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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 33

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 4, 2017

Pope: it's OK to complain to God

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- To complain to God in moments of doubt and fear like Abraham did is not something bad but rather is a form of prayer that requires the courage to hope beyond all hope, Pope Francis said.

While in life there may be times of frustration and

darkness, "hope is still there and it moves us forward," the pope said Dec. 28 during his weekly general audience.

"I won't say that Abraham loses patience, but he complains to the Lord. This is what we learn from our father Abraham: complaining to the Lord is a form of

prayer," Pope Francis said.

Sometimes I hear confessions where people say, 'I complained to the Lord.' But no. (Continue) to complain; he is a father and this is a form of prayer. Complain to the Lord, this is good," he said.

Entering the Paul VI audi-

ence hall, the pope greeted thousands of pilgrims from all over the world.

Among those present was a group of performers from Italy's Golden Circus, who performed several acrobatic feats and entertaining performances at the end of the general audience.

Bishop's message for new year

Following the lead of Pope Francis, Bishop LaValley offered a message of peace as 2017 begins.

"Each time we make efforts to heal rather than hurt, hearts are softened and we get a taste of God's peace in our midst," he writes in this week's Follow Me column.

"Our resolve to look for more opportunities, however modest, to be an instrument of peace can be greatly enhanced by committing ourselves to a stronger devotion to Mary this New Year," Bishop LaValley said.

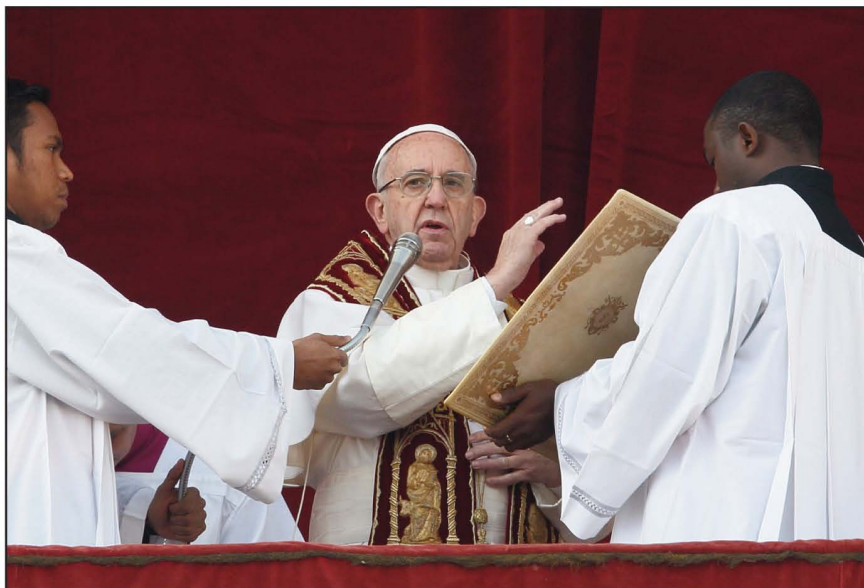
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K of C Council is honored

The Watertown Knights of Columbus #259, receives the

Star Council Award
FULL STORY, PAGE 3

YEARNING FOR PEACE



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis delivers his Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25. The song of the angels that heralded the birth of Christ urges men and women to seek peace in a world divided by war, terrorism and greed, Pope Francis said. "Today this message goes out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearning for peace." Migrants, refugees, children suffering due to hunger and war, victims of human trafficking as well as social and economic unrest were also remembered by the pope. Full story, page 7

SCENES OF THE SEASON: Christmas celebrations across the diocese... p. 5

A YEAR TO 'INSPIRE'

Looking back at 2016

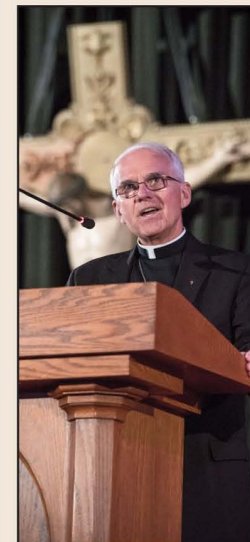


PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop Terry R. LaValley welcomes nearly 4000 participants to Inspire: Called to Love, a diocesan vocation summit held Sept. 25 in Lake Placid, a highlight for the North Country church in 2016. The year also saw ordinations to the priesthood and diaconate, successful gatherings of teachers, deacons, priests and young people and some sad farewells including the loss of the Ursuline Sisters who have served in the diocese for generations.

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NORTH
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EDITOR'S NOTE

A year to be inspired and merciful

Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg spent much of 2016 celebrating the universal call to holiness, the vocation of every individual.

Support for all vocations was the focus of an historic summit which drew 4000 to Lake Placid in September and it marked the work of youth ministry, lay ministry and the revamped Office of Vocations.

The vocation summit in Lake Placid – Inspire: Called to Love – highlighted the year as thousands

from the North Country, neighboring dioceses and Canada, joined in prayer and listened to internationally acclaimed speakers.



Mary Lou
Kilian

Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles and founder of the global media ministry Word on Fire, delivered the keynote address.

Breakout sessions were led by Bishop Christopher Coyne of Burlington, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops committee on communication; Jennifer Ful-

wiler, writer, speaker, mother, radio host and former atheist; and George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center of Washington, D.C.

The program of Inspire: Called to Love also included the diocesan Youth Rally, the annual Marriage Jubilee and Religious Jubilee.

