David suggests a method for becoming a grateful person, one whose gratitude leads to happiness.

His method is rather simple – STOP – LOOK – GO.

Each of us need more STOP signs in our days. Life can get far too busy. If we're in too much of a hurry we can fail to recognize the gifts that are ours. Because of this, we fail to recognize how much God

loves us. We fail to recognize the good experiences that are ours, the loving people who are part of our lives, the good things that happen to us. We fail to recognize the new moments that constantly come to us. We have so much to be grateful for.

So, we must take the time to LOOK. We must begin to recognize the gifts that bless our lives. As faith-filled Christians, we believe that God loves us and blesses our lives. So, I ask you to take the time to LOOK – to recognize all that is ours – to be grateful.

Let me share with you one little example. This Christmas I was so grateful and happy to receive many Christmas cards. Some were surprises from people who were an important part of my life but I haven't heard from in ages. I am truly grateful that they took the time to send me a card. Each new card brought so much happiness.

So, Brother David urges us



ST. JAMES PARISH IN CARTHAGE.... INHERITED FROM THE PAST - PRESERVING FOR THE FUTURE:

The Great Fire of 1884 destroyed almost all of the buildings in Carthage except for St. James Church, pictured above. St. James Church, dedicated in 1866, is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. A successful capital campaign begun in September will make it possible to restore the church tower and update the interior of St. James.



St. James Parish completes capital campaign

CARTHAGE - When Father Donald A. Robinson became pastor of St. James Church in June 2015, one of the first things he noticed was the beauty of the Church steeple.

But with a closer examination, it was discovered that the three windows at the very top of the tower were in bad disrepair. The frames around the glass windows had deteriorated so badly that one of the first duties of the new pastor was to replace the windows.

That emergency repair led to a closer examination and survey of the entire tower and it was determined that

the tower and also the exterior side walls of the Church needed critical repair work.

After numerous consultations with the trustees, the parish finance council and parish pastoral council, it was decided that the only way to address the needed stabilization of the tower was to conduct a capital campaign.

The parish groups also believed that it was an appropriate time to freshen and update the interior of the church with new paint and flooring. The church is also in need of new lighting.

The firm of John Kearns

and Associates from Orchard Park, New York, was retained to design and conduct the parish capital campaign which began in September. The goal of the campaign was set at \$850,000.

The campaign theme chosen was: Inherited From The Past - Preserving For The Future. This theme seemed appropriate as the Church is over 150 years old and the present 900 families are the beneficiaries of a magnificent inheritance from many previous parishioners of St. James. The St. James faith community was challenged to build on the foundation

laid by the good and faithful parishioners of long ago.

The campaign program consisted of six receptions organized for the parishioners, followed by home visits for those unable to attend the receptions.

Parishioners were encouraged to make sacrificial pledges in order to ensure the success of the campaign. There were different levels of contributions ranging from Leadership Gifts to Major Gifts to Community Gifts.

Wayne McIlroy and Robert Sliger served as co-chairs for the drive.

On the weekend of the

Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 8, Father Robinson announced that the Capital Campaign had exceeded its goal and had reached a level of \$877,000 in donations and pledges. An open house at the St. James Parish House was planned for that day to celebrate the successful conclusion of the campaign.


With diocesan approval, it is hoped that the restoration work on the tower will begin this Spring/Summer.

The interior updates should begin at about the same time. Lupini Construction, Utica will complete the exterior repair.

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Indian Lake bell choir shares music at St. Ann's in Wells

Gloves on their hands, music in their hearts

By Pam Broiles
Parishioner, St. Ann's, Wells

WELLS— On the First Sunday of Advent, parishioners of St. Ann's, were delighted to hear the handbell choir from St. Mary's Parish of Indian Lake ring in the sounds of the season.

Before the lighting of the Advent candle, their first selection was "O Come All Ye Faithful," honoring of the season. The sweet and gentle hymn "Away In A Manger" gave communicants pause for reflection and the recessional hymn "O, God Our Help In Ages Past", was played on bells and also sung by St. Ann's choir for the final closing of Mass.

Father Sony Pulickal, St. Ann's pastor, had been announcing their coming for several weeks and told the congregation the story of the bells and how they came to St. Mary's.

"Several years ago, Kay Wyman, former pastor's wife of the United Methodist Church, and a good friend to St. Mary's, was getting rid of



The bell choir of St. Mary's in Indian Lake traveled to Wells to share their music for the first Sunday of Advent at St. Ann's. From left are Camille Bodden, Taff Fitterer, Donna Bradley, Aaron Gadway and Robert Bradley

things, and she brought the bells over to the priest and church," Father Pulickal said. "They didn't have a bell choir, but they were gratefully accepted and put on a shelf where they stayed for several years."

Before coming to St. Ann's, Father Pulickal served at St.

Mary's and often remarked to the congregation that it would be nice if someone would take an interest in the bells.

"It would be so nice to have a bell choir... why don't some of you try to play them," he would coax.

One day in 2015 John

Slackman, a congregant and gifted musician, opened up the cabinet, took down the bells, unwrapped them from their soft covers and put out the word that if anyone was interested in being part of a bell choir he would help get it started.

Five people willing to give

it a try came forward. Camille Bodden became the director, with Taff Fitterer, Donna and Robert Bradley, Aaron Gadway and Mr. Slackman putting on the white gloves and taking on the bells.

"John, instructed us, and wrote out the notes to the songs while Donna enlarged and color coded the notes to makes them easier to see." Ms. Bodden said.

By late Autumn they debuted for a Thanksgiving event and were ready for Christmas Eve Mass.

Father Sony, just recently got the news that the bells were beginning to chime again under the hands of the six member choir and quickly invited them to come to St. Ann's.

