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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 25

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 15, 2017

## World Day of the Poor

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** - Pope Francis will celebrate the Catholic Church's first World Day of the Poor Nov. 19 by celebrating a morning Mass with people in need and those who assist them. After Mass, he will offer lunch to 500 people in the Vatican audience hall.

As the Year of Mercy was

ending in November 2016, Pope Francis told people he wanted to set one day aside each year to underline everyone's responsibility "to care for the true riches, which are the poor."

The result was the World Day of the Poor, which is to be marked annually on the

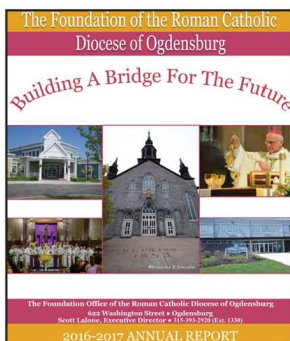
33rd Sunday of ordinary time on the church's liturgical calendar.

An admonition from St. John Chrysostom "remains ever timely," Pope Francis said in a message for the 2017 celebration. He quoted the fifth-century theologian: "If you want to honor the

body of Christ, do not scorn it when it is naked; do not honor the eucharistic Christ with silk vestments and then, leaving the church, neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness."

The pope chose "Love not in word, but in deed" as the 2017 theme.

## Annual report of diocesan Foundation



The diocesan Office of Development present the annual report of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 7-10

## Becoming great principals

Two principals from Catholic

Schools in diocese begin

professional development program

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## LIFT UP YOUR HEART....NOT YOUR CELLPHONE



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

People take photos on tablets and phones as Pope Francis arrives to open the annual convention of the Diocese of Rome in Paul VI hall at the Vatican June 16, 2014. The pope, at his Nov. 8 general audience, said it's "an awful thing" for people to take cellphone photos at Mass. The Mass is not a show, but a beautiful, transformative encounter with the true loving presence of Christ, Pope Francis said. That is why people need to focus their hearts on God, not focus their smartphones for pictures during Mass, he said. When the priest celebrating Mass says, "Let us lift up our hearts," he is not saying, "lift up our cellphones and take a picture." "It makes me so sad when I celebrate (Mass) in the square or in the basilica and I see so many cellphones in the air. And not just by the lay faithful, some priests and bishops, too," he said. "Please, Mass is not a show. It is going to encounter the Passion, the resurrection of the Lord," he said to applause.

## MEET A SEMINARIAN

College senior Leagon Carlin



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

An interview with Carlin Leagon, a parishioner of St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh, completes the nine-part "Meet Our Seminarians" series submitted by the diocesan Office of Vocations. A senior at the Pontifical College Josephinum, he said. "I have had the desire to be a priest since second grade. It has been the only consistent desire of my heart." It was at Camp Guggenheim that Leagon describes a life-changing experience. "God rocked my world when he called me by name to be serious about priesthood," he said. "The next week, I got the application."

FULL STORY, PAGE 16

**CALL AND MISSION:** Middle schoolers learn about vocations... p. 4



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COUNTRY  
CATHOLICBox 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400

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R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

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MARY LOU KILIAN

Editor/

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Publish 45 issues per year. Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:

622 Washington Street,  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

news@northcountry  
catholic.org

Entered at the

Post Office:

Ogdensburg, NY  
13669 andadditional mailing offices as  
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:

For one year:

In-Diocese Rate: \$27

Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication

should be

addressed to

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY 13669

and should be received by

Thursday prior to

publication.

Paper is printed each

Monday;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press

Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Hammocks, salt shakers, five perfect kids

What do you suppose salt shakers, hammock-ing and 33 days of smiles have in common?

This week they all have a connection to vocations!

More than 100 middle schoolers gathered at Guggenheim a few weeks ago for a "Call and Mission" day on vocations. They were each given a salt shaker to remind that them about the God-given gifts that were theirs to share.

Hammock-ing was listed as

one of seminarian Leagon Carlin's favorite ways to relax. His interview is the last in our nine-part "Meet our Seminar-ians" series. Hasn't it been fun to learn a little about the guys preparing to become our priests?

Mary Lou  
Kilian

The 33 days of smiles refers to the papacy of now venerable Pope John Paul.

I can remember how shocking it was to learn that our brand new pope died just 33 days after he was cho-

sen. My predecessor, dearly departed Msgr. Bernie Christman, was still reeling from covering the deaths of two popes and the election of two more in the two months before he hired me.

(At least he didn't have to keep up with five bishops!)

Our vocation focus will continue, in high gear, in the next *North Country Catholic* as we publish our annual "We Appreciate Our Priests" issue. It's always a joy to hear how much appreciation there is for our collection of "men in black."

And, while I share this appre-

ciation for all those who live out their vocation with faith, hope and great love, I am especially grateful for the vocation I get to claim for myself: being a grandmother!

Work has been a challenge over the past two weeks as I took three days off to hang out with Tommy and Charlie and another to see Anna, Patrick and Caroline.

If there are any greater blessings in the world, I can't imagine what they would be! What a joy it is to thank God every day for the vocation to which I have been called.

## FATHER MUENCH SAYS

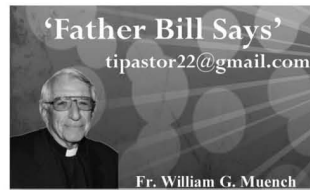
## Finding much 'Joy of Love' in family life

I know I should not be surprised – but I always am – to see that people have already begun putting up their Christmas decorations on their homes. It isn't even Thanksgiving.

I love Thanksgiving. I enjoy the meal and I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I enjoy the football; when we were younger, there was always a touch football game.

Thanksgiving is about family so today I would like to take a moment to talk about family. I want to offer a prayer of gratitude to God for my family. I continue to find great happiness in being able to spend time with my family. As a priest, I have become a member of many families and I have discovered the love and peace that can only come through a family.

Thinking of family and family life, I went back to Pope Francis' letter, "The Joy of Love" (*Amoris Laetitia*). As you may remember, this book, an Apostolic Exhortation, is a summary, written by Pope Francis, of the discussions and concerns that came up in the two synods on the Family and Marriage. These Synods were meetings of Bishops called by the Holy Father each fall that were called for by the Second



Vatican Council. Also, attending these Synods were priests, Sisters and lay men and women.

In rereading Pope Francis' Exhortation, I went immediately to the final chapter which is entitled, "The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family." This chapter speaks of the presence of God in the lives of all Christians that is influenced profoundly through their family.

Pope Francis writes: "The Lord's presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes. The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures. In that variety of gifts and encounters which deepen communion, God has his dwelling place."

Personally, I remember as a child discovering God through my own parents – through my own family. Through so many little and ordinary things God was able to enter into my life. I

was able to discover faith and a belief in God. There were so many times that now seem so small, so ordinary that God became part of my life.

As a priest and pastor, I have been blessed to become a part of many families. It was not difficult to realize how God became a part of family life. I recognized often how this spirit of faith united each family and gave them the blessing to meet the challenges of life and also to celebrate the many joys that come their way.

I have stood with families during very difficult times, like in the hospital at a crisis time. I have seen families going through just terrible times but then have a successful result. I have also been with parents when something has gone dreadfully wrong.

Afterwards in talking with them, I have acknowledged how difficult this all was and asked how did you do it? how did you make it? And the answer that came back to me was usually "Father, if it had not been for my faith I would not have made it."

