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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 24

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 8, 2017

## Saints shine God's light

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Like stained glass windows, the saints allow the light of God to permeate the darkness of sin in the world, Pope Francis said on the feast of All Saints.

Just as light enters a church through multi-colored windows, the lives of

saints shine forth "according to their own shade," the pope said Nov. 1.

All the saints "have been transparent, they fought to remove the stains and darkness of sin so that the gentle light of God can pass through," the pope said.

"This is the purpose of life, even for us."

Before reciting the Angelus prayer with people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope said the day was a "feast for us not because we are good but because God's holiness has touched our lives."

The day's Gospel reading from St. Matthew, in which Jesus proclaims the beatitudes, contains the road map for "a blessed and happy life," which the saints followed through in their own lives and deeds, Pope Francis said.

## MEET A SEMINARIAN

Douglas Schirmer



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

Douglas Schirmer of Ogdensburg is a second year college seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. When asked to give advice for a young man considering the priesthood, Doug says, "Be not afraid! Christ will never be outdone in mercy or charity. Discernment is a process, not a contract. Seminary is first and foremost about drawing closer to Christ. Take the plunge!"

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## Scenes from the annual Caritas Dinner



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## Living in the light

Sister Donna Franklin shares a message at her last Catholic Charities Caritas dinner

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## FOR VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK



Three girls from Augustinian Academy in Carthage submitted the winning entries in the Vocation Logo Contest sponsored by St. Anthony's Parish Vocation Committee in Watertown. From left are Alena Pak, first place; Virginia Neddo, first runner-up; and Maggie Fraser, second runner-up. The third runner-up was Jordan McKee, a student of Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown. The winning logos are pictured on page 3.

**SURROUNDED BY SAINTS:** Fr. Muench gives thanks for saints in his life.. p. 2

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## It's not too late to celebrate saints

It should come as no surprise that there's a bit of saintliness in this NCC of early November. In the week of All Saints' Day, Pope Francis, Father Muench and Sister Donna Franklin all wrote about people who "live in the light" despite the most challenging of circumstances.

Their musings stirred memories of the countless saints in my own life.

A couple days before All Saints Day, I officially began my 40th year of work for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, reason enough to take stock of the inspiring people I have come to know in my unique line of work.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

Near the very top of my list would be Msgr. Robert Lawler, upon whose door I knocked in my 1978 job search, hoping for a position in Catholic Charities.

While he had nothing

to offer, he took the time to talk with me and encouraged me to knock again, this time on the door of the *North Country Catholic*.

The rest, as they say, is history... well at least my history!

As I look back on the past four decades, during which a newlywed became a grandmother, I thank God for all the saintly people I have been blessed to know.

I am so grateful to have shared my life with Father Bernie Christman, Sister Catherine Livers, Bishop

Brzana, Sister Rosa Mystica Bailey, Mary Dicks and so many more holy, light-filled people.

And I couldn't begin to count the saints I've come to cherish who are still on this side of heaven!

Pope Francis called the feast of All Saints "a family feast" that celebrates the lives of people who deserve recognition for helping further God's work in the world.

Lucky me - I have plenty of friends who fill this description. Happy All Saints Day to them all.

## FATHER MUENCH SAYS

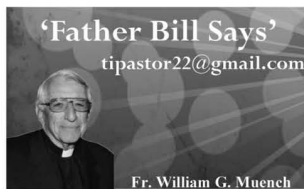
## God has crowded my life with saints

I begin today with a prayer of gratitude to my God for placing so many saints in my life.

November, which begins with All Saints Day, is the month for remembering saints. For me that precious feast day is about my saints, those who have touched and continue to form my life. They have guided me to discover who I am and who I should be. They have shown me in a special way God's great love and God's great love for me.

Most of my saints are not canonized. I do have a close devotion of the traditional, the canonized saints. I have a long list of my favorite saints - here I will only mention St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare. I have been privileged to visit Assisi many times; it is a very holy place. I want to add here the Blessed Mother, Mary. I know we don't think of her as a regular saint, but, devotion to Mary is an important part of my life. I love Mary's rosary. The rosary is a central part of my prayer life.

We, Christians, have found wisdom and guidance from the saints. Each day of the Church year is designated as a feast day of certain saints. Whenever a person is canonized as a saint, the Church designates a feast day for him or her, like



March 17th for St. Patrick and March 19th for St. Joseph. In many countries, a new born infant is named for the saint of that day.

Some saints went straight to their heavenly goal. Other saints fell, stumbled, blundered, before finally getting it right. But all have expanded the possibilities of human love and courage.