Just two weeks after Inspire, the diocese celebrated the particular call of the priesthood as Bishop LaValley ordained Father Todd Thibault Oct. 8 at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Father Thibault, now parochial vicar in Canton, had been ordained a transitional

deacon April 2 at St. James in Carthage.

The bishop also presided at the deacon ordination of Deacon Michael Jablonski, May 28 at St. John's in Plattsburgh.

To further support vocations to priesthood and religious life, Bishop LaValley announced the restructuring of the Diocesan Vocation Office.

Catherine Russell, a former principal of Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, was named vocation coordinator while Father Douglas Lucia was appointed diocesan vocation director and Father Thomas Higman, associate vocation director.

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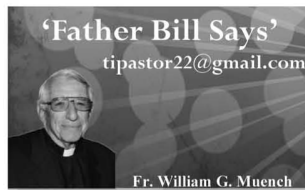
A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Because Jesus was once one of us....

Christmas – Epiphany – the Baptism of Jesus. These are the feast days of the Christmas season.

On these important and sacred holy days, we Catholics celebrate the incarnation of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus became one of us. The Son of God accepted our humanity; he was born as a tiny baby just like you and I. He lived among us to teach us and demonstrated how to bring love and peace to our lives and our world. He died on the cross, giving for us out of love all that he could give. Then he found new life to show us the way to our resurrection.

We are blessed people, a holy people, because Jesus was once one of us. Our humanity is truly consecrated because Jesus was once one of us. This means that our possibilities are endless. We are truly capable of so much, so many magnificent, almost miraculous things, because Jesus was once one of us. The days of our Catholic liturgical feast days fill our year over and over. Each of these feast days is a celebration of the incarnation of Jesus. We have the opportunity to, again and again, unite ourselves in a special way with



Fr. William G. Muench

Our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Each time we allow Jesus into our lives – as in these wonderful Christmas celebrations – Jesus becomes our spiritual guide, showing us the best way to live our lives.

After the Christmas season, we will continue to follow Jesus through the time of Lent, that time of prayer and repentance as we prepare for the feast days of our salvation during Holy Week.

On Palm Sunday, we walk with Jesus as he enters Jerusalem to meet his Passion and death.

On Holy Thursday, we join the apostles and Jesus at the Last Supper for the institution of the Eucharist.

Then on Good Friday, we walk with Jesus to Calvary and stand at the foot of his cross. Our Holy Week journey ends with Easter Sunday as we discover the empty tomb and celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.

I am hoping that this year at this Christmas Season you will discover the powerful presence of the Lord. Jesus wants to walk with us. Jesus wants to show us a real purpose for our day to day life and, as we walk with Jesus, we will live accordingly to his words.

This is such an important time for us, a time to strengthen our faith in the presence of our Lord who continues to be with us even today. This is a time to put new life into our faith in God and our faith in the blessedness of our own humanity.

Jesus was one of us. He came to show us that we, humans, are blessed and capable of so much greatness. Jesus was once one of us. He wants us to realize that we can successfully meet the challenges of life when we walk with Jesus.

I would like to add one more thing here. This year during the Christmas season there were two funerals of friends of mine, among so many others. One of our priests in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Father Paul Beyette, died; his funeral was just before Christmas. He was a dedicated pastor with deep concern for his parishioners and had so many other

interests, such as ecology. The other was a friend and former student, John Graham. He endured a long battle with cancer. Throughout his life he was a dedicated Catholic, a man of deep faith. He was truly a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was always dedicated to the needs of others, working for many years in the programs of Catholic Charities.

At first, many would think that Christmas time would be a rather sad and difficult time for a death and a funeral. However, I discovered immediately for my two friends - whose lives had been so completely connected with Jesus – that these feast days of love and peace were a perfect time to celebrate their lives.

I want you to know that Christmas and the celebration of the birth of the Lord brought us all a certain peace and love – knowing how close the Lord was to them. And we discovered how close the Lord was to the rest of us who were remembering and celebrating our friends who were now with the Lord. As we celebrated Christ's birth and life – we celebrated the lives of our dear friends now with the Lord.

FOLLOW ME

What will we bring to the New Year?

On the first day of each New Year, for the last fifty years, popes have delivered a Papal Message for the World Day of Peace. Pope Francis entitled his 2017 address: "Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace."

The Holy Father writes of the *piece-meal violence* that wreaks such great pain and suffering in the lives of so many around the globe. He cites wars in different lands, terrorism, organized crime, abuses suffered by migrants and the victims of human trafficking, as well as the devastation of the environment.

We can add to his list the physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse suffered by spouses and children, gang violence, bullying, incendiary language, among others.

We know that Jesus, like us, lived in violent times. In such an environment, Jesus taught that violence and

peace meet in the human heart. So many folks today are greeting the New Year without peaceful hearts.

Given the current political landscape, some experience great anxiety, uncertainty and even fear of what tomorrow may bring.

At times, polemical statements among some high-profile Church leaders cause further confusion and even fear among many of the faithful. Where will it all lead?

Increasingly, as faith-filled Catholics seek to obey the Commandments and embrace Church teaching, we are characterized as bigots and intolerant extremists.

No, many hearts are not at peace. Troubled, we wonder: What will the New Year bring?

As the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on New Year's Day, we are reminded that our Blessed Lady experienced confusion and fear, too. When she was greeted

by the Angel Gabriel, she heard "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." "How can this be?"

Mary wondered. Yet, confusion and fear did not cripple her. "Let it be done unto me according to your word," was her response to the angel's message (Luke 1:38). Mary trusted that God could write straight with crooked lines. The angel departed but the path marked out for her by God remained.