Family life: thousands of ordinary things, small things but real parts of life. These small things are gifts from the Lord. I have discovered that every day in every family, the Lord

brings so many opportunities that draw families closer together. These experiences bring a true communion into family life. They seem like ordinary experiences yet, they make the family God's dwelling place.

I like to think that each one of you can remember such experiences, something that just sort of happened but resulted in something special that became a loving moment, a special experience. I believe that it was the Lord who comes with this loving touch into that family.

I finish with something written by Catherine Doherty: "Marriage is a vocation, a call of God to two people to become one, found a home, beget, bear and raise children; and, in this glorious and very hard vocation to become saints themselves, and do all that is in their power to make saints of their children."

"Once we understand this, a change will take place in our hearts, and the ultimate goal of life will stand out more and more clearly. We shall know, and understand well, that we have been created to love. We shall understand that all vocations we may embrace including marriage, are vocations to love.



## FOLLOW ME

# The World Day of the Poor

Pope Francis has designated the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 19th, as the first *World Day of the Poor*. He desires to appeal to our consciences, sensitizing you and me to the cries of the poor and the suffering.

The Holy Father has chosen "*Let us love, not with words but with deeds*" as this year's theme.

I invite all the faithful of the North Country to celebrate this first *World Day of the Poor* by: reflecting on the good we have done, thanking the many who reach out to the hurting, and seeking the grace to enhance our own

personal efforts on behalf of the poor in our neighborhoods.

The Pope writes that "if we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist."

As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: To be a people who honors the Eucharistic

Christ is to be a people who do not neglect the other Christ suffering from cold and nakedness (*Hom. in Matthaëum*, 50:3 PG 58).

Each of us must never tire

of being more attentive and sensitive to the other Christs suffering in our midst.

Poverty has many faces scarred by violence, terror, social injustice, illiteracy and ignorance, trafficking, unemployment, mental disorder, addictions, exploitation by the wealthy and powerful, forced migration, the list goes on.

As I travel the roads of the North Country, I am reminded of how gifted we are with truly Eucharistic people in our diocese.

Our parish families work tirelessly in a variety of social outreach efforts.

We see the face of the suffering Christ in those who approach our soup kitchens and clothing stores, in those

to whom we offer food baskets and in the pregnant women who seek our assistance, as well as those faces distraught from an emergency that has arisen when, through the parish or the Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund, financial assistance is offered.

We are graced, too, by the many parish organizations such as the Legion of Mary, Catholic Daughters, and the Knights of Columbus, as well as the many parishioners who visit the homebound, the elderly and the forgotten, all of whom tend to those suffering from material and spiritual poverty.

This year in which we mark the 100th Anniversary of Catholic Charities in New York State we are especially

aware of the broad variety of services offered by our Catholic Charities.

For a generation, Sister Donna Franklin's remarkable servant leadership has seen Catholic Charities, throughout our North Country, advocating for the neglected, offering counseling services and providing a host of other means of outreach and support to our hurting neighbor.

Yes, we are a Eucharistic people who are attentive and sensitive to the needs of our sisters and brothers. We take seriously Pope Francis' theme: "Love not in word but in deed." We place all our hurting neighbors under the Maternal love and tender care of our Blessed Mother.



Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley

## HELPING THE POOR WITH COATS AND CHRISTMAS TREATS



St. Augustine's Knights of Columbus Council 7273 Deputy Grand Knight Robert Manchester of Peru presented 24 new children's winter jackets to K-2 Principal Michelle Rawson and School Nurse Kathy Bedard Nov. 2. "As the weather gets colder we see children, especially at recess, who need the extra warmth, Ms. Bedard said. "There definitely is a need. The children are very happy to receive them." The Knights of Columbus began a Coats for Kids Program during the 2009 recession. Since 2013 the Peru Knights have distributed 120 jackets at the Peru Elementary School. The 2,000 Knights of Columbus Councils in the United States and Canada have distributed nearly 400,000 coats, including 88,000 during the past year. From left are Ms Bedard, Ms Rawson and Manchester.



Children from Augustinian Academy in Carthage have begun Operation Christmas, filling shoeboxes with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies to be sent to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease. The Carthage children used their October Jeans Day money to purchase items for the shoe boxes. Pictured, bottom row from left are, Ellis Muñoz, Alyvia Southard and Everett Kane; second row, Kenneth Munford, Michael Carey and Andrew Woods; third, Kayden Pate, Benjamin Luketic and Jocelyn Westmoreland; fourth, Jocelyn Haberman, Lucas Ball and Bryant Weekley; and back, Lilliana Truesdell and Jameson Bott.



*Middle schoolers spend a day at Guggenheim learning about vocations*

# Call and Mission

By Cathy Russell  
Diocesan Vocation Coordinator

**SARANAC LAKE** - The shores of Lower Saranac Lake at Camp Guggenheim were alive with the sights and sounds of 115 energetic middle schoolers who had gathered for a vocation retreat in October.

The young people were from Catholic schools, homeschooled families and parish religious education programs.

The retreat was a joint effort of the diocesan Youth Department and the Vocations Office.

The day was planned around the theme of Call and Mission with emphasis on two scripture passages, Mark's the Rich Young Man and Matthew's passage on salt and light.

The program began with some ice breakers, giving the



Father Thomas Higman, assistant vocation director for the diocese, celebrates Mass to close the diocesan middle school retreat held in October at Camp Guggenheim.

students a chance to meet young people from other schools and areas of the diocese. After that, everyone gathered on the beach for morning prayer.

**I learned that God has a plan for me and now I know that the choice that He makes is what is best for me**

Highlights included discussion of the two scripture passages as the students received a salt shaker with salt in it. They wrote on the salt shaker a gift they thought God wanted them to share with others. At the end of the day, students took their shakers home as a reminder of the day.

Students then proceeded to a workshop in which presenters - Father Bryan Stitt, pastor in Canton St. Joseph; Sister Mary Gregory Munger of Watertown and Paul and Samantha Poulin of Malone - led them to understand that they are loved by God and that God has a plan for each of them.

The second half of the day began with a lunch organ-

ized with the help of volunteers from the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS). After lunch, students had free time before coming together for a panel discussion.

"We wanted the students to hear from people who had just gone through or were actually going through the discernment process from each vocational choice so we thought a panel discussion would work," said Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director and one of the organizers of the program.

On the panel were a married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Poulin; Sister Suanne Johnson of Ticonderoga, a recently professed Sister of St. Joseph; Father Stitt, Father Thomas Higman of Ellenburg, assistant vocation director; Joey Izzo of Lake Placid, a professional musician; and Abigail St. Louis of Morrisonville, a college student.

The middle-schoolers were able to hear how important it is to choose a boyfriend or girlfriend to date who shares the same faith and values. They heard that married couples need to work things out, not run away.

The panelists shared a



A highlight of the day was a panel discussion featuring priests, a religious sister, married couple and single young adults talking about their vocations.



Aubrey Whitford, a student at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga, and Father Bryan Stitt, pastor in Canton, try their hand at KanJam during free time at the retreat.

faith hero and briefly described discernment in their lives. Students were then able to ask questions.

The day ended with opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the celebration of Mass.

One of the larger groups to attend was St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga. A Ticonderoga parent chaperone, Heather Whitford, said, "The vocation retreat was an amazing gift to all who attended. Our youth may never have thought about what God wants them to do with their lives. This retreat certainly opened their hearts to listen."

"It was a well-planned day and the kids had a great time," said Sister Suanne, a teacher at St. Mary's in Ticonderoga. "I am most grateful that not only did you talk to

the kids about their personal vocation and tell them to pray for their vocation, but you followed it up with time to do just that! Beautifully done."