Such examples are not confined to the roll of official saints. All around us there are men and women, whose stories guide us on our journey, people in whom the two great commandments, love of God and love of neighbor, have joined in an extraordinary degree.

So, each All Saints Day, I remember my saints. Most of them will not be known to you - they are my saints. I hope that you have recognized the saints in your life. You and I have been guided and formed by others. Look on them as

saints - your saints. A saint is anyone who brings you to the presence of God. They understand God's great love. They are truly in love with God.

We, Catholics, know that Jesus has taught us that we are a loved people. God loves us passionately and compassionately. I have learned God's great love through the saints who have been part of my life. My list of saints begins back with my own family as a child and growing up. I thank God for the family he gave to me. They are among my saints - my mother, my father - and all the rest. They certainly helped lead me that I would allow God to be part of my life.

There are some of my saints - not canonized - but well known religious figures. They are known through their writings and talks. I now think immediately of Thomas Merton. His writings had a profound influence on me - starting back in high school. I am certain that Merton had a real influence on me as I considered my vocation.

In this regard, I also think of my friend, Catherine Doherty. She was the saint who founded the lay community of Madonna House. As a young priest, I discovered Catherine and Madonna House. Each time I

visited her and spent time at Madonna House I was touched ever more with the realization of God's great love for us all - and for me. They continue to help me on my journey of life.

Most of my saints are lay men and women - people who became part of my life through the various communities I served as a priest and pastor. I have met and worked with so many who are truly saints - families that became part of my own family. They led me to a deeper recognition of God's great love - for us all and for me.

I hope they are not surprised that I see them as saints. They are. Personally, they showed me how importantly God work in our lives - and especially in mine as a priest. Each time I prepare a homily I think of my saints.

Yes, there are many others. There are the teachers - many of them religious Sisters from my childhood. There are many priests who guided and taught me during my seminary days. All truly saints. They made my life all that it should be. And then there are the innumerable friends who helped me to make my life better.

So I pray in gratitude - God has crowded my life with saints.

# NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

## Winners announced for St. Anthony's Parish Vocation Logo Contest

**WATERTOWN** - The Vocation Committee of St. Anthony's Parish sponsored a Vocation Logo Contest open to all parishioners of the Jefferson Deanery.

The theme was John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me."

The submission fee was one Hail Mary for Vocations.

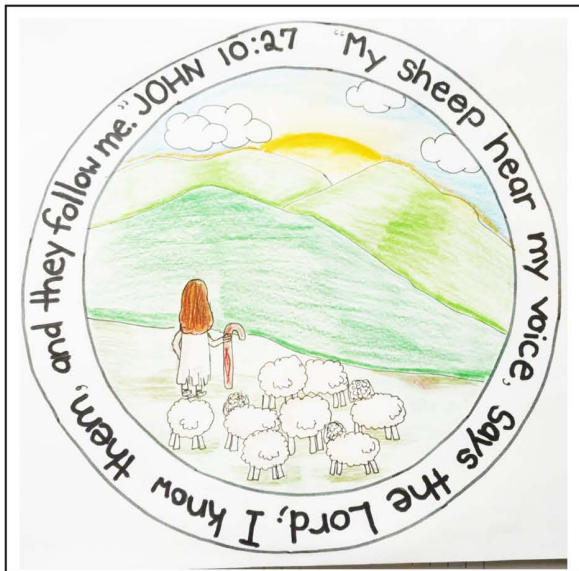
The winning logo, revealed in time for National Vocation Awareness Week Nov. 5-11, was created by Alena Pak, a student of Augustinian Academy in Carthage

The first and second runners-up are also Augustinian

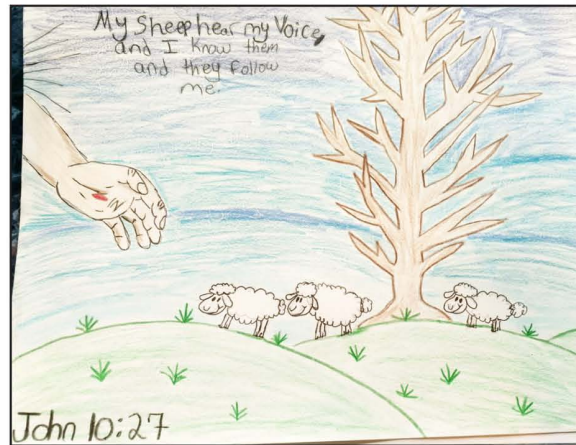
students, Virginia Neddo and Maggie Fraser. Jordan McKee, a student of Immaculate Heart Central School, was the third runner up.