Slackman, studying for his doctorate in Chemistry in Long Island, could not be with the choir Nov. 27, but Ms. Bodden remarked that the choir owed him a "great deal of gratitude for the time and effort he put into helping us feel confident enough to bring special music to St. Ann's."

SCENES FROM THE SEASON



The children participating in the Christmas pageant at St. Raphael Church in Heuvelton were, from left, Hanna Sawyer, Katie Cunningham, Jada Joannette, Brynn Eggleston, Eric Lalonde, Parker Felt, Cory Ethridge, Isaiah White and Brady Eggleston.



This Nativity scene features fifth and sixth graders from St. Mary's School, Canton. Pictured, top, is Gabbie Thomas; middle: Nate Romano (narrator), Karley Breen, Lois Blewett, Autumn Ames, Faith Christy, Brianna Lacomb and Ava Hoy; bottom: Jacob Rosales, John Friot III, Luke Huber, Ben Hill, Christian Guarino, Maria Tartaglia, Yeukai Mujuru, James Bailey and Zachary Anderson.

BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS

Following the call to teach

By Mary Ellen Shevalier

Parishioner, Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson

God's great mercy and love for the world is why He sent Jesus. Through Mary's "YES" baby Jesus was born as Emmanuel, God is with us! This miracle continues today as with each child, God's divine design is born anew to be fulfilled according to His will.

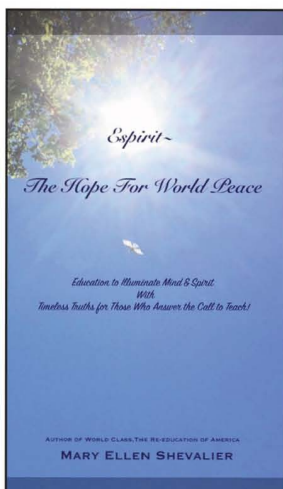
That is why those called to be parents, guardians and teachers need prayerful support with actions to lift and sustain them as they fulfill their "yes" in guiding and educating the children in their care.

I have been blessed with this privilege. Now, from the perspective as retired from 30 wonderful years as a public school teacher, I spent four years reflecting on the profound importance of our educational institutions.

"Espirit, The Hope for World Peace, Education to Illuminate Mind and Spirit With Timeless Truths for Those Who Answer The Call To Teach" was published this past September.

My thoughts were to celebrate and honor the work done in our schools. I also wanted to bring a sense of calm stability by highlighting "timeless truths" among times of change.

My intention expanded as I pondered our intricate



North Country educator Mary Ellen Shevalier, a parishioner of Queen of Heaven Parish in Henderson, has published a book about the vocation of teaching: "Espirit: The Hope for World Peace, Education to Illuminate Mind and Spirit With Timeless Truths for Those Who Answer The Call To Teach"

connectedness and impact that educational institutions have on shaping the individual and thus humanity. My message evolved to relationship between individual purpose (divine calling/vocation) and education's impact on societal prosperity and peace.

From the opening page: "Espirit (Old French): *Live-ness and illumination of spirit and mind. Imagine that this word became synonymous with the highest priority in Education! Surely, by empowering children to*

love themselves, to be attentive to their calling and to embrace others, world peace would be within reach!"

As a teacher, I was accustomed to developing student minds and skills to help prepare them for work and life. However I had not intentionally focused on inspiring the spirits of my students according to their unique abilities and interests...that is, until the Holy Spirit counseled me.

I share with you an excerpt from chapter 2; The Privilege: "One day I said to a parent, "What is your secret to having raised such a wonderful child?" And the mother replied; "Oh, I just remember that she is on loan to me and placed under my care by God."

What a wonderful truth to embrace! What a privilege to be given a role in helping children to grow and learn.

As a teacher you have a partnership with the child's earthly parents or guardian and you share the sacred partnership with God. What an honor to be called to serve God and humanity as a teacher!

Within the same breath of this realization comes a humility and responsibility to respect the individual creation of each child. For if each child put under your guidance already comes equipped with unique characteristics and gifts from birth then our role as guide to help fulfill their personal

journey to self-realization is our privilege, to do otherwise is to arrogantly circumvent divine order.

When we embrace this incredible privilege with humility and focus on nurturing what God has already provided, not only are we faithful to our calling, but we will surely greet each day and each child with wonder and joy in anticipation of what unfolds before us."

It was about mid-way through my career that the great Paraclete taught me the difference between profession and vocation. My answer was "yes".

The book includes personal, historical, biblical stories to illustrate timeless truths. Although my literary voice is naturally expressed as a Roman Catholic American, my message is clearly intended for the world. Openly inclusive for peoples of all faiths and cultures.

In referencing Pope Francis, Ghandi, Martin Luther King, Buddha, Corinthians or Abraham Lincoln my hope is to raise awareness to respect one's divine design and celebrate our purposeful diversity!

Each precious child who I was privileged to teach has in turn taught me this: The greatest indicator of society's success is reflected in our humanity. Education's highest calling is to inspire both mind and spirit of students to respect self, em-

About the author

Mary Ellen Shevalier is a certified Administrator, K-12 educator and Commissioned Lay Minister for the Ogdensburg diocese. Her book is available on Amazon.com or through her website: reinvented4success.com. She may be reached by email at meshevalier@gmail.com

brace diversity, and work in natural innovative collaboration establishing real paths to authentic discovery, prosperity and harmony.

I have been blessed with thousands of students throughout my career and have seen the promise of a brighter future...

- Imagine the renaissance of innovation when students collaboratively combine their strengths to research, create and express.

- Imagine the increase of community spirit and purpose.