"Thank you for putting this together for our middle school students," she said.

Three St. Mary's students also shared their reactions:

"Thank you," said sixth grader Bayleigh Clark, "My favorite part was to talk to different kids from other schools. Awesome day."

"I liked when we split into groups," said Laura Zelinski, grade 8. "I got to go with Father Bryan. He was funny."

And from seventh grader Aurelia Leekkes: "Mass was amazing! And I liked how you offered confession. I learned that God has a plan for me and now I know that the choice that He makes is what is best for me."



# Principals aim to serve Catholic schools 'in best possible capacity'

By Mary Lou Kilian  
Editor

When long-time Carthage Augustinian Academy teacher Mary Ann Margrey accepted her new role as principal she also accepted the suggestion that she take part in the Emmaus Leadership Series through Boston College.

"Once I said 'yes' to the position I wanted to be sure I could serve Augustinian Academy students, staff, and families in the best possible capacity," she said.

St. Joseph Sister Ellen Rose Coughlin, diocesan superintendent of schools, encouraged Mrs. Margrey as well as Lynn Gilbert, principal of Seton Catholic in Plattsburgh, to participate in the professional development program for Catholic school administrators.

The Emmaus Leadership Series is an initiative of the Barbara and Patrick Roche Center for Catholic Education. Housed within the top-ranked Lynch School of Education at Boston College, the Roche Center brings together a collaborative community of Catholic school leaders, teachers, researchers, scholars, and innovators to sustain and improve K-12 Catholic education.

Kathleen Behrens, principal of Trinity Catholic School in Massena has competed the 20-month program and Sister Ellen Rose was convinced that Mrs. Margrey and Ms Gilbert would also find the program beneficial.

She was right. "This was a deeply spiritual journey with much self-

reflection," Mrs. Margrey said. "It was truly an affirmation to the calling to be a principal. The whole experience was uplifting, and it has alleviated some of the anxiety with taking on this leadership role.

Ms Gilbert said, "As professionals, there is always room for improvement, but as educational leaders, it is even more imperative that we continue to expand our knowledge

and challenge our assumptions, if we expect our students, staff and faculty to continue to grow and learn in a constantly changing world.

"Leading by example guarantees success and some of the strategies that the Emmaus Series teaches, is not what to do better, but rather how we can each look at ourselves differently in order to make positive change when necessary," she said.

## Retreat in Boston

The two North Country principals were among 24 Catholic school leaders from across the country who gathered in July at the Boston College Connors Family Retreat Center.

At a three-day "foundational retreat" the groundwork was laid for a 20-month professional development journey with the Emmaus Leadership Series.

The goal is to help their schools grow through spiritual leadership, curriculum and instructional design, and business management.

"The days were full of work

sessions that spoke of what it means to be in a Catholic school," Mrs. Margrey said, "how we should be mission driven, how to lead Catholic schools, how to cultivate spiritual leadership, how to use the National Standards & Benchmarks, how to lead change, and how to move forward."

Ms. Gilbert added, "This 20-month program combines prayerful inspiration, sustainable techniques and methodologies for success with statistically proven results. The program allows for continuous professional development that is focused heavily on the administrative role at each educational institution.

The schedule includes workshop sessions every other month, a two-day retreat in May, 2018, and commencement in April, 2019. The topic for the September workshop was "Leading Effective School Boards."

## Driven by mission

As she begins the program, Mrs. Margrey said, "So far, I am concentrating on our school mission and working to ensure that all we do is driven by the mission. I also have enjoyed the collaboration with other principals across the country who are working on the same areas.

Ms. Gilbert agreed. "The support from other principals across the country allows encouragement from others who are also experiencing many of the same issues within their own schools," she said. "The networking is priceless and the connections will last a lifetime."

## FACES OF FAITH



Deacon William Raven receiving a citation from Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush on the occasion of his 29th anniversary of ordination to the permanent diaconate Oct. 1 Deacon Raven is retiring from his liturgical duties at St. Paul's in Black River and St. Rita's in Deferiet.



The St. Andre Bessette Rosary Society of Malone recently held a pie sale for the Malone Adult Center. All Malone churches were involved with net proceeds of \$919. A check was then presented to the Adult Center and given to Ruth Demarse, (center, president of the Adult Center Board; At left is Donna Sauther, Rosary Society president; and right, Rhea Ritchings, Rosary Society treasurer.



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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



# Development office offers guidance for year-end giving

By Scott Lalone  
Diocesan Development Director

There are many factors to consider when making your year-end gifts. One primary decision is what organization(s) you are choosing to support.

For those who may be considering their faith as something they wish to support, beneficiary choices include: your parish or Catholic school, the diocese, the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, Education of Priests and Seminarians, Priests Retirement Fund, Bishop's Fund, Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Catholic Charities, St. Joseph's Nursing Home or any ministry or program of the diocese.

Another factor to consider

is the method of giving you should utilize for this/these gifts; there are many giving options from which to choose, some of which can benefit the donor in a variety of ways:

- Outright cash gifts provide an immediate impact while stock gifts can often help you avoid capital gains tax.

- Wills and bequests, which can provide possible estate tax deductions, are often considered by donors this time of the year

- Charitable Gift Annuities provide a stream of income back to the donor with the balance going to its beneficiary choice upon the donor passing. Two-Life Annuities are also an option often set up by a husband and wife.

- Insurance policies offer tax advantages and your designation can be listed in the

beneficiary of the policy itself.

- Real estate gifts can be given without incurring tax appreciation and there is an option to donate your home and remain living in it until passing.

- Retirement/IRA's are becoming a more popular way of giving with tax savings as well for those 70 ½ and older. Endowment gifts make a lasting gift with a permanent legacy.

The type of gift, the form of the gift, the benefit to the organization and the benefit to you are all things to consider when making your year-end contribution.

If you have any questions regarding making a gift, you can contact Scott Lalone, Development Executive Director at the Diocese of Ogdensburg at 315-393-2920 or slalone@rcdony.org.

## Principals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Both principals also have

already seen that their participation in the Emmaus series has had a positive effect on their schools.

"The program has raised my awareness of all the roles that are a part of being a principal," Mrs. Margrey said. "I believe this awareness will help me to have a more positive impact on my staff, students, and families of Augustinian Academy.

"We have been in existence since 1885 under the guidance of the Sisters of St. Joseph, she said. "I want to continue their good works and maintain the outstanding school we have."

Ms. Gilbert added, "My

tenure at Seton Catholic Middle and High School as the principal for the secondary campus of The Seton Schools (grades 6-12) has been an amazing experience, but every day is a new adventure filled with the opportunity to always learn more. Each course, workshop and webinar brings new ideas and support to our school system in a very positive and revitalizing way.

"I am very proud to have had the opportunity to improve my educational leadership proficiencies and to enhance my vision for the permanency of Catholic secondary education," she said.