Others who submitted their artwork were Anna Scott, Katherine Richards,

Jason Viveiros, Andrew Sanchez, Selena Sanchez, Elayna Thesies Madeline Walsemon, Grace Brink, Piper Gonas, Brendan Mercer, Mary Slattery, Grace Bassler, Eliza Nicol, Yuxin Pan, Eiffel Vitug, and Athalia Cassagnol.



The winning logo was submitted by Alena Pak



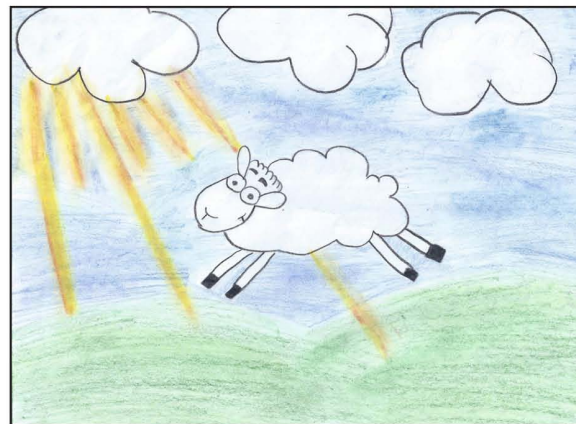
Virginia Neddo was first runner up



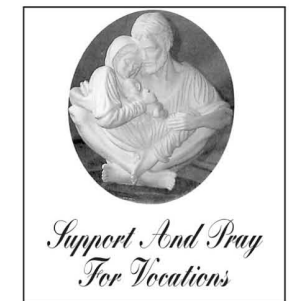
Jordan McKee, a student at Immaculate Heart Central in Watertown, was third runner up in the Vocation Logo Contest.



Maggie Fraser's artwork took third place



Jordan McKee received fourth place honors



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*Sister Donna Franklin shares reflections at annual Catholic Charities Caritas dinner*

# The challenge of living in the light

By Sister Donna Franklin, DC  
Diocesan Catholic Charities director

Hope, peace and strength are constitutive elements of living in the light.

Msgr. Joseph Aubin in his work as a Catholic Charities Director and as a pastor offered the light of hope to his clients and his parishioners.

Father Patrick Mundy gifted others in his work for Catholic Charities and as a parish priest with the light of peace.

Mr. Alex Velto and his colleague and friend Msgr. Robert Lawler were enlightened and understood that people needed homes not shelters. They embarked on an epic journey and built numerous units of subsidized housing throughout the North Country.

Today, Catholic Charities stands on the shoulders of giants like these men. We continue the legacy of shining light into the dark corners of poverty, despair, hopelessness, and marginalization.

Catholic Charities accepts the challenge of rejecting the darkness of "othering" and we stand for inclusion, acceptance, tolerance and respect for all persons.

The staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities have seen how the darkness of "thinking you can do it alone" and the arrogance of power and control can impede quality service provision to the most vulnerable members of our community and we embrace the practice of networking and collaboration. We accept the challenge of practicing and serving in the light of partnership.

Over the years, Catholic Charities staff has been enlightened by the stories of the military personnel and veterans and their families who have come to us for services. We have heard about their sacrifices and the cost of war. We know that their service and their lives should not be overshadowed by the darkness of war mongering. Their service and their sacrifices deserve to be honored and cherished.

We all live in a circle of community. Every circle has a rim. In the shadow of the rim, on the margins of community dwell many invisible poor, migrant workers, immigrants, the working poor, retirees and other people who are disenfranchised.



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley presents the "Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to the Diocese of Ogdensburg" to Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin at the conclusion of the 2017 Catholic Charities Caritas Dinner held Oct. 25 at the Gran View Restaurant in Ogdensburg. Sister Donna is retiring after 22 years of service as diocesan director of Catholic Charities. Her address at the dinner is published here; more photos from the evening are on page 12.**

Catholic Charities staff does not just make a place in the circle for our brothers and sisters. Catholic Charities staff knows that it is critical to go to the rim, to the margins with unclenched fists, open hearts and open minds and stand shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with those on the margins. The goal is to accompany them, lighting the path as they journey towards full

participation in the circle of community.

Catholic Charities mission rests on three pillars: responding to people in need; empowering people to build bridges to healthier lives and inviting people to join us in the works of charity and justice.

Tonight I offer you an invitation:

- When our moral values and principles are being relegated to the back of the bus behind racism, sexism and classism and other isms, can we see the light given to us by Rosa Parks? She had the dignity and self-worth to say, "I'm tired." "No more".

Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream and Robert Kennedy had a vision of our country as it could be. Do we have their willingness to listen to our own prophetic inner voice and then risk not just speaking truth to power but using the power of our own truth as defined by the Gospel to challenge oppressive structures.

Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- Alice Paul and the Suffragettes faced their fears and gathered up their courage to begin their protests on Washington fighting for the right for women to vote. They suffered imprisonment and torture but they never gave up when faced with the darkness of discrimination and violence. They knew where they stood and they stood there.

Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- We have the honor and the privilege of sharing history with a great leader, Pope Francis. The light of his wisdom compels us to reject unformed, unintelligent and dangerous nativism. He invites us to acknowledge our role as not just global citizens but as integral embers of the human community. He also invites us to care for God's creation which he calls our "common home."

Can we accept the challenge of living in the light?

- The hope of Msgr. Aubin, the peace of Father Mundy, the strength of Alex Velto...they have left us a legacy of living in the light.

Can we accept this legacy?

Because, in the words of Rabbi Hillel  
If not us who? And if not now when?

## North Country Catholic has gone



Green



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<b>Part B Deductible</b>	<b>\$183</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>PCP Copay</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$5</b>	<b>\$15</b>
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<b>Lab Tests</b>	<b>\$0 or 20%</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>X-rays</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Inpatient Copay</b>	<b>\$1,316</b>	<b>\$360/day for days 1-5, per admission</b>	<b>\$360/day for days 1-5, per admission</b>
<b>Part D Prescription Drug Coverage</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes, with \$0 copay for preferred generics \$125 deductible</b>	<b>Yes, with \$0 copay for preferred generics \$0 deductible</b>
<b>Preventive Dental</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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<sup>1</sup>These are 2017 amounts and may change for 2018. <sup>2</sup>You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. <sup>3</sup>Fidelis Care partners with TruHearing for discounted purchases of hearing devices. <sup>4</sup>My Advocate Program, offered through a company called Altegra, connects members to money-saving programs, discounts, and services that may be available. Premiums, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles may vary based on the level of Extra Help you receive. Please contact the plan for further details. This is not a complete listing of plans available in your service area. For a complete listing, contact the plan. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. This information is available for free in other languages. Please contact our Member Services number at 1-800-860-8707 (TTY: 1-800-558-1125). Fidelis Care is a Coordinated Care plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the New York State Department of Health Medicaid program. Enrollment in Fidelis Care depends on contract renewal.

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## MEET OUR SEMINARIANS

# A long and winding road to the seminary

By Cathy Russell  
Diocesan Vocation Coordinator

## Eighth in a series

In his second year of college seminary at the Pontifical Josephinum, Douglas Schirmer's road to the seminary has taken many turns.

Born in Wisconsin, he is now a resident of Ogdensburg and parishioner of St. Mary's Cathedral. His father, Robert, is a priest in the Anglican Church, and mother Amy is a secretary at Our Lady's Parishes in Ogdensburg. Doug has two brothers, Calvin and Joseph.

Robert's work as an Anglican priest brought the family all over the country and into parts of Africa and Europe. This has given Douglas a view of the world that few people are able to have. The experiences and relationships formed in these travels have provided unique opportunities that have shaped the person



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

**Douglas Schirmer of Ogdensburg is a second year college seminarian at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.**

Doug has become.

Doug credits his mother with making sure he and his brothers had a firm foundation of faith. Eventually, Doug's study brought him to convert to the Roman Catholic church. With the conversion, came the idea that just maybe God was calling him to become a priest.

To put this idea out of his head, Doug decided to move to Nebraska but found himself unhappy and unfulfilled. Right around this time, Doug was invited on a pilgrimage to Italy. This trip, as well as the wisdom shared by several priests on the trip, cemented Doug's belief that God was calling

him to priesthood.

As Doug spoke to one priest about vocation, that priest challenged him, "Find what sets your heart on fire." It was clear to Doug what the answer was: "Being a vessel of God's love, mercy, truth and courage to those around me."

Doug credits several priests with influencing his vocational decision. His Godfather, Anglican priest Father Douglas Hungerford, Father Bryan Stitt, Father Joseph Giroux, Father Joseph Morgan and Father Scott Belina all supported and encouraged him along the way.

His "faith heroes" include St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Thomas Becket. When he is not studying or reading, Doug enjoys cooking and is quite a connoisseur of coffee. His favorite foods are Gold Coast stew and anything Italian.

When Doug prays, he likes to use the Hail Holy Queen, the prayer of St. Michael and the Glory Be.

When asked what he most looks forward to about being a priest, Doug says, "Being able to bring the sacraments to the people."