Can you and I resolve this New Year to offer God the same trusting response as did the Queen of Peace?

Maybe rather than asking what will the New Year bring us, a better question to ponder is what will we bring to the New Year? What will our hearts produce? Will we bring to others the fruits of our own personal encounter with Jesus Christ—hope, reconciliation and charity?

Will my New Year's resolutions include works of mercy where I might serve as an instrument of God's peace and unconditional love, beginning at home within my family?

Pope Francis writes: "the

politics of nonviolence have to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family."

He cites the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux as one who practiced the little way of love, urging you and me "not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which can sow peace and friendship."

Cardinal Walter Kasper writes that peace in the world starts small: in the heart and in thoughts of peace, in the everyday lives of each of us, in families and in workplaces, in neighborhoods, and in many individual human encounters. From there it streams out into the larger world of politics.

He writes: "The light emanating from the manger in Bethlehem has lost none of its fascination up to our own day. God reveals his power and greatness in weakness. If we confess our faith in this Child as the Prince of Peace, the One whose dominion is without end, then we must change our thinking, renounce violence, and become peace-

makers through many small acts of love." (*Accepting the Mystery*, 2016).

Each time we make efforts to heal rather than hurt, hearts are softened and we get a taste of God's peace in our midst.

Our resolve to look for more opportunities, however modest, to be an instrument of peace can be greatly enhanced by committing ourselves to a stronger devotion to Mary this New Year. Seeking her intercession is a powerful means to strengthen our hope and gain the graces to live with the trust and confidence that characterized the Virgin's life. Make 2017 the year to give our hearts to Mary, Queen of Peace! There is much she can teach us. With Mary as our model, we will not allow confusion and fear to cripple our witness to Christian hope.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you and your loved ones His peace! Blessed New Year everyone!

K of C council receives international award

WATERTOWN—Knights of Columbus Council 259 of Watertown has earned the distinction of Star Council, one of the organizations top awards for the 2015-2016 fraternal year.

The organization's headquarters, located in New Haven, CT, made the announcement. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

The award was presented to Grand Knight John Morgia by District Deputy Michael Deline at their regular meeting Dec. 12

In announcing the local winner of the Star Council Award, Carl A. Anderson, chief executive officer of the organization, said "Please accept my sincere congratulations upon achieving this prestigious award. Your dedication to the Order is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved.

"At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead," Anderson said. "May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, your

community and the Order."

Grand Knight Morgia, head of the local council, said, "receiving the Star Council Award is quite an honor for us. We are extremely proud of how hard our Council worked to achieve this goal."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Church, their communities, families and young people.

With more than 1.9 million members in over 15,000 council around the world, the Knights annually donate more than \$175 million and 73 million hours of service to charitable causes.



Knights of Columbus District Deputy presents the Star Council Award to John Morgia, Grand Knight of the Watertown Council 259. The international award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.



PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Pope Francis greets Bishop LaValley during the Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to Italy in April, sponsored by the *North Country Catholic*.



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop Robert Barron of Los Angeles delivers the keynote address at Inspire: Called to Love, a diocesan vocation summit held Sept. 25 in Lake Placid.



PHOTO BY PAT HENDRICK

The 2016 Guggenheim staff, under the direction of Kelly Donnelly, led a very successful camp season for young people of the diocese.

Looking back at 2016: a year to 'inspire'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The team planned a vocation conference for Nov. 5 in Norfolk, inviting Rhonda Gruenewald of Texas, author of "Hundredfold: Guide to Parish Vocation Ministry" to speak.

Also, Bishop LaValley led a vocation pilgrimage to the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in October.

Another pilgrimage was organized as part of the diocesan celebration of the Year of Mercy which opened at the end of 2015 and concluded on the Feast of Christ the King in November.

The *North Country Catholic* sponsored a pilgrimage to Italy in April which included a personal greeting between Bishop LaValley and Pope Francis.

The diocese also observed the Year of Mercy with a day of prayer for those in charitable apostolates March 8 at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg.

The theme for the annual Bishop's Fund Appeal was

Mercy in Motion, while the NCC featured a series "God's Mercy in God's Country," showing how Catholics in the diocese live out the corporal works of mercy.

Social justice issues were emphasized in several initiatives in the diocese in 2016. Efforts against assisted suicide and human trafficking drew attention as did political responsibility in the weeks before the presidential election.

An end of life conference was held March 19 in Saranac Lake and the first annual Blue Mass – offering support for those who work in law enforcement, the military and prisons – took place Oct. 30 in Malone.

Various groups of Catholics of the diocese found encouragement in conferences and meetings held during the year.

The priests gathered in Alexandria Bay in May for a priests' retreat led by Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

Earlier that month, Bishop Howard Hubbard, retired bishop of Albany, addressed



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Bishop LaValley ordained Father Todd Thibault to the priesthood Oct. 8.

the annual Deacon Convocation in Lake Placid.

Commissioned lay ministers gathered several times during the year in regional groups for fellowship and continued education.

Teachers met in Lake Placid in October for the an-

nual Superintendent's Day and Catholic teenagers gathered at Guggenheim in Saranac Lake for six weeks of summer camp and a Leadership Weekend.

Also during the year, Kelly Donnelly, new diocesan director of youth ministry, organized a Diocesan Youth Council.

Young people also participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, although the trip was cut short by a blizzard in the nation's capital.

Traveling a bit further, ten young adults from the diocese were among the millions who traveled to Poland for World Youth Day.