- Imagine our schools' new cultural norm of peace and collegiality.

- Now imagine this new cultural norm spreading throughout the workforce, social and political organizations.

So, this New Year: Lift up your schools in prayer, Give gratitude to the teachers, Affirm a child.....and you will be contributing to an ESPIRIT Year of renewed HOPE!

Prayer for Christian Unity

In International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been set for Jan. 18-25

The theme of the Week is "Reconciliation-The Love of Christ Compels Us." (cf. 2 Cor 5:14-20).

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 years, in which

Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity.

By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21).

For more information, including suggestions for observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, posters, music and prayercards, scripture readings and reflection questions, a sample prayer service see the USCCB Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Page.



GO GREEN!

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SIXTH GRADE SERVICE PROJECT



The 6th graders at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga went on a service trip to Montcalm Manor Dec. 14. They helped carry presents from the school to the vehicles and then passed out presents to the residents. They also performed a mini concert of Christmas Carols, inviting everyone to sing along. Santa even stopped by to say hello. Pictured, front from left, are Skylar Barber, Aubrey Whitford, Bayleigh Clark, Kennedy McKeown, Kathryn Moran, Aurelia Leerkes and Raelyn King; back, Riley Abare and St. Joseph Sister Suanne Johnson.

Making a gift of real estate

By Scott Lalone
Executive director,
Diocesan Development Office

A gift of real estate can be of great benefit to both you and the diocese, your parish, Catholic school, or other diocesan organization you choose.

Since the Diocese of Ogdensburg, your parish, Catholic school or other diocesan organizations or programs are qualified charitable organizations, they can sell real estate gifts without incurring tax on the appreciation.

If you sell real estate you have owned for a number of years, it is likely you will be

faced with a sizable capital gains tax. Through an outright gift such as property, a sizeable tax saving is possible.

First, in most cases you will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the property.

In addition, since the property was given rather than sold, you will not be liable for capital gains taxes on the transfer.

When deciding to make a charitable gift in the form of real estate, it is very important to choose property that meets a number of criteria. The property should be readily saleable; the property's appraised value must equal the amount of the anti-

ipated gift if property is mortgaged, tax and other benefits may still be obtained, but special attention should be paid to the manner in which the property is given.

There are a number of ways to make a real estate gift. You could give the entire property, you could give a portion of the property or you could give your property and continue to live there.

Further information on gifts of real estate, is available from the diocesan Development Office at 315-393-2920.

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, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; e-mail: terriannyanulavich@yahoo.com Phone: 518-483-3261; or Father James Seymour, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 11 - 10:50a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

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

Jan. 13 - 8 a.m., Mass at the Precious Blood Monastery in Watertown

Jan. 15 - 9:30 a.m., Mass at Notre Dame Church in Ogdensburg

Jan. 17 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 9 - Rev. Joseph Edward Doyle, 1958; Rev. Jeremiah Albert O'Brien, 1974

Jan. 10 - Rev. Christopher C. Poulin, 1904; Msgr. James O'Driscoll, 1913; Msgr. Frederick P. Diviney, 1961

Jan. 11 - Msgr. John Andrew Cotter, 1964; Msgr. Anthime D. Charbonneau, 1976; Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg, 1986

Jan. 12 - Msgr. Francis Joseph Maguire, 1978

Jan. 14 - Rev. John M. Neenan, M.S.C., 1879; Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M.Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000

Jan. 15 - Msgr. James J. Lacey, 1942

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

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

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 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:

Jan. 26 - 7:30 p.m., Wakefield Hall, SUNY Potsdam

Environmental Stewardship

What is the Connection??

January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and in 2016 President Obama proclaimed January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

According to the U.S. State Department this \$32-billion-a-year industry is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise.

"These proclamations not only ensure that the issue of human trafficking is visible on the public radar screen, but more importantly challenges us to find ways to effect sustainable change in the lives of trafficked individuals across the world." (Huffington Post)

How could this form of modern day slavery be connected to environmental stewardship?

One of the consequences of climate change is an expansion of the deserts, rising of sea levels due to melting glaciers, and more violent and frequent hurricanes. People who suffer from the effects of climate change become vulnerable prey for human traffickers.

Imagine: you have nothing to feed your family, no job, and/or you are fleeing from war and violence, and someone comes along who offers to provide your child with opportunities for a better life in another country.

What might seem to be a more loving thing to do? Keep them and not provide for them or allow them to go with someone who promises them an education and bright career?

Once they are taken, instead they become victims forced to perform labor or commercial sex.

One step that I might take to insure that what I purchase is not made by slave labor is to look for labels of FAIR TRADE on products like coffee, cocoa, tea and FAIR FOOD PROGRAM on products like vegetables and fruits.

These programs ensure that the product pays the farmer a fair wage and is produced in environmentally sustainable ways.


To learn more, see USCCB - Human Trafficking, Catholic Relief - Fair Trade Program, Fair trade USA, Fair Food Program.

The connections are there, be a part of the change.

Visit our website

www.northcountrycatholic.org

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Catholics in Congress: one-third of House, one-quarter of Senate

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The religious makeup of the 115th Congress is significantly Christian -- 91 percent -- with Catholics comprising one-third of the House of Representatives and about a quarter of the Senate. Overall, there are six fewer Christians in the new Congress, at 485 members. But there are four more Catholics, who now total 168. The high percentage of Christians in Congress is similar to the 87th Congress in 1961, when such information was first collected. At the time, 95 percent of Congress members were Christian. The data on the religious makeup of the current senators and representatives was collected by Pew Research Center and announced Jan. 3. The Pew report notes that the large number of Christians in Congress has shifted in recent years with a decline in the number of Protestants. In 1961, Protestants made up 87 percent of Congress, compared with 56 percent today. Catholics, conversely, made up 19 percent of the 87th Congress, and now are 31 percent.