As far as advice he would give to anyone out there considering priesthood, Doug says, "Be not afraid! Christ will never be outdone in mercy or charity. Discernment is a process, not a contract. Seminary is first and foremost about drawing closer to Christ. Take the plunge!"

## Bishop's Schedule

**Nov. 8** – 9:45 a.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg

1 p.m., Catholic Charities Board Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

5 p.m., Operation Andrew Dinner at St. Anthony's Church in Watertown

**Nov. 9** – 12 p.m., Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 11-16** – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Plenary Meeting in Baltimore, MD

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## Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 8** – Rev. Patrick McGilligan, 1828

**Nov. 10** – Msgr. Francis M. Kenny, 1954; Msgr. Raphael A. Hoffman, 1968

**Nov. 11** – Rev. Victor VandenHende, 1939; Rev. Edward O. Hervieux, 1947; Msgr. Bernard E. Christman, 2012

**Nov. 13** – Rev. S. Alphonse Vollmer, 1931; Rev. Victor Van den Hende, 1939; Most Rev. Francis J. Monaghan, 1942

**Nov. 14** – Msgr. Edward Joseph Pierce, 1980

## Environmental Stewardship

### A new story?

As children we all loved a story and even now we still enjoy hearing one. In ancient days indigenous people taught their children about how they came to be and what place they had in this amazing place they lived through stories. We have the story of creation in Genesis shared not only by all Christians but also with our Muslim and Jewish sisters and brothers.

Jesus used stories to teach us about our purpose on earth and how to live in relation to God, to each other and ourselves. (Last Sunday's Gospel – Matthew 22:34-40)

Over the centuries scientists have used their God-given intelligence to try and understand more fully this magnificent, complex and intricate planet we call HOME.

With the research and efforts of scientists like Galileo we discovered the world was not flat. In recent times Albert Einstein has discovered that the universe are not static as formerly believed but rather is evolving in time.

Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit priest and scientist, writes in his book, *The Hymn of the Universe* that all creation is moving towards wholeness in Christ. In last week's daily readings St. Paul tells us in Romans 8:18-25, "We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies."

When we were growing up, the common perspective was that science and religion were at odds. However, we need to study and contemplate how they may complement each other - with science giving us a richer understanding of magnificence of the universe and religion giving us a vision of what our role is in this place we call HOME.

The new scientific story concerning the evolution of the universe actually corresponds beautifully with the Creation story found in Genesis.

Let us give praise and thanksgiving for this amazing place in which we live with all creation by praying Psalm 8 this week.

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Puerto Rico still facing 'unprecedented level of need'

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- As November began, the people of Puerto Rico still faced "an unprecedented level of need" because of hurricanes Irma and Maria, which devastated the island in September, said the chairmen of two U.S. bishops' committees. They called for "meaningful action" through legislative means and emergency funds to address "both the immediate and long-term needs of the Puerto Rican population." They also urged Catholics and all people of goodwill to show support of "our brothers and sisters in such dire need." Irma hit Puerto Rico Sept. 7 and Maria hit Sept. 20, creating even more destruction than the first hurricane. To date, more than 70 percent of Puerto Rico is without electricity and running water. Other islands, including the U.S. Virgin Islands, are also facing challenges in their recovery. In statements issued right after the storms, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, urged Catholics to respond with prayer and other help "in this time of great need for our brothers and sisters in harm's way -- many of whom have been hit repeatedly by the successive hurricanes."

## After Harvey, faith fuels Houston fans; team wins Series

HOUSTON (CNS) -- Baseball bats and rosary beads were the only thing on Tonya Killian's mind as she walked toward Minute Maid Park for Game 3 of the 2017 World Series. A longtime Houston Astros fan and parishioner at Mary Queen Catholic Church in Friendswood, Killian was on a mission to buy rosaries custom made for the World Series by members of Annunciation Catholic Church. Her Hail Mary attempt was a success: She bought the last two handmade rosaries for sale that day, and maybe even an Astros World Series victory. Tradition holds that if the parish -- which sits a base run away from the ballpark across the street -- sells out of its rosaries on game day, the Astros will win. No one really knows if Killian's purchase guaranteed the Astros' 5-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers that Friday night, Oct. 27. But nobody could have expected the wild 13-12 Astros win two days later on Sunday night, even after Saturday's loss. Game 5 saw the two teams slug it out for more than five hours and into extra innings Oct. 29. With the series tied 3-3, Game 7 was in Los Angeles Nov. 1. The Astros beat the Dodgers 5-1 to clinch the first World Series championship in the franchise's history.