### Bishop's Schedule

**Nov. 18** – 4 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 19** – 8:00 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral  
5:30 p.m., Dinner for the Special Religious Education Program at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School in Watertown

**Nov. 22** – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

### Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 15** – Rev. Medard Zywicki, M.S.C. 1980; Rev. J. Lee Snow, 2003

**Nov. 16** – Rev. Alexis Trudeau, O.M.I., 1885; Rev. Martin C. Mullen, 1904; Rev. John Henry O'Rourke, 1930; Rev. John H. McCloskey, O.S.A., 1957; Rev. George F. Sykes, 2007; Rev. Roland G. Gonyo, 2011

**Nov. 17** – Rev. Edward V. Murphy, 1907; Rev. George D. Boucher, 1954; Rev. Romuald A. Wolski, O.F.M. Conv., 1976

**Nov. 18** – Rev. Edward J. Shea, O.S.A., 1931

**Nov. 20** – Rev. Robert Joseph Booth, 1939

**Nov. 21** – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

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

### Next Week's NCC

**'We Appreciate Our Priests'**

### Environmental Stewardship

#### No easy answers

ROME (CNS) -- Pope Francis said that there are no easy answers to the suffering and destruction wrought by hurricanes and that while such disasters happen naturally, humankind must also take responsibility for not caring for the environment.

In a video chat with young children participating in a program of the international network of "Scholas Occurrentes" Oct. 26, the pope spoke with children from Texas and Puerto Rico, where Hurricanes Harvey and Maria struck hardest.

"If God loves us all, why did he make hurricanes and heavy rains?" asked Pedro Garcia, a 9-year-old Mexican-American boy living in Houston who lost his home after Hurricane Harvey struck Texas.

The pope said that there are questions even the most intelligent person can't answer and that can only be answered with "solidarity, with a hug and to be close to those who suffer."

"When I am asked these kinds of questions -- I confess with all sincerity -- I don't know how to answer," Pope Francis said. "Do you know why? Because there isn't an answer. The only thing I can do is look at the cross and ask, 'Why did God allow his son to be crucified?'"

The only answer to Christ's suffering on the cross and the sufferings of others, he continued, is God's love because "when Jesus was on the cross, he never forgot that his father cared for him and loved him."

"When these misfortunes happen to us, we cannot forget that the father loves us," the pope said.

However, he also said that people must take responsibility for actions that have contributed to the worsening of such natural disasters and pleaded with men and women to "care for the world and for nature."

"But no, we want to build a pipeline so that we can make more money. Yes, why do you need money? So that you can pay for the funeral service because that is where this will take you, your country, the earth and all of us. Care for the earth!" the pope said.

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# The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

## Building A Bridge For The Future



The Foundation Office of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg

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Scott Lalone, Executive Director • 315-393-2920 (Ext. 1330)

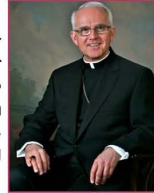
## 2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



# Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As indicated in the banner above in our center page insert, a primary focus of our work is *Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations*. Our five-year pastoral plan includes addressing established Priorities and Goals and conducting the upcoming Diocesan wide Capital Campaign. We continue to build vibrant faith communities in our Diocese of Ogdensburg for years to come.



It is the same commitment that was the inspiration for the founding of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY, Inc. in 2007. The Foundation has been true to its mission to provide a means for parishes, Catholic schools, individuals, families and other organizations of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to make planned gifts to benefit the works of the Church.

I am pleased to share with you this 2016 Annual Report. As I reflect on this past year, I note that despite the current economic challenges, we continually make every effort to meet the growing needs of the Church in the North Country.

I am inspired by the faithfulness of the Catholics across our Diocese and for your generous gifts that assist in making a difference in the lives of many of our neighbors through the endowments that are listed on the back page in this publication. Since its inception, forty-seven endowments have been established.

I am very grateful to our Diocesan Director of Development, Scott Lalone for his dedicated leadership in our Development Office. I also want to express my appreciation to the Board of Directors of The Foundation for their willingness to serve in this capacity. They have offered wise and generous stewardship in overseeing the investments and dividends of the funds of The Foundation.

The Foundation is an instrument for you to make a legacy for the next generation and for generations to come. Ask yourself, "Years from now, what will be my legacy?"

I pray that you and your families will be abundantly blessed.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

## The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg Statements of Financial Position June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2016

	6/30/2017	6/30/2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 201,910	\$ 187,261
Accrued Interest	5,990	1,837
Investments at Fair Value	5,487,525	5,027,260
Charitable Gift Annuities	1,852	1,852
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 5,697,277</b>	<b>\$ 5,218,210</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(86,686)	(85,514)
Temporary Restricted	1,673,763	1,273,096
Permanently Restricted	4,110,200	4,030,628
Total Net Assets	5,697,277	5,218,210
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 5,697,277</b>	<b>\$ 5,218,210</b>

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Foundation is to pass our living faith to future generations by financially supporting the charitable, spiritual, educational and temporal works of the Catholic Community of the Diocese of Ogdensburg by accepting donations or endowment funds from donors and the administration of these funds.

In fulfilling its mission, The Foundation will:

- Provide estate planning and charitable giving information and assistance.
- Provide gifting vehicles in which the Church or related entities are the designated beneficiary.
- Provide responsible and financial management and distribution of earnings that further the mission of the Catholic Church.

Catholics are called by God to protect human life, to promote dignity, to defend those who are poor, to strengthen the Church and to seek the common good. The Foundation exists to help Catholics live out this sacred mission of the Church, through the wise stewardship and thoughtful sharing of their financial resources.

The Foundation will provide permanent endowments and memorial funds for donors who want to give lasting support to parishes, schools, religious and social service ministries in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

## Board of Directors

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley**  
Bishop of Ogdensburg  
President

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Diocesan Fiscal Officer  
Treasurer

**Reverend Joseph A. Morgan**  
Vicar General  
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**Reverend Thomas  
Kornmeyer**  
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Watertown, NY

**Sister Shirley  
Anne Brown**  
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**Mrs. Mary Anne  
Bukolt-Ryder**  
Plattsburgh, NY



# Passing Our Living Faith to Future Generations

## Endowment Beneficiaries Can Include

- The Diocese of Ogdensburg
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg
- Your Parish or Catholic School
- The Education of Priests & Seminarians
- The Priests Retirement Fund
- The Priests Disability Fund
- The Bishop's Fund
- Any Ministry or Program of the Diocese
- Catholic Charities
- Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
- St. Joseph's Nursing Home
- Any Diocesan institution of your choice



Seminarians along with Father Higman and Father Lucia at a summer gathering

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

We recognize and understand as a Catholic Foundation entirely separate from the Diocese but in all ways accountable to both the Diocese and our donors, we are sustained by public trust and laws that confer upon us a special responsibility to society and the Roman Catholic Church. We further acknowledge that this responsibility can be met by full, open and public disclosure of all our affairs.

## HOW THE FOUNDATION WORKS

The Foundation solicits and receives planned gifts to benefit the people and communities of the Diocese as designated by donors. Prudent financial management of the funds is entrusted to the Board of Directors comprised of distinguished Church, business and civic leaders. A professional staff administers the day to day operation of The Foundation and oversees the distribution of annual earnings from the funds. Assets are managed by investment professionals.