U.S. bishops say that prayer, local dialogue key to bringing peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The Catholic Church has a "tremendous responsibility to bring people together in prayer and dialogue, to begin anew the vital work of fostering healing and lasting peace," said a report by a U.S. bishops' task force released Jan. 5 in the wake of last year's incidents of violence and racial tensions. The work to "root out racism and create healthy dynamics in our neighborhoods" is a long-term project, but the scope of it should not cause fear or intimidation, wrote Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, chairman of the Task Force to Promote Peace in Our Communities, in the report's introduction. He also said "the church is at her absolute best when she is a bold and prophetic voice for the power of the love upon which our faith is based, the love of Jesus Christ."

Aleppo friar says learn about Syria, keep an open mind

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Syrians don't want to leave their homeland, they want a safe place to live in peace, said a Franciscan friar from Aleppo, Syria, who spoke on Jan. 5 with the Archdiocese of Washington's Holy Land Committee. Franciscan Brother George Jamal, who is originally from Aleppo, said even though the situation in his homeland is complicated, it is important to learn about it and if people feel inclined to do something, they can learn about the different aid groups in the region to see how to best help. By some estimates, 5 million Syrians have left the country since the country's conflict began in 2011. That includes some members of Brother Jamal's family. "My family, too, wants to be back after the war is finished," he said, during the informal meeting, aimed at learning more about region. "It is home." Recently, the Syrian government retook control of Aleppo after months of heavy fighting with rebel groups. It had been the largest city in the country before the conflict. Last year, Staffan de Mistura, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, said the conflict has left 400,000 deaths in its wake and millions of people displaced as they have left to find safety in other countries.

VATICAN LETTER

Maternity leave: why the pope wants the church to be a loving mother

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Mother's Day came early this year at the Vatican.

A number of feast days over the Advent and Christmas seasons gave Pope Francis a fresh opportunity to pay homage to the world's mothers and insist further on how and why he wants the entire church to become more maternal.

But who is this archetypal mother figure the pope upholds? Pope Francis pointed to a few of his favorite biblical heroines, praising the seemingly contradictory qualities of each:

Like Mary, she is silently compliant to God's will; like Rachel, she weeps inconsolably, drawing God's and the world's attention to a reality people would rather ignore; and like the persistent widow, she doesn't let being a nobody stop her from speaking up against injustice, making a fuss and pestering the one who does have power to make things right.

So how and why does the church need to be this loving, humble, hard-as-nails champion? Let's count the ways:

- A cold, careless, selfish world thirsts for a tender warm home.

Speaking on the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1, Pope Francis said it's the maternal instinct to hold, hope and help that make up the "strongest antidote" to the selfishness, indifference and intolerance in the world today.

He went on to say that God chose to be "knit" inside and born of a woman, so that he could experience a mother's tenderness, hear the cries of and joys of their people, and make everyone his brother and sister in the faith who belong to a family.

- When times get tough, who are you going to call? Everyone, especially the lost, forgotten and marginalized, need a strong-willed, faithful advocate on their side.

The pope said Jan. 1 that in his pastoral ministry, he learned so much about the meaning of true unconditional commitment from the mothers he met whose kids were in jail, addicted to drugs or victims of war. Neither cold nor heat nor rain, he said, could stop these women from fighting for something better.

Much like the persistent widow, the mothers he met were the ones who were able to offer love and support to their suffering children "without wavering" through thick

and thin.

Mary shows that humility and tenderness aren't virtues of the weak, he said, but of the strong, and that we don't have to mistreat others in order to feel important and make a difference.

- To change the world, it starts at home.

Speaking on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12, he again highlighted "those fighting mothers" he knew back in Latin America.

Often alone and with no help, they were able to raise their children right, he said. Mary is our "female fighter" facing off a mistrustful, lazy, distracted world -- "a woman who fights to strengthen the joy of the Gospel, give flesh to the Gospel" in the world.

- To help people, you must be in touch with a hard reality.

In a letter to the world's bishops marking the feast of the Holy Innocents Dec. 28, the pope said they must listen for the sobbing of today's mothers because there are so many new Herods today, killing the young with their tyranny and "unbridled thirst for power."

Listen to where the cries are coming from, he said; they are not to be ignored or silenced. It's going to take courage to first acknowledge this difficult reality and work to ensure "the bare minimum needed so that their dignity as God's children will not only be respected but, above all, defended."

- Sometimes the best answer is no answer.

Pope Francis again advocated the importance of using the heart over the head, and the church's need to be more sensitive to another's pain in order to bring God's hope and compassion.

During his general audience Jan. 4, he talked about Rachel's tears being seeds of hope and the futility of trite or insensitive speeches. Rachel's refusal to be consoled shows how delicately one must approach a person in pain, the pope said.

When people are hurting, "it is necessary to share in their desperation. In order to dry the tears from the face of those who suffer, we must join our weeping with theirs. This is the only way our words may truly be able to offer a bit of hope," he said.

Often it's only tears that can open one's eyes to the realities of life that need attention, he said.

With his many reflections on motherhood, the pope is trying to bring that maternal warmth back to the church.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Discovering the work of Ordinary Time

To all outward appearances, Christmas is over. The magi have returned home, the angels are silent, and even Jesus has outgrown his swaddling clothes. So much has happened to dull the period of tenderness, peace and that love stirred up by all those beautiful Christmas carols.

With the arrival of "Ordinary Time", we ask ourselves, "Now what do we do?" We struggle to cope with



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

the reality of a new year.