## Bishop asks Congress to carefully review, consider tax cut bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Thoughtful deliberation rather than hurried action is required on the tax bill introduced by Republicans in the House of Representatives, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, also called for prudence on the part of Congress and the American public so that all the provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are fully understood. "The changes proposed in this bill are significant and complex, affecting the entire nation," Bishop Dewane said in a statement Nov. 3, a day after the bill was unveiled. "Current information indicates the House is planning to move this bill through the legislative process." "However, prudence requires that members of Congress and the people of the country have adequate time to fully understand and debate the consequences of any tax bill so that decisions serve the dignity of the human person and the common good," he said.

# Consistently anti-nuke: From Pope Pius XII through Pope Francis

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- More than two years before the first atomic bomb was dropped, Pope Pius XII warned of the "catastrophic" consequences that could come from using the discovery of nuclear fission to create weapons.

Addressing the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in February 1943, Pope Pius noted that scientists were saying that nuclear technology could produce "an amount of energy that could take the place of all the large electrical power plants of the whole world."

But, he said, it was essential to ensure the technology was used only for peaceful purposes, "because otherwise the consequence could be catastrophic, not only in itself but for the whole planet."

After the United States used atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945, Pope Pius described the nuclear bomb as "the most terrible weapon that the human mind has ever conceived."

For more than 70 years, the popes and Catholic leaders around the globe have echoed that judgment. And while, for a time, the policy of nuclear deterrence was seen as morally acceptable as long as efforts continued for a complete ban of the weapons, today that is no longer the case.

"Nuclear deterrence is increasingly seen as an excuse for the permanent possession of nuclear arsenals that threaten humanity's future," Stephen Colecchi, director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace, wrote in a 2016 article for the blog of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs.

Colecchi is scheduled to participate in a high-level Vatican meeting Nov. 10-11 on "Perspectives for a world free from nuclear weapons and for integral disarmament."

Following in Pope Pius' footsteps, every pope in the "nuclear age" has pleaded with the world's powers to lessen the threat of nuclear war and reduce nuclear arsenals.

St. John XXIII, in his 1963 encyclical "Pacem in Terris," wrote: "Justice, right reason and the recognition of man's dignity cry out insistently for a cessation to the arms race. The stockpiles of armaments which have been built up in various countries must be reduced all round and simultaneously by the parties concerned. Nuclear weapons must be banned."

In his historic address to the United Nations in 1965, Blessed Paul VI told global leaders, "It is hard to foresee the future, but easy to assert that the world has to set out resolutely on the path toward a new history, a peaceful history, one that will be truly and fully human, the one that God promised to men of goodwill. The pathways are marked out before you, and the first one is disarmament."

Even Pope John Paul I, in the brief month he spent in office, spoke about the importance of ridding the world of its nuclear stockpiles.

In a speech Aug. 31, 1978, to members of the diplomatic corps, he said Vatican officials were ready to offer their support to all efforts in "the search for better solutions to the great problems that see at stake detente, disarmament, peace, justice, humanitarian measures and aid, (and) development."

In his 26 years as pontiff, St. John Paul II repeatedly and strongly called for an end to the nuclear arms race and a true commitment to disarmament. But the most striking of his pleas came in 1981 when he visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Standing at the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima, he said that since the bombing of the city in 1945 "nuclear stockpiles have grown in quantity and in destructive power. Nuclear weaponry continues to be built, tested and deployed," making the destruction of humanity "a real possibility."

"Pope Benedict XVI, in his first message for World Peace Day, described the possession of nuclear weapons as a defensive strategy to be "not only baneful but also completely fallacious."

"In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims. The truth of peace requires that all -- whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them -- agree to change their course by clear and firm decisions, and strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament," Pope Benedict wrote in the message for World Peace Day 2006.

Pope Francis has continued the papal calls for disarmament and is expected to do so again when he addresses the Vatican conference.

"The total elimination of nuclear weapons," he said in a message to the United Nations in March, is "both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative."

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Be alert!

If God were to give you  
one wish, what would you  
ask for? Many of us would  
ask for riches, while other  
would ask for  
health, or long life.

In today's first  
reading, we are  
told that wisdom is  
the most precious  
gift God could give  
us.

Why?

Because it will fill  
our lives with light  
and radiance to see  
the best possible  
route that leads to  
happiness, Wisdom  
will prevent us from  
making foolish and harmful  
decisions on our journey.  
Wisdom will give us also  
God's special love and pro-  
tection.

In the reading, wisdom is  
pictured as a woman who  
will seek us out herself to  
give us her special gifts. To  
seek and find wisdom is far  
better than to win the jack-  
pot!