TO CONTACT THE DIOCESE OF OGDENSBURG  
 FOUNDATION OFFICE  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg  
 Or Call: Scott Lalone Executive Director 315-393-2920 (x1330)

## Methods of Giving

Type of Gift	Form of Gift	Benefit to Church	Benefit to You
<b>Outright Gift</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> <li>• Real estate</li> <li>• Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perpetual income</li> <li>• Interest income used by The Foundation, parishes, schools and organizations in diocese</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income tax deduction</li> <li>• No capital gains tax on Appreciated gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Wills &amp; Bequests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Real estate</li> <li>• Personal property</li> <li>• Percentage of estate</li> <li>• Remainder of estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bequest will be held in perpetuity and invested to fund The Foundation needs as designated by the donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate tax deduction</li> <li>• Opportunity to make perpetual gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Gift Annuities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon the death of the donor or last surviving annuitant remaining assets generate interest income for The Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible estate tax deduction</li> <li>• Opportunity to make perpetual gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Insurance Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name The Foundation as policy owner and/or beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives full face value of policy upon death of the donor, or may receive current surrender value prior to donor's death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make substantial future gift to The Foundation at current manageable cost</li> <li>• Income tax deduction for value of the policy when transferred</li> <li>• Premium payments may be deducted as gifts</li> </ul>
<b>Real Estate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home</li> <li>• Land</li> <li>• Vacation Home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives the proceeds from the sale of the property at your death or sooner if so desired by the Donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be given with life use</li> <li>• Can be given without incurring tax on the appreciation</li> </ul>
<b>Charitable Remainder Trusts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Stocks/securities</li> <li>• Real estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Foundation receives substantial future gifts to support the work of The Foundation and the charities named by the donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable or fixed income</li> <li>• Option to defer income</li> <li>• Income tax deduction</li> <li>• Reduction of estate taxes</li> <li>• No capital gains tax on appreciated gift (or deferred in some instances)</li> </ul>
<b>Retirement Plan/IRA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name The Foundation as beneficiary of death benefit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant gift upon death of donor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to make a major gift</li> <li>• Estate and income tax savings</li> </ul>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any of the above types of gifts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final beneficiary(ies) will have a perpetual source of revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making a lasting gift that is a permanent legacy of your faith</li> </ul>



## *Endowments Established in the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, New York, Inc.*

**Reverend Norman Poupore Endowment** – Support of Priests' Disabilities  
**Catholic Charities Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Society of the Propagation of the Faith Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**St. Joseph's Home Foundation Endowment** – Corporate purposes  
**Catherine Aurelia Endowment** – Bishop's Charities and Religious Works  
**Reverend Anthony A. Milia Endowment** – Support of the Diocesan Archives  
**Building For Tomorrow Endowment** – Operating expenses of the Catholic Community of Alexandria  
**Education of Seminarians Endowment** – Funding to the annual operating budget  
**Faylene LeRoux Endowment** – Support of Catholic Education  
**Formation For Ministry Endowment** – Parish financial assistance and annual operating budget  
**Guggenheim/Hughes Endowment** – Support of capital needs of Guggenheim Center  
**Leona Schlafly Endowment** – General purposes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**Reverend James Meehan Endowment** – Special care of priests  
**St. Mary's Cathedral Endowment** – Support of general operations  
**Joseph & Joyce Sylvester Endowment** – General operating needs of St. Anthony's, Watertown  
**Guggenheim Maintenance Endowment** – Maintain the main camp building, boathouse and grounds  
**Spratt Memorial Endowment** – Support capital needs  
**St. Alexander's Catholic Education Endowment** – Support of Catholic education at parish  
**Alice Austin Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor  
**Lawrence R. Robinson Trust Mass Endowment** – Masses at St. Andrew's Church, Sackets Harbor  
**St. Augustine's Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Augustine's at Peru.  
**Margaret Brothers Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point  
**Victor West Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church, Rouses Point  
**St. Mary's Champlain NY Endowment** – Support of St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's Church  
**Reverend W. Cyril Rapin Endowment** – Support of disabled priests  
**Good Samaritan Endowment** – Christian charity to the people of the North Country  
**Holy Family Strauss Educational Endowment** – Promote Catholic education  
**Deacon Adam Crowe Scholarship Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**William Cornish Endowment** – St. Henry's Church, EWTN, Diocese  
**Donald J. Grant Endowment** – General purposes of RC Community of Brownville & Dexter  
**St. Lawrence Church Endowment** – General purposes of St. Lawrence Church in North Lawrence  
**St. Patrick's Church Shamrock Endowment** – General purposes of St. Patrick's Church in Brasher Falls  
**Queen of Heaven Church** – General purposes of Queen of Heaven Church  
**Church of St. Patrick/Stumpf Family** – Catholic Education  
**ME Walton Good Samaritan Endowment** – Needs of parishioners at St. Cyril's and St. Francis Xavier  
**Special Care of Priests Endowment** – Funding for annual operating budget  
**Alice Austin Mass Endowment** – Masses at Queen of Heaven Church, Henderson  
**St. Francis of Assisi Endowment** – 50% Diocese, 50% Covenant House  
**William L. Patnode Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**Gertrude J. Tyo Endowment** – Education of Seminarians  
**Chapin, McCarthy, LaBelle Families Endowment** – General purposes St. Augustine (North Bangor)  
**Chapin, McCarthy Families Endowment** – General purposes St. Martin de Porras, Peru (Missionary Projects)  
**St. Patrick's & Mother Cabrini's Shrine of Peru, NY Endowment** – General purpose of Shrine.  
**Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment** – General purposes St. Mary's Catholic School, Canton, NY  
**Thomas and Ann Fiacco Endowment** – General purposes Trinity Catholic School, Massena, NY  
**Bishop Brzana Chapter Vocations** – emergence medical/dental assistance to active Seminarians.



**Permanently Restricted Net Assets as of June 30, 2017 - \$4,110,200**



# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Time to give back to retired religious for service to church\

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The nation's women and men religious demonstrate "what the Catholic Church is all about" in their lives of educating the nation's youth and caring for the poor, the sick and immigrants, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick told a Washington audience Nov. 3. "My life has been touched by religious women and men so often," said the retired archbishop of Washington in accepting the St. Katharine Drexel Award from SOAR! at its awards dinner. The acronym stands for Support Our Aging Religious. Cardinal McCarrick noted that he was taught by women religious and then by Jesuit priests as he was growing up, and later as a priest and bishop, he witnessed their range of services to those in need. The 87-year-old cardinal lives at the Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor, where he said he has experienced their hospitality and goodness. "We will never be able to thank" religious sisters, brothers and priests enough for their lives of service, Cardinal McCarrick said, noting that through their ministries they bring Christ to people and prepare them for life, to do "great things and small things" for others.

## Refugees need education, jobs, not just food and shelter,

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Refugees need education and jobs just as much as they need food and shelter, according to a new report by Catholic Relief Services and a Nov. 6 panel discussion about it at the National Press Club in Washington. "School is a game changer for refugees" because it gives them a sense of normalcy, said panelist Giulia McPherson, director of advocacy and operations for Jesuit Refugee Service. She said education is a top priority and noted that refugees are currently five times more likely to be out of school. Providing an education for those who have fled their homelands is not just a way to help people find a path to success or college but to give an "opportunity for hope," McPherson said, with the end goal of learning a trade to support their families. She also said agencies that help refugees should provide teacher training, not just educational materials, and also should consider adapting the curriculum from the refugees' countries of origin. Learning employable skills and then being able to get a job is often easier said than done for many refugees.

## Peace held hostage by nuclear weapons threat, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The existence of nuclear weapons creates a false sense of security that holds international relations hostage and stifles peaceful coexistence, Pope Francis said. "The threat of their use as well as their very possession is to be firmly condemned," the pope told participants at a conference on nuclear disarmament hosted by the Vatican. For years, popes and Catholic leaders had said the policy of nuclear deterrence could be morally acceptable as long as real work was underway on a complete ban of the weapons. In condemning possession of the weapons, Pope Francis seemed to indicate that deterrence is no longer acceptable. Nuclear weapons "exist in the service of a mentality of fear that affects not only the parties in conflict but the entire human race," he said Nov. 10. The conference, sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, brought together 11 Nobel laureates, top officials from the United Nations and NATO, diplomats from around the world and experts in nuclear weapons and the disarmament process. They were joined by scholars, activists and representatives of bishops' conferences.