The good news is: Christmas isn't over. Just as we are still sorting out our Christmas cards and our Christmas gifts, now is the time for us to ponder ever more deeply what this child who is God means by breaking into our messy world.

Through His "Servant," who will be a light to all the nations, we, the Gentiles, will also find salvation.

No longer a child, Jesus as the God-Man, will preach "all

that the Father has told me."

In today's Gospel, the figure of John the Baptist takes center stage.

All his life, his purpose has been to identify the Messiah. He is witness to the Holy Spirit, descending in the form of a dove, upon Jesus—and remaining in Jesus.

One day, John sees Jesus pass by. He fulfills his whole purpose now by exclaiming to his followers, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you

Jan. 15

Second Sunday of the Year

READINGS

Isaiah 49:3-6

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

John 1:29-34

see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

Like the rising sun gradually radiates its life to the entire sky, so will God's light spread to the whole world.

Christmas was just the beginning.

In the baptism of every follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends and remains.

If we allow its power to penetrate our thoughts, words, and actions, then we too as images of Christ, will light up the whole world with truth, and faith in the truth.

In that work, we imitate that small child and obey the greatest command of Jesus, "As I have loved you, so too must you love your brothers and sisters'.

That's the work of Ordinary Time.

New Year calls for courage, hope; no more hatred, selfishness

Words from Pope Francis in first days of 2017

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) Whether the new year will be good or not depends on us choosing to do good each day, Pope Francis said.

"That is how one builds peace, saying 'no' to hatred and violence - with action - and 'yes' to fraternity and reconciliation," he said Jan. 1, which the church marks as the feast of Mary, Mother of God and as World Peace Day.

Speaking to the some 50,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the first noon Angelus of 2017, the pope referred to his peace day message in which he had asked people to adopt the "style" of nonviolence for building a politics for peace.

Lamenting the brutal act of terrorism that struck during a night of "well-wishes and hope" in Istanbul, the pope offered his prayers for the entire nation of Turkey as well as those hurt and killed. A gunman opened fire during a New Year's Eve celebration at a popular nightclub

early Jan. 1, killing at least 39 people and wounding at least 70 more.

"I ask the Lord to support all people of good will who courageously roll up their sleeves in order to confront the scourge of terrorism and this bloodstain that is enveloping the world with the shadow of fear and confusion," he said.

Earlier in the day, the pope spoke of how maternal tenderness, hope and self-sacrifice were the "strongest antidote" to the selfishness, indifference and "lack of openness" in the world today.

Celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, which was decorated with bright red anthuriums, evergreen boughs, white flowers and pinecones brushed with gold paint, the pope said that a community without mothers would be cold and heartless with "room only for calculation and speculation."

The pope said he learned so much about unconditional love, hope and belonging from seeing mothers who never stop embracing, sup-

porting and fighting for what is best for their children incarcerated in prisons, ill in hospitals, enslaved by drugs or suffering from war.

"Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as children," he said. Just like all mothers of the world, Mary, Mother of God, "protects us from the corrosive disease of being 'spiritual orphans,'" that is when the soul feels "motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim."

"This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debases the soul," which soon "forgets that life is a gift we have received -- and owe to others -- a gift we are called to share in this common home," he said.

A "fragmented and divided culture" makes things worse, he said, leading to feelings of emptiness and loneliness.

"The lack of physical and not virtual contact is cauterizing our hearts and making us lose the capacity for ten-

derness and wonder, for pity and compassion," he said, as well as making us "forget the importance of playing, of singing, of a smile, of rest, of gratitude."

Remembering that Jesus handed his mother over to us "makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong" and can grow, that we are not just mere objects to "consume and be consumed," that we are not "merchandise" to be exchanged or inert receptacles for information. "We are children, we are family, we are God's people."

Mary shows that humility and tenderness aren't virtues of the weak, but of the strong, and that we don't have to mistreat others in order to feel important, he said.

The pope also presided over an evening prayer service with eucharistic adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31.

As the year ends, he said in his homily, he asked people to reflect on how God has been present in their lives

and to thank the Lord for all signs of his generosity, "seen in countless way through the witness of those people who quietly took a risk."

Gazing upon the manger, we remember how Jesus "wanted to be close to all those who felt lost, demeaned, hurt, discouraged, inconsolable and frightened. Close to all those who in their bodies carry the burden of separation and loneliness, so that sin, shame, hurt, despair and exclusion would not have the final word in the lives of his sons and daughters."

His sacrifice and love challenges people "not to give up on anything or anyone," and to find the strength to forge ahead "without complaining or being resentful, without closing in on ourselves or seeking a means of escape, looking for shortcuts in our own interest."

"Looking at the manger means recognizing that the times ahead call for bold and hope-filled initiatives, as well as the renunciation of vain self-promotion and endless concern with appearances."

TV TIME

This Is Us: 'refreshingly pro-life, pro-family'

By Chris Byrd
Catholic News Service

The pilot episode of NBC's drama "This Is Us" featured an eye-catching first scene. Pregnant with triplets, Rebecca Pearson (Mandy Moore) celebrated husband Jack's (Milo Ventimiglia) 36th birthday by dancing suggestively for him, while he lay on their bed, wearing only a towel.

Viewers shouldn't let that provocative moment mislead them, however. Since its Sept. 20 premiere, the series, which airs Tuesdays 9-10 p.m. EST, has proven to be refreshingly pro-life, pro-family and pro-adoption. While it certainly can't be recommended for all ages, mature TV fans will likely see through to the positive underlying values.

Seventy-three-year-old pediatrician Dr. Nathan Katoowsky (Gerald McRaney) guided Pittsburgh-based Jack and Rebecca through a difficult, complicated pregnancy. Despite the challenges, abortion was not discussed.