St. Paul, in the second  
reading from Thessalonians,  
urges the new Christians

(who thought that the Sec-  
ond Coming of Jesus would  
come immediately,) to be  
patient, and continue to  
grow in virtue and  
in all the teaching of  
the Gospel while  
they wait. "Console  
one another with  
these words", he  
concludes.



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

The whole Gospel  
advice of Jesus can  
be summed up in  
the phrase, "Be  
alert!"

He uses a parable  
about ten virgins  
who await the bride-  
groom. Apparently,  
the bridegroom is running  
late. The virgins all carry  
lamps with which to con-  
duct the bridegroom into  
the wedding hall.

Five of the virgins fool-  
ishly have not enough oil  
for their lamps. When they  
rush to the merchants to  
buy more oil, they miss the  
bridegroom's return, and  
are locked out.

In the parable, the oil rep-  
resents the virtue that the  
other virgins have jealously  
guarded. The oil also repre-

**NOV. 12**

**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
READINGS  
Wisdom 6:12-16  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

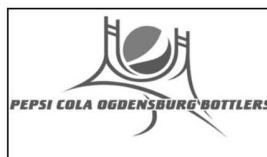
sents a life of wisdom.

Jesus gives special ur-  
gency, for He and his follow-  
ers are on their way to  
Jerusalem where Jesus will  
be crucified. It certainly is  
of great importance for us  
who, like the ten virgins,  
can grow lax and careless as  
the bridegroom. Apparently,  
the bridegroom is running  
late. The virgins all carry  
lamps with which to con-  
duct the bridegroom into  
the wedding hall.

Today, we need also to  
pray for wisdom for our  
leaders who should all work  
for the common good of our  
nation. We need to pray for  
our legislators who should  
be working for the common  
good of all

Above all, we need wis-  
dom to bring faith into  
focus among educators re-  
sponsible for training our  
youth in the importance of  
God in their lives.

We need to be alert for the  
judgment that awaits all  
people of the earth when  
the Bridegroom comes.



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## AT THE MOVIES

# A BAD MOMS CHRISTMAS

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

Aggressive vulgarity is the incongruous hallmark of the holiday-themed sequel "A Bad Moms Christmas" (STX).

Like a stocking stuffed full of nasty surprises, the script, as penned by returning screenwriters and directors Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, is a grab-bag of low-minded jokes and sight gags.

The trio of mothers - Amy (Mila Kunis), Kiki (Kristen Bell) and Carla (Kathryn Hahn) - who grappled with the demands of parenting in the 2016 original have a new set of problems to confront this time. Their fresh, wholly unrealistic, difficulties are caused not by their kids but by their own moms when they turn up, with or without an invitation, for Christmas.

Ruth (Christine Baranski), the stiff matriarch of Amy's family, is an impossible-to-please perfectionist, Kiki's ma, Sandy (Cheryl Hines), is clingy and intrusive, while Carla's hippy progenitor, Isis (Susan Sarandon), breezes into and out of her daughter's life on a whim. All of these characteristics are carried to ridiculous extremes, as when Hines' character lurks in the dark watching Kiki and her hubby, Kent (Lyle Brocato), become intimate.

The only thing more tiresome than the three leads' sex-obsessed wisecracking is their self-important resolve to take the feast back and celebrate it in their own fashion. Since that approach includes ogling male strippers dressed as "sexy Santas" -- for one of whom, Ty (Justin Hartley), Carla falls -- to say they've lost touch with the reason for the sea-

son is an understatement.

From having Ty and Carla meet cute when he turns up at the spa where she works before his performance to have his private parts shaved to the recurring use by a child actor of the jarringly sacrilegious phrase abbreviated as OMFG, Lucas and Moore scrape the sordid bottom of Hollywood's long-emptied barrel of bad taste.

Yes, Virginia, you really can stay home instead.

The film contains blasphemy, cohabitation, drug use, strong sexual content including partial nudity and much obscene humor, several uses of profanity and pervasive rough and crude language. The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



CNS PHOTO/STX ENTERTAINMENT

Mila Kunis and Jay Hernandez star in a scene from the movie "A Bad Moms Christmas."