New faces in church leadership during the year included James Crowley who replaced St. Joseph Sister Jennifer Votraw as chancellor for the diocese. Sister Jennifer moved to Watertown to serve as superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Several people received special honors during the year. Kelly Sternisha, a

teacher at St. James in Gouverneur, was named Catholic School Teacher of the Year, while Catholic Charities presented its annual Caritas Award to the Mercy Care for the Adirondacks and its President's Award to Linda Young of Lake Placid.

The year was a time for many sad farewells including the departure of the Ursuline Sisters who were honored at a farewell celebration in Malone in July.

And, we mourned the clergy who died: Father Edward Papp on May 13, Deacon William Schmidt, May 15; Father George Maroun, June 30; Father Lawrence Cotter, Aug. 7; Deacon George Steward, Oct. 11 and Father Paul Beyette, Dec. 14.

Now, we enter a new year with words from Bishop LaValley: *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you kindly and give you and your loved ones His peace! Blessed New Year everyone!*

CATHOLICS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

SCENES OF THE SEASON



Seminarians of the Diocese of Ogdensburg joined Bishop Terry R. LaValley and members of the diocesan vocation team Dec. 28 for Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a luncheon at the Bishop's House. Pictured, from left, are Father Thomas Higman, associate vocation director; Leagon Carlin, Bishop LaValley, Douglas Schirmer, Nicholas Olley, Matthew Conger and Father Douglas Lucia, vocation director.



The students of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh presented their annual Christmas program on Dec. 21. PreK-Grade 2 entertained the audience with "The First Christmas" and Grades 3-5 performed "Star of Wonder - A Children's Musical of Hope." Ella Manton was Mary, Patrick Benware was St. Joseph, and Mick Bateman was the Infant Jesus. One of the musical numbers reminded the audience that "God chooses who he uses and he uses everyone." This is a powerful message helping to create a culture of vocations, said St. Joseph Sister Mary Helen Hermann, principal.



Amidst small tokens of appreciation passed out at the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Ann's in Wells, Father Sony Pulickal surprised Fran and Kathy Gramlich from St. James Church in Lake Pleasant with the "Service Award." The Gramlich's were awarded a plaque for their almost 50 years of service to the church. Father Pulickal said, "through many years and many priests, the Gramlich's have always been of great assistance to the parish." Mr. Gramlich was on the Board of Trustees more than once and has always been ready to help with whatever needed to be done. Mrs. Gramlich headed up the Altar and Rosary Society, buying the candles, setting the altar and flowers and more.



The Catholic Community of Burke & Chateaugay Youth Group along with Belly Buttons hosted a Birthday Party for Jesus Dec. 17 to collect new toys and food for the less fortunate in the community. The kids enjoyed a show by Belly Buttons, balloon animals, crafts and birthday cupcakes. Pictured, back row, are Cameron Dumont, Zoey Perkins, Cora Fitzpatrick, Belly Buttons, Jenna Decosse, Jacob Decosse, Jenna Cornell, Brady Fitzpatrick, Destiny Perkins and Luke Dalton; front, Mason Santamoore, Luc Demers, Drew Crawford, Adam Perkins, Alison Dumont, Anna Dalton and Ainsley Crawford.

Guggenheim '17

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.

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.

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Bishop's Schedule

Jan. 4 - 10:50a.m., Mass at St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg

Jan. 5 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 6 - 7 p.m., Canon Law Class for Deacon Candidates at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

Jan. 8 - 8 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 9 - 7:15 p.m., Novena and Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

Jan. 10 - 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

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

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CHEVROLET

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 4 - Rev. James Edwin O'Haire, 1877; Rev. Michael Walsh, M.S.C., 1977; Rev. Charles E. Chase, 2011

Jan. 5 - Msgr. Dennis E. Lynch, 1979; Rev. Raoul J. Poirier, M.Afr., 1997

Jan. 6 - Rev. James Dennis Phalon, 1974; Deacon George W. Carroll, 1994; Rev. Benoit Dostie, M.S.C., 2007

Jan. 7 - Rev. Leonidas Geoffrion, 1954
Jan. 8 - Rev. Michael Moris, 1893; Rev. Frederick C. Hatch, 1961; Msgr. Robert Arquette, 1969; Rev. Leo McCarthy, O.S.A., 1975; Rev. Roland Gaulin, O.M.I., 1984; Rev. Anthony F. Pease, 1997; Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer, 2004

Jan. 9 - Rev. James P. Santoni, O.M.I., 1890; Rev. Joseph Ferdinand Durin, M.S.C., 1897; Rev. Fred Commins, O.S.A., 1924; 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

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

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., SUNY Potsdam

Environmental Stewardship

National Migration Week

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has proclaimed the week of Jan. 8 - 14, 2017, as National Migration Week, with this year's theme "Creating a Culture of Encounter".

Since its inception in the 1960's, National Migration Week is an attempt to draw attention to the plight of the many refugees, immigrants, and victims of human trafficking that occur in our country, as well as those who suffer from forced relocation in other places around the world.

At the start of this New Year, it is important to realize how blessed our nation has been, and to recognize that it is our responsibility to assist those who have not had the good fortune to be born here. Being forcibly uprooted and displaced from one's home, livelihood, and culture is one of life's most traumatic experiences. However, for most of these individuals, the nightmare continues as they are forced to confront and deal with people who view them in the most unfavorable light.

As Catholics, we are called to treat everyone with respect, especially strangers and those travelers who are in need. When living in the North Country, it is easy to overlook the physical hardships and emotional stress that permeates the lives of millions of the displaced souls on our planet.