# Pope puts John Paul I on the path to sainthood, declares him 'venerable'

By Junno Arocho Esteves  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis recognized that Pope John Paul I, who served only 33 days as pope, lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way.

The Vatican announced Pope Francis' decision Nov. 9. It marks the first major step on the path to sainthood for the pope who died in 1978 at the age of 65, shocking the world and a church that had just mourned the death of Blessed Paul VI.

Pope Francis would have to recognize a miracle attributed to the late pope's intercession in order for him to be beatified, the next step toward sainthood. A second miracle would be needed for canonization.

Stefania Falasca, vice postulator of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause, said one "presumed extraordinary healing" had already been investigated by a diocese and a second possibility is being studied, but the Vatican does not begin its investigations until a sainthood candidate is declared venerable.

Although his was one of the shortest papacies in history, Pope John Paul left a lasting impression on the church that fondly remembers him as "the smiling pope."

"He smiled for only 33 days," read the front page of the Italian newspaper, *Corriere della Sera*, while the Catholic Telegraph of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati reported: "Saddened church seeking another Pope John Paul."

The surprise of his death after just over a month in office opened a floodgate of rumors and conspiracy theories, running the gamut from murder to culpable neglect.

The Vatican doctor insisted then, as the Vatican continues to insist, that Pope John Paul died of a heart attack.

His papal motto, "Humilitas" ("Humility") not only emphasized a Christian virtue but also reflected his down-to-earth personality and humble beginnings.

"The Lord recommended it so much: Be humble. Even if you have done great things, say: 'We are useless servants.' On the contrary, the tendency in all of us is rather the opposite: to show off. Lowly, lowly: This is the Christian virtue which concerns us," he said Sept. 6, 1978.

Born Albino Luciani in the small Italian mountain town of Canale D'Agordo Oct. 17, 1912, the future pope and his two brothers and one sister lived in poverty. His father, a bricklayer by trade, would often travel to Switzerland and Germany in search of work.

During a general audience Sept. 13, 1978, the pope told pilgrims he was sickly as a child and his mother would take him "from one doctor to another" and watch over him "whole nights." He also said he had been hospitalized eight times and operated on four times in his life.

Despite his weak health and poverty, his father encouraged him to enter the minor seminary. He did so, but would return to his hometown in the summers and often was seen working in the fields in his black cassock.

He was ordained a priest in 1935 and was appointed bishop of Vittorio Veneto in December 1958 by St. John XXIII. More than 10 years later, he was named patriarch of Venice by Blessed Paul VI and was created a cardinal in 1973.

During his time as patri-

arch of Venice, then-Cardinal Luciani was known for his dedication to the poor and the disabled.

In February 1976, he called on all priests in his diocese to sell gold and silver objects for the Don Orione Day Center for people with disabilities. Leading by example, he started the fund drive by putting up for auction a pectoral cross and gold chain -- given to him by St. John XXIII -- that had once belonged to Pope Pius XII.

His contribution, he wrote, "is a small thing compared to the use it will have. Perhaps it is worth something if it helps people understand that the real treasures of the church are the poor."

After Blessed Paul VI's death, his name was hardly at the top of anyone's list of potential popes, least of all his own.

When asked if he might be elected pope, he quoted a Venetian proverb: "You don't make gnocchi out of this dough."

His surprise election, nevertheless, did not sway him from continuing his humble manner of living, such as rejecting the use of the traditional papal tiara and preferring to call his first Mass as pope the "inauguration" of his papal ministry rather than a coronation.

His humility also was reflected in the 19 speeches and talks he gave as pope, especially the four Wednesday general audience talks before his untimely death.

"Let us try to improve the church by becoming better ourselves," he said Sept. 13, 1978. "Each of us and the whole church could recite the prayer I am accustomed to reciting: 'Lord, take me as I am, with my defects, with my shortcomings, but make me become as you want me to be.'"



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# This is the day that the Lord has made

The readings this Sunday are all about the "Day of the Lord":

1) What does it mean?

2) When will it come?: and

3) What are we supposed to do while we wait?

The image is a bit frightening, because we don't know what it really will be like, nor do we know the day or the hour.

Even though Paul and the others who collaborated in writing this letter to the Thessalonians seem hazy and unclear about this "Day" the Gospel we heard on All Saints' Day

from Revelations, is much more detailed.

Now that was really exciting, with everyone washing their garments in the blood of the lamb, receiving the Seal of Salvation on their foreheads, and singing praises to the Lord of Lords.

The first reading from Wisdom and the Gospel from Matthew this week are a lot more detailed about the Day of the Lord.

The faithful wife in Wisdom, is truly a busy and talented lady. How fortunate her husband is to have married her. She uses all her

talents for her family and for the neighbors while she waits for the Day of the Lord..

St. Matthew in today's Gospel is the clearest of all about the Day of the Lord. We have no idea when the Master will come home.. All they know is that he will demand a reckoning from each of them when he does return.

Obviously there should be no slouching around in his absence!

All this answers the third question—what are they (and we) suppose to do until "The Day of the Lord.

I've always admired those religious orders that suggest to their members that they meditate on death a little bit

from it! Every day is a day to labor for the truth, for loving service to the poor, and in praise (preferably through the Mass and Divine Office, but also through private prayer and private reflection.

Today may be the only day left me to reconcile, to atone for some wrong, to go to visit an elderly cousin, to play with my grandchildren. How precious it is.

If I consider this day as perhaps my last, then my talents will be used, and the benefits for myself and others multiplied beyond belief.

And it's all because I have developed the habit of taking each day as precious—the Day of the Lord!

NOV. 19

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
READINGS

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30

every day.

Now, I always thought that monks who meditate daily on a skull kept in their cell are going a bit overboard.

But the idea is a good one.

The Day of the Lord is today, There's an Alleluia versicle which reads: *This is the Day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

That does not mean that every day is a holiday. Far



Keep Christ in Christmas and give the gift of the North Country Catholic. Call our office at 315-608-7556



## OUR READERS WRITE

### November begins

When I entered the church the lights were low and the heat was on. The only one there, after the change of the clock made me think maybe the time change was wrong on my part. But the door creaked and in came a few women who took their place in church. There were more women and they settled in too. A few men came in but more women were there than men. There were a few women who went and light candles at the front of the church.

It appeared that something was going on but what it was, it could not yet be pin-pointed.

There was some music from the organ - soft - as if there was someone practicing, but for what ....

Then a few children entered and their parents; you could tell by the spaces in the church, that the summer had ended and winter was soon coming to town.

Then the music began and people stood. Mass was beginning and we are

asked to be seated. When this happened, a person began to read names and the Deacon lit candles one by one.

Names were not alphabetical in order, but names of people that we knew were members of our church community, people who were no longer with us. Young, old and in-betweens. But none the less, they were no longer with us.

Thus began the day, thus began the month of November in our Catholic church.

ELIZABETH DAUGHERTY  
CLAYTON

### Thanks to Bishop's Fund

St. Mary's Food Pantry in Evans Mills would like to express their appreciation to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Bishop's Good Samaritan Fund for their donation of \$500 and the Kinney Drug Foundation for their donation of \$250.

These funds were used to replace the

Food Pantry's doors and windows.

St. Mary's Food Pantry in Evans Mills would like to express their appreciation to Northern New York Community Foundation for a donation of \$500. This grant was used to purchase nutritious food for families in need in our community.