Warmly avuncular McRaney makes a lasting impression through scenes like the one in which he counseled the new father after one of the triplets didn't survive birth.

In keeping with Katoowsky's philosophy: "When life gives you the sourest lemons, make something resembling lemonade," Jack and Rebecca decided on a radical step. On the same



CNS PHOTO/RON BATZDORFF, NBC

Mandy Moore and Milo Ventimiglia star in a scene from the NBC drama "This Is Us." Since its Sept. 20 premiere, the series, which airs Tuesdays 9-10 p.m. EST, has proven to be refreshingly pro-life, pro-family and pro-adoption.

day their twins were born, a firefighter dropped off an abandoned African-American boy at the maternity ward. Wanting to fill the void left by the loss of their child, Jack and Rebecca adopted the baby.

"This Is Us" explores how people's bonds are tested -- and can become frayed over the years. When viewers first encounter the Pearsons' adult children on their 36th birthdays, twins Kevin (Justin Hartley) and Kate (Chrissy Metz) both live in Los Angeles.

Paid \$3 million a year to star in a vapid sitcom, "The Manny," Kevin wants to es-

cape his unfulfilling role as a male au pair. Kate, who is Kevin's executive assistant, struggles with a different problem: her obesity.

Adopted son Randall (Sterling K. Brown), works in New York as a commodities broker and has a beautiful wife, Beth (Susan Kelechi Watson), and two young daughters: Tess (Eris Baker) and Annie (Faithe Herman). But he yearns to locate his biological father, William (Ron Cephas Jones).

Viewers will admire the show's ambitious plot lines, which shift seamlessly from contemporary scenes to flashbacks of the Pearsons'

family life when the siblings were children. We discover ancient issues that still shape family dynamics today from mother to daughter and brother to brother. And the ties between some family members create conflicts among others.



For instance, as a child, Kevin was envious of the special closeness shared by Rebecca and Randall. The audience already understand the role William played in helping Rebecca connect with her adopted son. Later revelations, however, hold the potential to devastate Randall.

The way "This Is Us" affirms family life is what ultimately recommends it to viewers. Coming together in an improvised way, the Pearson clan is still evolving.

Among the show's strong cast, Moore demonstrates she's more than a pop singer in her best role yet, Ventimiglia's energy animates Jack's character nicely, and Jones' world-weary soulfulness fits William perfectly.

"This Is Us" is strictly for adults however. There's strong sexual content as well as alcohol and drug use.

Although the characters' mom-liked-you-more petulance sometimes grates, viewers will warm to "This Is Us" thanks to its tender, sweet moments.

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ADIRONDACK

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Tupper Lake – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is holding a Friendship Volunteer Training Program for anyone in the Tri-Lakes area

Date: Jan. 18 and 25

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (both mornings are required to complete the training)

Features: Volunteers will learn about offering friendship and assistance to elders in sessions on healthy aging, spirituality, community resources for elders, etc

Contact: The training program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. Contact Jenn Grisi at Mercy Care by calling 518-523-5583 or by e-mail jgrisi@adkmercy.org.

CLINTON

BREAKFAST

Moers Forks – All you can eat breakfast to be held.

Date: Jan. 22

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: call 236-6118 for take-outs

CDA TEA PARTY

Peru – Tea Party to be held to honor women serving in WWII sponsored by the CDA Court St. Monica #2598.

Date: Feb. 12

Time: 1 p.m. to 4

Place: St. Augustine's Church

Cost: \$10; 50% of the proceeds will go to the Plattsburgh Honor Flight.

Contact: Jane Woods 518-834-5324 or Janice at 518-643-2435 ext. 101

MARCH FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – The Champlain Valley Right to Life is sponsoring the annual Plattsburgh March for Life.

Date: Jan. 22

Time: 12:15 p.m.

Place: Gather at Newman center and March to St. John the Baptist Church

Features: Guest speaker, Dale Barr, RN, Silent No More Coordinator to speak at 1 p.m. Reception follows in Parish Center.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Morrisonville – All you Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner to be held.

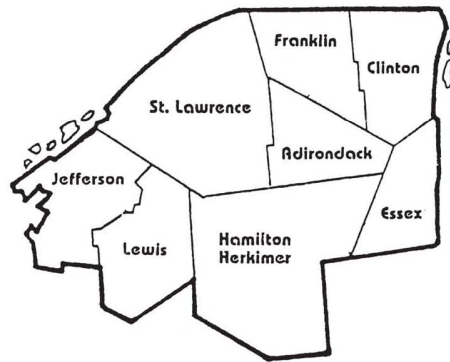
Date: Jan. 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Alexander's Church

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free

Contact: for take-outs: 518-561-5039



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.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Peru – St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council will host a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 21

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30

Place: St. Augustine's Parish Center

Cost: Adults, \$7.50; Children 6-12,

\$2.50; Children under 5, Free

Features: Regular & gluten-free spaghetti. Take-outs available.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Treadwell Mills – St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold pancake breakfasts.

Dates: Feb. 5, March 5, April 2 and 23

Time: 8 a.m. to Noon

Place: St. Joseph's Hall

Cost: Adults, \$7; kids, \$3; under 5, Free

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Morrisonville – St. Alexander's Church and the Knights of Columbus 7248 will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Date: Jan. 14

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Alexander's Jubilee Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$3;

under 5, Free

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

FRANKLIN

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Brushton – St. Mary's Church events

committee to sponsor a breakfast buffet.

Date: Jan. 15

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

Place: St. Mary's Parish center

Cost: Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6-

12, \$4; 5 and under, Free; Immediate

Family of 5 or more (mother, father and

school age children), \$25

Contact: Take-outs available by calling

518-529-6580

SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held the first Saturday of each month.