As a Catholic Community we must be generous in providing financial support to Catholic Charities and other organizations that directly help these people. We must also be generous with our prayers in asking God to help alleviate the suffering of displaced people. We must also be generous with our smiles, friendly faces, and words of encouragement to anyone who seems to be in need of having their spirits uplifted. St. Francis of Assisi is believed to have said, "Preach the Gospel always, and only use words when necessary."

(For more details on this week, see: www.USCCB.org Migration Week.)

Submitted by:
Tom Kalinowski,
Member of Faith and
Ecology Group, Lake Clear



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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

New York cardinal to participate in Trump inauguration

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- New York's Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan will take part in the upcoming presidential inauguration of Republican Donald Trump. "I am honored to have been asked to offer a reading from Scripture at the upcoming presidential inauguration, and look forward to asking almighty God to inspire and guide our new president and to continue to bless our great nation," Cardinal Dolan said in an email to Catholic News Service. Trump, a lifelong New Yorker, will be sworn in as the 45th president of the United States Jan. 20. According to the president-elect's inaugural committee, other faith leaders who scheduled to be present include the Rev. Samuel Rodriguez of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; Paula White of New Destiny Christian Center; Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean and founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center; the Rev. Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association; and Bishop Wayne T. Jackson of Great Faith Ministries.

Burlington Diocese to celebrate Year of Creation in 2017

BURLINGTON, Vt. (CNS) -- The Diocese of Burlington, Vermont, will observe a special Year of Creation during 2017. Similar to the global Year of Mercy, which emphasized the role of mercy in the Catholic faith, the diocesan-wide Year of Creation will bring an intentional, heightened focus on ecological justice. Various events, initiatives and resources will be made available to parishes and Catholic schools to better educate and encourage the embracing of Pope Francis' message in his 2015 encyclical, "Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home." The pope's second encyclical is addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how people are shaping the future of the planet. He calls the church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path. Burlington Bishop Christopher J. Coyne is inviting all Catholics to join with him in celebrating this Year of Creation in the diocese. He noted the pope emphasized that concern for the natural world is no longer optional but an integral part of church teaching on social justice. "While it has been nearly two years since its publication, I think it is time for the church here in Vermont to study, ponder and begin to implement much of what the pope calls for" in the document, the bishop said.

Vatican says 3.9 million pilgrims visited during Jubilee year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- More than 3.9 million pilgrims visited and attended papal events, liturgies or prayer services during the Holy Year of Mercy in 2016, the Vatican said. The Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Vatican office that coordinates the audiences and distributes the free tickets to papal audiences and liturgies, said a total of 3,952,140 people attended a papal event at the Vatican. The Vatican released the statistics Dec. 29. Although the total was slightly higher from the 3.2 million visitors received by Pope Francis in 2015, for a jubilee year it still fell short of the 5.9 million pilgrims who visited in 2014. Terrorists attacks in Europe throughout the year are also thought to have discouraged visitors from traveling during what are typically busy tourist seasons in Italy. The statistics released by the Vatican stand in contrast to the numbers published on the Jubilee of Mercy website, which states that over 21 million participated in the Holy Year of Mercy. The papal event statistics do not include papal events in the city of Rome or international visits made by Pope Francis.

World scarred by war, greed must welcome prince of peace, pope says

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The song of the angels that heralded the birth of Christ urges men and women to seek peace in a world divided by war, terrorism and greed, Pope Francis said.

"Today this message goes out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearning for peace," the pope said Dec. 25.

Migrants, refugees, children suffering due to hunger and war, victims of human trafficking as well as social and economic unrest were also remembered.

"Peace to the peoples who suffer because of the economic ambitions of the few, because of the sheer greed and the idolatry of money, which leads to slavery," he said.

An estimated 40,000 people slowly made their way through security checkpoints into St. Peter's Square to attend the pope's solemn Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Heightened security following the Dec. 19 terrorist attack in Berlin, Germany was evident as police cordoned off streets and established multiple checkpoints throughout the area.

While police presence is standard for major events in St. Peter's, the added security was a sign of the times where crowded areas have become a target for terrorists.

The pope prayed for "peace to those who have lost a person dear to them as a result of brutal acts of terrorism that has sown fear and death into the hearts of so many countries and

cities."

Countries ravaged by the scourge of war were also in the pope's thoughts, particularly in "the war-torn land of Syria, where far too much blood has been spilled," especially in the city Aleppo. The pope called on the world to support the people of Syria with humanitarian assistance and to put an end to the conflict.

"It is time for weapons to be silenced forever and the international community to actively seek a negotiated solution so that civil coexistence can be restored in the country," he said.

The pope appealed for peace for the people of Ukraine, "who to this day suffer the consequences of the conflict."

The Vatican announced Dec. 23 that the first installment of 6 million euro (\$6.3 million) would be distributed on Christmas Day to assist in relief efforts in Ukraine. Earlier this year, the pope called for a collection across churches in Europe to help the people of the war-torn country.

Iraq, Libya and Yemen, "where their peoples suffer war and the brutality of terrorism," were in the pope's prayers so that they may "be able to once again find unity and harmony."

The pope also remembered Africa, especially Nigeria where fundamentalist terrorism "exploits children in order to perpetrate horror and death" as well as South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, calling on their leaders to choose the path of dialogue rather than "the mindset of conflict."

He also prayed for peace in the Holy Land and that Israelis and Palestinians turn away from hate and revenge while having "the courage and determination to write a new page of history."

Praying for an end to current tensions, the pope also called for peace in Venezuela, Colombia, Myanmar and the Korean peninsula.