MARY BOUCHER  
ST. MARY'S FOOD  
PANTRY COORDINATOR  
EVANS MILLS

## Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)
- Join the conversation!

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## AT THE MOVIES

## MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

A formidable list of actors, including Albert Finney, Peter Ustinov and David Suchet, have taken on the role of Agatha Christie's famed Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot.

Now Kenneth Branagh makes the possessor of the celebrated "little gray cells" his own in the sleek ensemble whodunit "Murder on the Orient Express" (Fox). He also helms the project as director.

Religious undertones are interwoven into the narrative, which also raises significant moral issues, at least in the abstract. Like the crime at the heart of the story, and an earlier tragedy to which it seems to be tied, these ethical questions are unsuitable for kids. But Branagh's take on this classic tale, made into a 1974 film by Sidney Lumet, is sufficiently restrained in other respects as to be possibly acceptable for older adolescents.



CNS PHOTO/FOX  
Johnny Depp stars in a scene from the movie "Murder on the Orient Express."

Hard cases, so the legal maxim has it, make bad law. Moviegoers of any persuasion, moreover, are hardly likely to have either the opportunity or the inclination to imitate the unacceptable actions that are excused on screen. This is simply not the kind of film from which real-life conclusions are drawn.

Turning the conventions of her genre upside down, in a sense, Christie's narrative, pegged here to the year of her book's publication, 1934, presents Poirot with, if anything, too many clues and an array of plausible suspects in the grisly murder of gangster Edward Ratchett (Johnny Depp).

With the luxurious train of the title temporarily derailed by an avalanche that occurs almost simultaneously with the crime, Poirot has the opportunity to question everyone under suspicion. The possible killers include Ratchett's morose secretary, Hector MacQueen (Josh Gad), and very proper British butler, Edward Henry Masterman (Derek Jacobi), as well as the full complement of the deceased's fellow passengers.

Prominent among the latter are chatterbox and floozy Caroline Hubbard (Michelle Pfeiffer), joylessly religious missionary Pilar Estravados (Penelope Cruz) and professor Gerhard Hardman (Willem Dafoe), a Nazi ideologue straight from central casting. To go along with the art-deco paneling and Lalique light fixtures, a fussy Russian princess in exile, Natalia Dragomiroff (Judi Dench), also gets thrown into the mix.

Hardman's racist theories as well as similar attitudes that would prematurely point the finger of blame at African-American physician Dr. Arbuthnot (Leslie Odom Jr.) or at a prosperous Latino car dealer are duly

squashed as the proceedings chug along to their familiar-to-many conclusion.

Even for those who know where the tracks are headed, Branagh's retracing of the journey makes an enjoyable, if rather dark, trip. As for the choices required to reach the picture's ulti-

mate destination, they might form the basis for a valuable family discussion about the proper balance between divine and human justice.

The film contains a vengeance theme, scenes of violence, some gory images, a couple of uses of profan-

ity, and occasional sexual references.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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

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

#### Enlivening Parish Life & Catechesis

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



#### Helping Educators Reach Kids

With your contribution to the BIMC, you'll help support good teachers to help African American and Native American kids learn. In 2016, your generous donations reached over 4,000 students in more than 250 schools and parishes across the United States.



#### Empowering Evangelizers

BIMC grant funds help African American and Native American ministries to sponsor events and formation to encourage the Christian life in culturally appropriate ways. Religious sisters shown here, serve Native American Catholics spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.



#### Encouraging Vocations

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



**BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION**  
[www.blackandindianmission.org/nationalcollection](http://www.blackandindianmission.org/nationalcollection)

Special Collection to be held with Catholic Campaign for Human Development Nov. 18-19, 2017  
Combined Collection



## ADIRONDACK

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

**Lake Placid** – St. Agnes School Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Trees, wreaths, holiday plants, toys, gifts, crafts, baked goods raffle items. Vendor space is available with costs between \$35 - \$45.

**Contact:** Kathleen Murphy at the school at 518-523-3771 or by email at info@stagneslp.org for more information or to reserve your space.

## CLINTON

## CRAFT FESTIVAL

**Chazy** – Fabulous Fall Craft festival set

**Date:** Nov. 18

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Parish

**Features:** over 25 craft vendors from New York and Vermont. Hot lunches, baked goods, silent auction, in addition to hundreds of handcrafted items

**Contact:** Noreen Barcomb at sacredheart@westelcom.com or 518-846-7650.

## 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.

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

**Plattsburgh** – The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

## FRANKLIN

## FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

**St. Regis Falls** – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held

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

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

## HEARTS ON FIRE

**Malone** – Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.

**Schedule:** 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks

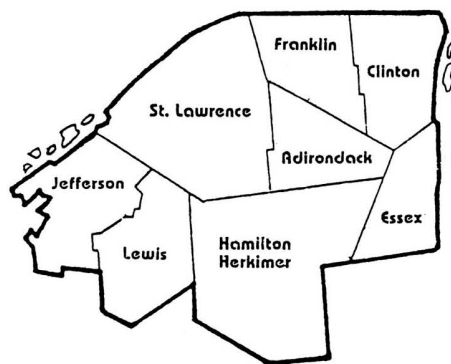
**Place:** Notre Dame Church

## JEFFERSON

## BEREAVEMENT MEETING

**Watertown** – Bereavement Meeting to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 27



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.

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** SSJ Mother house

**Topic:** How Christmas Memories can

Bring Healing to Your Grief

**Speaker:** Sister Norma Bryant, SSJ

## SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS

**Evans Mills** – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held to benefit Indian River Knights of Columbus.

**Date:** Dec. 2

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**Watertown** – St. Anthony's Parish Altar Rosary Society has planned a spaghetti dinner.

**Date:** Nov. 30

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

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

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

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

## CRAFT FAIR SEEKS VENDORS

**Watertown** – Holiday Craft fair to be held and vendors wanted.

**Date:** Nov. 18

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Place:** IHC intermediate Gymnasium

**Cost:** \$25 per table

**Features:** Reach a large customer base just in time for Christmas shopping.

**Contact:** ihchasc@gmail.com

## LIFERIGHT MEETING

**Watertown** - Liferight meets the first

Wednesday of the month.

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Place:** 870 Arsenal Street.

**Features:** pro-life videos, books and educational materials for borrowing.

**Contact:** Phone 315-788-4359

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

**Watertown** – Holy Hour for vocations

**Date:** Monday-Friday

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

**Place:** Holy Family Church

## EUCCHARIST PRAYER GROUP

**Watertown** – Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 8

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

## WEEKLY ADORATION

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

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 6

## LEWIS

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** Dec. 3

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

Schedule: At 2:25 p.m., before the monthly devotions, we will view the 10th and final DVD entitled "The Final Question" from the DVD Series: Divine Mercy Devotions in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told by Fr. Michael Gaitley MIC. At 3 p.m. the program includes: Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the most

Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Lowville** – Eucharistic Adoration set

**Date:** Nov. 16

**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5

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

**Features:** one hour of exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, silent adoration, and benediction.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

**Heuvelton** - St. Raphael's Food Pantry will be open every Friday.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 11

**Place:** Parish Center

## SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

**Massena** - The Massena Catholic Community Book Club meets once a month

**Date:** Third Thursday of each month

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Rectory

**Features:** Copies of book are often available on Kindle through our parish's Formed.org subscription

**Contact:** www.massencatholics.com or smarion@massencatholics.com

## FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

**Massena** - Friday Devotions are set featuring Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour for Vocations.

**Date:** First Friday of every month

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 7:30

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

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction, Adoration on Fridays

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

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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## DOVS LUNCHEON

**Norfolk** – The Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) invite you to be their guest at a luncheon.

**Date:** Nov. 15

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Speaker:** Father Raymond Moreau, will discuss "Bored At Mass?"