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

HAMILTON-HERKIMER

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: Jan 22; Feb 5&19; Mar ch 5&26;

April 9 and 23; May 7 & 21

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

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Society to have a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 26

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.; Take-outs

begin at 4 p.m., bring containers

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

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

Contact: Phone 315-788-8480

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Watertown – Presentation on Human Trafficking to be held.

Date: Jan. 22

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

Place: Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse

Features: Andre Marie, from Montreal,

Member of the North Country Human

Trafficking Task Force, will present how

people are often recruited and ways that

we may be able to help. Event is free and

open to the public.

Contact: To reserve a seat, please call

315-782-3460.

LIFERIGHT PRAYER VIGIL

Watertown – Liferight will hold a prayer vigil.

Date: Jan. 23

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: St. Anthony's parking lot

Features: Refreshments in Sechi Hall.

LEWIS

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – All are invited to one hour of exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction.

Date: Jan. 19

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

ST. LAWRENCE

WINTER RETREAT DAY

Morristown – Sister Bethany Fitzgerald, SSJ will lead a retreat day on the theme "Praying With the Psalms."

Place: Cedarhaven

Date: Feb. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 with

option of overnight for extended retreat

Suggested offering: \$25 for day (in-

cludes lunch); Additional \$25 for

overnight (dinner, breakfast included)

To register: Call 315-212-6592 or email

srbethsj@gmail.com by Feb. 1

DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

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

Dates: Jan 29; Feb 12; Mar 5;

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

CAMP GUGGENHEIM REGISTRATION

Registration for 2017 season for Camp Guggenheim is now open through www.rcdony.org/camp

Contact: For more information contact the Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or vlalonde@rcdony.org or visit camp website: www.rcdony.org/camp/guggy

COLLEGE SPRING RETREAT

Ogdensburg – If you are an area college student, please join us for our annual Catholic Campus Ministry Spring Retreat.

Date: Feb. 10 – 12

Place: Wadhams Hall

Cost: \$20, includes meals and lodging

Features: Come take a rest from the business of campus for Faith, Fellowship, and Formation.

Contact: Please contact your local Campus Minister or Amanda Conklin at aconklin@stlawu.edu or 315-386-2543 for more information or to register.

PILGRIMAGE TO EASTERN EUROPE

Father Donald Robinson is hosting a pilgrimage to Poland and Eastern Europe.

Date: April 24- May 7

Cost: \$3199 per person from New York.

Price includes roundtrip airfare, government taxes/airline surcharges, first class select hotels, most meals, services of a professional tour director & comprehensive sightseeing, all hotel service charges, local taxes, portage & entrance fees.

Features: Visit Warsaw, Poland's capital; Krakow, site of the Divine Mercy Shrine;

Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, home of the Black Madonna; Wadowice,

birthplace of Pope John Paul II; Budapest, capital of Hungary; Vienna, and beautiful, 1,000 year old Prague.

Contact: Father Robinson at 315-493-

3224 or donrob@twcny.rr.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

Happy New Year: let us pray for the Missions

As we embark on our New Year, the Pontifical Mission Societies would like to send our blessings and tidings of joy and good luck to all. After a short holiday break from the office, I was blessed to receive in today's mail a lovely prayer from the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. I thought I should share this with everyone.

A Prayer for the Missions

Heavenly Father, Who has told us to go forth and bring the Good News of your Gospel to all the people of the earth, we ask that you bless our work in the Missions.

Where people are sore of spirit with poverty, help us to bring them your hope.

Where they are starving, help us to fill their bodies with food and their souls with the knowledge of your love.

Where they are suffering from injustice and oppression, help us to bring them your peace and dignity.

Grant, dear Father, that we may always act in such a way that your Gospel will be heard and glorified and that all nations will know your truth.

We ask this in your name, in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Thank you to Diocese of Ogdensburg for your support, generosity, prayers and resources throughout 2016. We pray for a successful, safe, happy and blessed 2017!

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

Migration Week

Beginning Sunday, Jan. 8, the Catholic Church in the United States marks National Migration Week.

A statement released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops notes that the observance began more than 25 years ago as a way to reflect upon the many ways immigrants and refugees have contributed

to our Church and our nation.

This National Migration Week is an opportunity to embrace the important work of continuing to secure the border, to welcome the stranger and serve the most vulnerable - all components of a humane immigration policy, the bishops said.

OBITUARIES

Brushton – Eileen M. (Lucas) Miller, 81; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Hopkinton-Ft. Jackson Cemetery.

Dannemora – Brenda (Noel) LaCroix, 54; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Ellenburg – Doritha G., 91 and Vincent Fisher, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 14, 2017 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

Fort Covington – Roger W. Rubadeau, 64; Funeral Services Jan. 10, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Harrisville – Raymond A. Trombley, 89; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2017 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

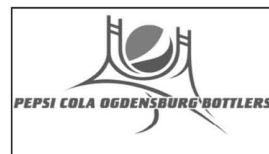
Hogansburg – Daniel P. White, 55; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2017 at St. Regis Church.

Lowville – Shirley Ann (Guyette) Pleskach, 85; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2017 at Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

Malone – Robert E. "Bob" Savage, 70; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2017 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Malone – Ruth F. (Lester) Garceau-Wood, 92; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2017 at St. John Bosco Church; burial in St. John Bosco Cemetery.

Malone – Michael Gardner, 49; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2017 at the Brusco-Desnoyers Funeral Home; burial in Morningside Cemetery.



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Massena – Madeleine (Montpetit) Gray, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2017 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Hogansburg.