Christ's birth, he said, is a sign of joy and a call for the world to contemplate "the child Jesus who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth."

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.' He is the 'prince of peace;' let us welcome him."

After his address, the bells of St. Peter's rang loudly, pealing throughout the square as they did in the evening Dec. 24 following the proclamation of Jesus' birth during Christmas Mass.

The darkness of the night sky over St. Peter's Basilica was broken by the bright lights emanating from the colonnade and the Christmas tree from the square.

Temperatures just above 40 degrees didn't stop thousands of people unable to enter the packed basilica from participating in the Mass, sitting outside and watching the Mass on giant screens in St. Peter's Square.

In his homily, the pope said the love of God is made visible at Christ's birth on a night of glory, joy and light "which would illuminate those who walk in darkness."

The shepherds are a witness to "the enduring sign" of finding Jesus when they discover him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger; a sign that is given to all Christians today, the pope said.

"If we want to celebrate Christmas authentically, we need to contemplate this sign: the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, the meekness of where he lies, the tender affection of the swaddling clothes. God is there," he said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Epiphany completes spirit of Christmas Mass

The theme of the Epiphany really completes the spirit of the Mass for Christmas Day.

There, Isaiah had foretold that "all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God."

And the Gospel for that Christmas Mass had promised that all people would eventually be the chosen ones. "... to those who did accept Him, he gave power to become children of God".

And now, on the Epiphany, the light from the skies is intensified a hundred, a thousand fold.

The prophecy of Isaiah is

fulfilled that "nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance."

To the amazement of all in that region, there come foreign camels bearing foreign scholars - wise men - kings! Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh!

What courage and perseverance those strangers have shown, to brave the dangers of travel, skepticism, and political intrigue.

But they found what they were looking for.

That star gave trustworthy guidance and now triumphantly shines as guard

over the lowly dwelling wherein rests the child who possesses all meaning.

They fall to their knees in homage, for their learning has made them humble, and their wisdom leads them to recognize the Divine in the fragile flesh of a child.

What a silent Adoration! What loving glances they exchange with Mary and Joseph.

But for all their simple faith, their wisdom is sharp enough to detect the sham delight and murderous intentions of the wily Herod.

And so the three pay their respects, leave their gifts, and modestly depart for their homeland, sorrowfully aware of the terrible price justice must pay for Peace.

JAN. 8

The Feast of the Epiphany

READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Their role in history has been accomplished. By their actions, they teach us all to follow the guidance of the Almighty, to accept our own role as Bearers of the Light, and to follow this Christ into His Mission, to partake of His Passion, and to join the millions through the ages who will preach His Gospel of universal salvation.

The Son of God is the one

Judge and Arbiter of Truth and the one Source of Light, but we are all called to be "epiphanies", providing glimpses of that Truth, showing the way in our own small spots of time and circumstance to a larger plan and destiny.

Princely Child, make of us all wise men and courageous women, obedient children who will follow wherever you lead us.

That means being faithful to prayer, diligent in imitating the enthusiasm and guidance of Pope Francis in sharing with those seeking the Light.

This is the way for us to be light-bearers, helping banish the darkness and confusion in the world in which we live.

BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS

Books provide daily reflections for the new year

Here are some new books that offer daily reflections for the new year.

- "Soul-Wrestling: Meditations in Monochrome" by Ken Bazyn. St. Augustine's Press (South Bend, Indiana, 2016). 149 pp., \$30.

- "When the Lord Speaks to Your Heart: Daily Reflections" by Gaston Courtois. Pauline

Books & Media (Boston, 2016). 208 pp., \$14.95.

- "Angels of the Lord: 365 Reflections on Our Heavenly Guardians" by Catherine Odell & Margaret Savitskas. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Indiana, 2016). 386 pp., \$16.95.

- "A Year of Daily Offerings" by James Kubicki, SJ.

Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2016). 480 pp., \$17.95.

- "Heaven Starts Now: Becoming a Saint Day by Day" by Fr. John Riccardo. Word Among Us Press (Frederick, Maryland, 2016). 143 pp., \$12.95.

- "The Catholic Mom's Prayer Companion: A Book of Daily Reflections," edited by

Lisa M. Hendey and Sarah A. Reinhard. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2016). 544 pp., \$16.95.

- "A Year of Spiritual Companionship: 52 Weeks of Wisdom for a Life of Gratitude, Balance and Happiness" by Anne Kertz Kernion. SkyLight Paths (Woodstock, Vermont, 2016). 176 pp., \$14.99.

- "Word by Word: A Daily Spiritual Practice" by Marilyn McEntyre. Wm. B. Eerdmans (Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2016). 234 pp., \$17.99.

- "Sacred Reading: The 2017 Guide to Daily Prayer" by Apostleship of Prayer. Ave

Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2016). 416 pp., \$15.95.

- "Called to Teach: Daily Inspirations for Catholic Educators" by Justin McClain. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2016). 288 pp., \$14.95.

- "I Will Praise Your Name Forever: 2017 Prayer Journal." Word Among Us Press (Frederick, Maryland, 2016). 224 pp., \$13.95.

- "Abide in My Word: Mass Readings at Your Fingertips 2017." Word Among Us Press (Frederick, Maryland, 2016). 586 pp., \$16.50.

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AT THE MOVIES

COLLATERAL BEAUTY

"Collateral Beauty" (Warner Bros.) is a strange, pretentious drama about overcoming grief.

While that's obviously a subject about which a good film -- perhaps many of them -- might be made, the treatment of it in director David Frankel's quirky mess of a movie is at once too bizarre and too pat to yield any insights.