**Contact:** Anne at 315-353-2950 or Connie at 315-265-2762

## OPERATION ANDREW

**Malone** - An Operations Andrew dinner has been set.

**Date:** Nov. 30

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. John Bosco Church

**Features:** Prayer, dinner and discussion on vocations for young men, middle school age and older, and parents. Holy Hour, vespers and dinner to follow with Bishop LaValley and area priests.

**Contact:** RSVP to: Cathy Russell, Vocation Coordinator at crussell@rcdony.org or 315-393-2920

## COLLEGE MARCH FOR LIFE

**Washington, D.C.** - A pilgrimage to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., for those between the ages of 18 and 35 is set

**Date:** Jan. 18-21

**Cost:** All-inclusive \$185

**Features:** Father Bryan Stitt, Chaplain and Mary Skillan, Campus Minister, will accompany the group. The Pilgrimage will include the Vigil Mass for Life at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the March for Life and participation in the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life. The fee covers hotel, meals, and stops at shrines and memorials.

**Contact:** For more information, or to get a registration form sent to you, please email: Father Timothy Cnaan, Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry frtim@broadstreetcatholics.org Space is limited. Registrations are only complete with payment and must be submitted no later than Dec. 15.

## YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

**Washington D.C.** – Registration for High School Pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington D.C. has begun

**Date:** Jan. 18 to 20

**Cost:** \$150, includes transportation, hotel, breakfast, two dinners and shirt.

**Features:** Three coach buses will depart the North Country. Pickup locations - Northern bus - Massena, Canton and Gouverneur; Western bus - IHC in Watertown and Eastern bus - Our Lady of Lourdes in Schroon Lake. Bishop LaValley will be joining the buses in DC.

**Contact:** Online registrations at www.rcdony.org/pro-life or call 518-524-0774/518-891-2309

## DOVS MEMBERS SOUGHT

D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is a group of people who pray for and work to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese is seeking new members. DOVS meets most months, plan events to thank priests and religious and annually take a pilgrimage.

**Contact:** Call Connie at 315-265-2762 or Cathy at the diocesan Vocations Office at 315-393-2920





**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

# A time to say 'thank you'

Thanks to all of you throughout our North Country who have so generously given to our brothers and sisters in the developing countries. I give thanks to Almighty God when I reflect upon your generosity in prayer and sacrifice for the missions. Reaching out to offer material and prayerful support evokes a feeling of unity and solidarity within our entire human family.

Traditionally in the Catholic Church, November has been dedicated as a time of special prayer for our deceased and remembering fondly the joy they brought into our lives. It is indeed an opportune time the Mission Office to give thanks for our benefactors who were witnesses to the Gospel by their prayers and sacrificial offerings to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

We remember in prayer especially the faithful departed who remembered the Missions in their will. This remembrance of the mission church is a lasting testament of their good will so others may hear the good news about Jesus Christ's love for them.

The Diocesan Mission Office wishes to acknowledge in thanksgiving the following bequests made to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, whose legal process has been completed this year.

**2017 Bequests**

As of November 10, 2017

Donor	Gift Amount
Estate of Margaret MacDougall	\$500.00
Estate of Michael Taylor	\$5,000.00
Estate of Father Lawrence Cotter	\$1,000.00***
Estate of Father George Maroun	\$7,865.00
Estate of George Maroun	\$5,621.90
Estate of Willred DeRoche	\$1,000.00

\*Indicates donation for Announced Mass Intentions

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.  
[www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice](http://www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice)

Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

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

Find us on Facebook!

## OBITUARIES

**Black River** – Marie Constance (Edus) Leary, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2017 at St. Paul's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – David E. Carr, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Brownville** – Martin F. Weaver, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in New Cedar Grove Cemetery, Chaumont.

**Brownville** – Anne K. Pound, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 11, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Brushton** – Frederick W. Delarm, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2017 at St. Mary's; burial parish cemetery.

**Champlain** – Rita Beatrice (Trombley) Roberts, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

**Croghan** – Henry F. Bush, 66; Memorial Mass to be held Nov. 13, 2017 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Belfort.

**Fort Covington** – Genevieve Marie Allain Latreille, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 8, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Wilbrod O. "bud" Paige, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Cemetery.

**Keeseville** – Richard H. Rock, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 6, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Lake Placid** – Thomas John Fiumara, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2017 at the Reiss Memorial Chapel at Elderwood of Uhlein.

**Malone** – Jean Avery Cosgrove, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Massena** – James R. "Dick" Houmiel, 95; Funeral Services Nov. 9, 2017 at the Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Leora M. (Durant) White,

87; Funeral Services Nov. 8, 2017 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** – Mark Carney, 63; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 9, 2017 at St. John's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – John "Jack" William Haley, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Larry D. LaParr, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 10, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

**Ticonderoga** – Gordon James Marel, Sr., 90; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2017 at the Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Bruce W. Ashcraft, Jr., 47; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2017 at Bezanilla McGraw Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Bernice Irene (Savage) Decker, 81; Funeral Services Nov. 6, 2017 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

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## MEET OUR SEMINARIANS

## A 'consistent desire of my heart'



By Catherine Russell  
Diocesan vocation coordinator

## Ninth in a series

Last but certainly not least in our series on meeting our seminarians is Leagon Carlin from St. Peter's Parish in Plattsburgh.

Leagon is son of Beth and James Carlin and brother to Sarah and John. James, Leagon's dad, hopes to be accepted into the next permanent deacon class and if

the math is correct, could be scheduled to be ordained the same year as his son, God willing!

Leagon was very involved in the life of his parish. He worked his way up to master server, gradually falling in love with the Mass and taking to heart the transformative power it holds.

Throughout high school at Peru Central, Leagon readily shared his faith and participated in student government.

He is an avid reader and likes to challenge himself

intellectually.

As far as the call to priesthood is concerned, Leagon recounts, "I have had the desire to be a priest since second grade. It has been the only consistent desire of my heart."

It was at Camp Guggenheim that Leagon describes a truly deep experience. "God rocked my world when he called me by name to be serious about priesthood," he said. "The next week, I got the application."

Leagon entered the Pontifical College Josephinum

after high school graduation. He will graduate in the spring with his bachelor's degree in philosophy and humanities and move on to the study of theology.

Like many faithful Catholics, Leagon has several faith heroes. St. Albert the Great was his Confirmation saint and Pope St. John Paul II, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Maria Goretti round out his top picks.

In his free time, you might find Leagon "hammocking," kayaking or sharing his faith through conversation. Leagon enjoys classical music of all kinds and enjoys sharing his gift of singing.

When he prays, Leagon likes to use the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, the Mass and just talking with God. He loves Luke 4:18: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has anointed me and sent me out to preach the Gospel to the poor, to restore the brokenhearted." Leagon believes this passage describes the gifts he has been given to share.

As a priest, Leagon most looks forward to celebrating the sacraments and "walking with others as an 'Alter Christus.'"

In answer to the question who most influenced his decision to become a priest, Leagon credits Jesus, St. John Paul II, G.K. Chesterton and Father Bryan Stitt.

For others who may be thinking about priesthood, Leagon's advice is to pray and listen to God. "He has a wonderful plan for you and it begins with trusting Him. Most importantly, be not afraid."

PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Leagon Carlin of Plattsburgh has begun his fourth year of college seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

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