Norfolk – Leon L. Robert, 88; Funeral Services Jan. 6, 2017 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

North Bangor – William C. Lucey, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in West Bangor Cemetery.

North Bangor – Janice M. (Trim) McDonald, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

North Bangor – Eileen J. (Gervais) McMahon, 91; Funeral Services Jan. 9, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church.

North Bangor – Karen Marie Woods, 62; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

North Lawrence – Donald Raymond Mekeel, 74; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2017 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brasher Falls.

Norwood – Mary (Moribito) LaPointe, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2017 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

Plattsburgh – Thomas C. "Tom" Fleming, 77; Funeral Services Jan. 5, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Roland A. Jubert, 73; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Louis de France Cemetery, Sciota.

Plattsburgh – Marion (Ososki) Knuffke, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens.

Ogdensburg – Jerry Fisher, 80; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2017 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Darlene M. (Rickett) Mitchell, 66; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2017 at Notre Dame Church.

Westville – Paul H. Tupia, 87; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2017 at the Spaulding Funeral Home; burial in St. Francis Cemetery.

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VOICE OF FAITH

'Every single day is the opportunity to begin anew'

By Andrew Lauria
Parishioner, St. Ann's Wells

We are at the beginning of a new year, a new beginning, a collective opportunity to rethink how we live our everyday life.

I find it to be so fascinating that this one day every year it seems that most people resolve to do something different in a personally dramatic way, as if they need permission to begin such newness. January 1st is just the next day.

Let's reflect on why as Catholics we should begin every day with this ardent desire for positive change.

First, I am trying to live the answer to this question of how to enter each moment of each day with new resolve. I don't have a definite, personally discovered answer quite yet but I am learning.

I am learning about fear of change, fear of the unknown, the natural state of lethargy that penetrates my will at one point or another. And I am learning about who I am, constantly, which means that I am always learning about how my needs change based on the circumstances of my everyday life.

And this is a constantly unfolding process, not one that begins January 1st and

automatically resets that following December 31st.

Looking at the liturgical cycle, we recently celebrated the birth of Jesus, which is the greatest gift and mystery of all time. But take a closer look at the seemingly infinite amount of saints whose feast days we celebrate every day. They started their lives anew in Christ and kept at it for their entire earthly existence.

We are called to be saints, too, so every day is a new day to resolve to do better, in whatever personal way that you discern to be necessary in order to love and serve our God in your own life.

I think that it is important that we allow ourselves that same freedom to live fully every day, to not wait for this one time of year to roll around as permission to begin anew.

I once read an article about time management in which the author disagreed strongly with the notion of "you only live once." He argued what I believe to be true, that you live anew every single morning you get out of bed. You live anew thousands and thousands of times in your life span.

Every single day is the opportunity to begin anew because every day is in fact a

new one.

God is real and so is every day. It is no more abstract than that.

I don't have any poor feelings against people who begin the new year with bold resolutions. The desire to do better is very much a good thing! But it is important to realize that we can resolve to better ourselves, or the world, or whatever the resolution, every single day.

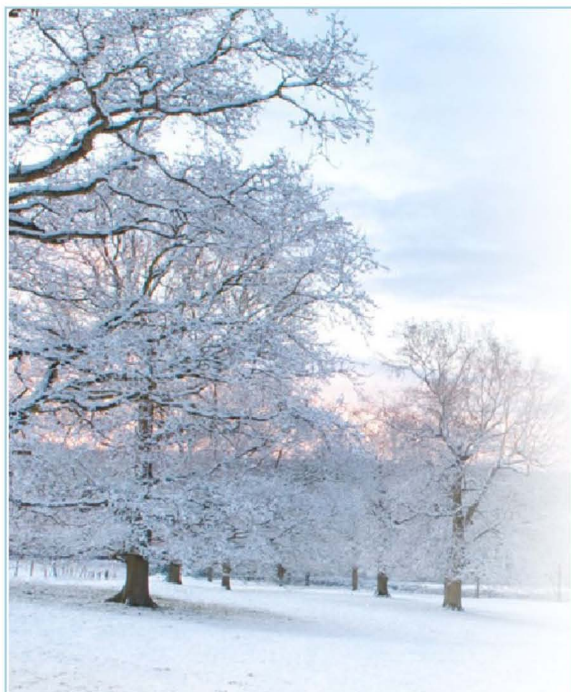
And this allows us the space to fail because we are going to fail. We aren't perfect! And we need to be accepting of our failing and to forgive ourselves, go to sleep, ask God for His grace, and start over again when the alarm rings.

This is mindful attending to our resolve and an honest, sincere patience with our own shortcomings is the beginning to any success.

Abandon yourself just a little bit more to the love of God and a new beginning will happen every time we start another day.

May God bless us as we start again tomorrow morning. May he constantly strengthen our will to be more ardent disciples and better people, and may we be blessed by the fruit of our labor.

A very blessed New Year to you!



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Guggenheim registration

Registration for the 2017 Camp Guggenheim summer camp season is now open.

The diocesan camp in Saranac Lake offers six weeks of fun and faith development for teenagers.

Camp activities include daily liturgies and prayer experiences as well as swimming, mountain climbing, kayaking, rappelling, campfires, arts and crafts, dances and more.

The first of five weeks, for 12 to 15 year

olds, opens July 2; the week for 16 to 18 year olds is set for Aug. 6-11.

Each weekly camp session begins on Sunday at 3 p.m. and concludes with liturgy on Fridays at 1 p.m.

Registration may be made at www.rcdony.org/camp.

Further information is available from the camp website, www.rcdony.org/youth/guggy, the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or by email vlalonde@rcdony.org.