The talented cast certainly do their best to redeem the proceedings, though ultimately their effort proves futile.

Will Smith plays Howard, a formerly successful advertising executive so emotionally paralyzed by the death of his young daughter that he endangers the future of his firm by his neglect of clients.

In response, Howard's three principal colleagues -- Whit (Edward Norton), Claire (Kate Winslet) and Simon (Michael Pena) -- hire a trio of actors, vain Brigitte (Helen Mirren), fetching Amy (Keira

Knightley) and skateboarding street kid Raffi (Jacob Latimore), to prove that Howard's distress has rendered him incompetent. And this is where things get rather squirrely.

The thespians are to prove that Howard has gone off his rocker by impersonating the three abstractions -- death, love and time -- to which, as private detective Sally (Ann Dowd) has discovered,

Howard has written, and mailed, angry letters. Sally will capture the resulting exchanges on her mobile phone, the players will be edited out of the footage, and Howard will be shown ranting away to himself.

Cuckoo, Q.E.D.

To take the blatantly unethical nature of this maneuver on the part of Howard's partners, who also claim to be his friends, seriously would first require a jumbo-sized suspension of disbelief.

The fact that the death-

love-time triad also just happens to fit the life situations of these treacherous amigos similarly strains credibility.

The occasional jokes that leaven the dialogue in screenwriter Allan Loeb's script, moreover, are far outnumbered by fortune-cookie sentiments the audience is clearly meant to receive as nuggets of wisdom.

Some of these come from the picture's moral-compass setter, Madeleine (Naomie Harris). A bereaved mother who leads a therapy group Howard reluctantly joins, Madeleine also shares the anecdote from which "Collateral Beauty" takes its title.

If you've ever heard the one about "silver linings," you pretty much know what the moral of that story is going to be. Those willing to endure the blizzard of clichés of which the eponymous phrase forms but a flake will, however, find a warm endorsement of mari-



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Will Smith and Keira Knightley star in a scene from the movie "Collateral Beauty."

tal fidelity waiting for them at the wrap.

The film contains an adultery theme as well as several crude and a couple of crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of Amer-

ica rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned.



ALSO PLAYING



CNS PHOTO/UNIVERSAL

Character and those who give them voices, from the animated movie "Sing."

'Sing'

A generally amiable but flawed musical cartoon, "Sing" is populated mostly by animals, in which the koala bear owner (voice of Matthew McConaughey) of a failing theater aims to revive his business by staging a singing contest. The quintet of finalists in the competition comprises a conceited mouse (voice of Seth MacFarlane) who croons in a Sinatra-like style, a gifted teenage elephant (voice of Tori Kelly) afflicted with stage fright, a harried pig housewife (voice of Reese Witherspoon) run ragged by her 25 children, a gorilla gangster's son (voice of Taron Egerton) who would rather belt out Elton John tunes than help his dad steal and a porcupine punk rocker (voice of Scarlett Johansson) coping with the selfishness of her live-in boyfriend. Friendship and loyalty are triumphant amid plot complications that include a typo escalating the winner's prize a hundredfold. But writer-director Garth Jennings, incorporates into his film not only a living arrangement that has no place in a movie aimed at children but a German-accented male stage partner (voice of Nick Kroll) for Witherspoon's character who exudes swishy enthusiasm and favors glitzy leotards. Probably acceptable for mature teens. Cohabitation, some scatological humor, scenes of peril. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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ADIRONDACK

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Tupper Lake – Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers. A Friendship Volunteer Training Program has been scheduled 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@admrcy.org.

CLINTON

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: Take-outs will be available by calling 518-561-5039

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 a pancake breakfast.

Date: 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

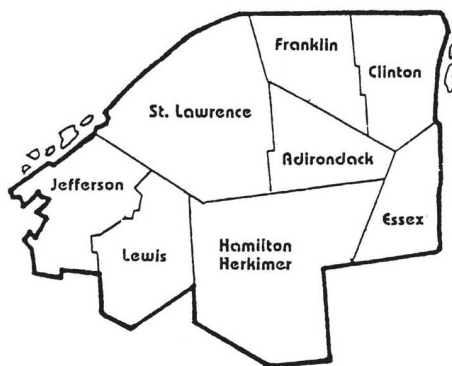
Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Alexander's Jubilee Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

MARCH FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – March for Life to be held.



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.

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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

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 29; Feb 12; Mar 5;

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 AND MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – The Indian River K of C will be having a spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 7

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

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

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., 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

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

CURSILLO MEETINGS

Carthage – The Jefferson/Lewis Cursillo holds its monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Time: 6 p.m. to 8

Place: Community Room of St. James Church

Features: All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend. We also welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Contact: Anne Seegebarth
ams2962@gmail.com, 315-783-4596

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sackets Harbor – St. Andrew's has scheduled weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Mon.-Fri.

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

Place: Holy Family Church

LEWIS

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lowville – To pray for vocations, all are invited to morning prayer, liturgy of the word, exposition, silent adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and benediction.

Date: Ja. 6

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30

Place: St. Peter's Church

EUCHARISTIC 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

INTERNATIONAL NATIVITY EXHIBIT

Houseville – An international exhibit of Christmas Creches-Nativities Will be seen at St. Hedwig's Church.

Schedule: Jan. 8 after the 11 a.m. Mass, or between 1 p.m. and 3 The exhibit may also be seen by appointment. Contact 348-6260.

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 (includes lunch); Additional \$25 for

overnight (dinner, breakfast included)

To register: Call 315-212-6592 or email srbethssj@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, pastormsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, fdoug@twcny.rr.com

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

The Vocation Office has scheduled a women's discernment retreat day.

Date: Jan. 7

Place: Morrisonville

Contact: Cathy Russell, diocesan Vocation Coordinator: 315-393-2920 or crusell@rcdony.org

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

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

The Spiritans

From the Director's Desk
Sister Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ
Diocesan Mission Director

Last Summer's Mission Cooperation plan included 16 different mission aid societies from around the world.

One in particular, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, USA Province, also known as the Spiritans, reached out to us say "thanks" for their visit to our Diocese.

Members of a mission aid society show their gratitude to the Diocese of Ogdensburg

Their Provincial Superior, Father Jeffrey Duamine, CSSp, wrote to Bishop Terry R. LaValley to say "how deeply grateful we are to the pastors of the various parishes of the various parishes we visited for their gracious hospitality and to the parishioners for their generous support and prayers.

As an international missionary congregation dedicated to the evangelization of the poor in over 60 countries around the world, we depend greatly on the generosity of people at home.

On our part, we trust that the personal stories and witness of our missionaries have opened their horizons to the wider mission of the Church and given them some insights into contemporary mission overseas.

The missionary vocation of the entire Church and all of its members is a constitutive part of our Baptismal call; the Spiritans have been privileged to make this vivid and urgent appeal to the people of your diocese.

I wish you may blessings in your own ministry at the service of the local church particularly during the seasons of Advent and Christmas....."

The Mission Office joins our counterparts in the Spiritans with gratitude for all the Diocese of Ogdensburg puts forth each year to the people of the Mission Lands.

Happy New Year.

May it be blessed and safe for everyone.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Adams – John Naklick, 85; Funeral Services in spring at St. Cecilia's Church; burial in St. Cecilia's Cemetery.

Altona – Joanne (Boudreau) LaBarge, 61; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2016 at Holy Angels Church.

AuSable Forks – Ortha Mae (Perkins) Baker, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2016 at Thwaites-Zaumetzer Funeral Home.

Brushton – Thelma (Pickering) Martin, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Cadyville – Nelson F. Provost Jr., 83; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2016 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Darriel R. Demers, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2016 at St. Mary's Church.

Chasm Falls – Watson "Butch" E. Boyea Jr., 69; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2016 at St. Helen's Church.

Clayton – Patrick D. Phinney, 63; Funeral Services Jan. 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Elenburg – Samuel Joseph Trombley, 79; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2016 at St. Edmund's Church.

Ellenburg – Robert "Buckley" Smith, 72; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2016 at St. Edmund's Church.

Evans Mills – Ruth E. (Simpson) Monnat, 96; Funeral Dec. 31, 2016 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Hogansburg – Alex Arquette, 73; Funeral Services Dec. 24, 2016 at St. Regis Church.

Hogansburg – Mary "Mae" (Phillips) Thompson, 103; Funeral Services Dec. 26, 2016 at St. Regis Church; burial in Kateri Cemetery.

Lake Clear – Shirley (Duquette) McGill, 89; Funeral Dec. 20, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in St. John's Cemetery.

Long Lake – Margaret Catherine

LaRocque, 92; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2016 at St. Henry's Church; burial in Long Lake Cemetery.

Louisville – Lorraine M. (Levac) Doud, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2016 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

Madrid – MaryEllen (Mayville) Trombley, 85; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2016 at St. John the Baptist Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Canton.

Malone – Viola Esther Trombley Recore, 82; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2016 at St. John's Church.

Norfolk – Lorraine (Butler) Richards, 97; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2016 at Church of Visitation; burial in parish cemetery.

Norfolk – Victoria A. Kelly Roth; Funeral Services in Spring at Church of the Visitation; burial in church cemetery.

North Bangor – Janice M. McDonald, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church.

North Bangor – Helen (Rouselle) Poirier, 96; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

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

Peru – Ronald P. "Ron" Coupal, 63; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2016 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

Peru – Audrey M. (Duprey) Breaun, 74; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2016 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Peru – Gracelyn Whyman Kayea, 86; Funeral Services Dec. 21, 2016 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Holy Names Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

Plattsburgh – Chief Arthur "Art" Brault, 54; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2016 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Terrance "Terry" Daniels, 67; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Divine Cemetery, Cumberland Head.

Plattsburgh – Charles Bernard Filion, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 29, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Anita M. (Defayette) Topnick, 88; Funeral Services Dec. 30, 2016 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Victor E. Wells, 71; Funeral Services Dec. 17, 2016 at St. John's Church.

Port Henry – Richard L. Baker, 68; Funeral Services Dec. 23, 2016 at St. Patrick's Church.

Potsdam – Raymond F. Bond, Jr; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2017 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Saranac Lake – Catherine Gadway, 90; Funeral Services Jan. 2, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in North Elba Cemetery, Lake Placid.

Star Lake – Barbara J. (Pomerville) Smith, 77; Funeral Services Dec. 23, 2016 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Fine.

Watertown – Daniel T. Gardner, 57; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2016 at the Hart & Bruce Funeral Home; burial in Sanford Corners Cemetery.

Watertown – John M. Graham, 66; Funeral Services Dec. 27, 2016 at Holy Family Church; burial in Greenlawn Cemetery, Warners.

Watertown – Barbara J. (Duppert) Narrows, 75; Funeral Services Dec. 22, 2016 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Sanford Corners, Cemetery.

West Chazy – Rita Veronica (Bedard) Lushia, 90; Funeral Services Dec. 20, 2016 at St. Joseph's Church.



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