## ALSO PLAYING: JIGSAW



CNS PHOTO/LIONS GATE

Laura Vandervoort stars in a scene from the movie "Jigsaw." With its franchise's shock value long since played out, this eighth "Saw" outing, yet another exercise in butchery, accompanied by siren-wail screaming, quickly descends into self-parody. The five trapped victims here, as always in this series, face gross-out hacking in a series of claustrophobic enclosures. Adding to their torment, a marionette, voiced by the evil Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) on taped messages, tells them that there's always a way out if they obey his commands. According to his own warped thinking, the killer is operating as an agent of morality, repaying the quintet for their past sins, which typically involved the death of another person. Pervasive gory violence, gruesome images, including dismembered limbs, frequent crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is O -- morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

God has done  
great things  
for us!

*As recipients of God's bountiful  
gifts, we are called to:*

*Receive  
those gifts gratefully,  
Cultivate  
those gifts responsibly,*

*Share  
those gifts in justice and love,*

*And return them with increase  
to the Lord*

*Stewardship Weekend  
November 11 & 12*

**Please contact your local parish  
to learn how you can share your  
gifts of Time, Talent & Treasure.**

## 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

## SUNDAY BRUNCH

**Lyon Mountain** – Knights of Columbus Council #4441 & Council #7215 will have a Sunday Brunch to benefit St. Bernard's and St. Edmund's Parishes.

**Date:** Nov. 12

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Place:** American Legion

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

**Features:** 50/50 Raffle. Takes outs available (518) 735-4372

## 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 sacred-heart@westelcom.com or 518-846-7650.

## TURKEY HARVEST DINNER

**Morrisonville** – St. Alexander's Church to have a Turkey Harvest Dinner

**Date:** Nov. 12

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; 5 and under, \$5

**Features:** country store, silent auction

**Contact:** For take-out, 518-561-5039

## JEFFERSON

## ROAST PORK DINNER

**Evans Mills** – Roast Pork dinner set

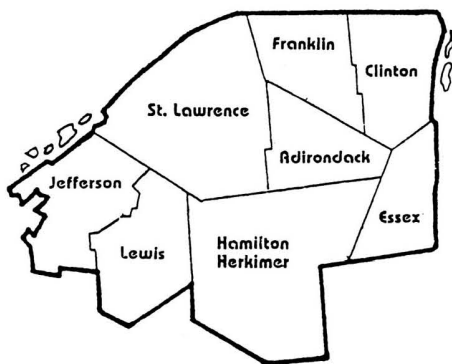
**Date:** Nov. 11

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

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

**Costs:** Adults, \$10; Seniors, \$8; Children under 5, Free

**Features:** Raffle tickets are available for fall gift baskets and there will be a



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.

silent auction. Proceeds to benefit the Indian River Catholic communities of Evans Mills, Philadelphia and Theresa.

## ELECTION NIGHT DINNER

**Alexandria Bay** – Annual Election Night Ham Dinner to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 7

**Time:** Take-outs start at 4 p.m.; serving from 5 p.m. to 7

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs, \$9.50

**Contact:** For deliveries call Joanne Fitch at 315-955-5504

## 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

## FACES OF ADDICTION

**Watertown** – A program "Making sense of the Opioid Crisis" is planned

**Date:** Nov. 12

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

**Place:** Motherhouse of Sisters St. Joseph

**Speaker:** Anita Seefried-Brown, MS, CPP-G

**Features:** Who should attend: faith leaders, lay leaders, parents, educators,

grandparents, adolescents

## 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

## EUCHARIST 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

## ROAST BEEF DINNER

**Harrisville** – Roast Beef dinner is set

**Date:** Nov. 11

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

**Place:** St. Francis Solanus Church

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Vets, \$9; Children 10-6, \$7; under 5, Free

**Features:** Take-outs available

## EUCHARISTIC 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

## ANNUAL BAZAAR

**Massena** – The Greater Massena Catholic Parishes will hold their annual Bazaar.

**Date:** Nov. 11

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** Big Ticket Draw, Country Store, Cake Walk, Turkey Raffles, Fancy Goods, Pull Tabs, Poker, Quilt Raffle, SKILO, Food & Fried Dough, Children's Games, 50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction and Religious Items.

## HEALING MASS

**Raymondville** – St. Raymond's Church will host a Healing Mass.

**Date:** Nov. 14

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

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

**Features:** Msgr. John R. Murphy will be the main celebrant and Deacon John Levison will be homilist. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at 5:45 p.m. After Mass, individual prayer will be available.

**Contact:** For more information call the Norfolk Rectory at 315-384-4242

## 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

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## OPERATION ANDREW

Two Operations Andrew dinners have been set.

**Schedule:** Nov. 8, at St. Anthony's

Church in Watertown; Nov. 30 at St. John Bosco Church in Malone

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Features:** Prayer, dinner and discus-

sion on vocations for young men, middle school age and older, and parents. Holy Hour to know your vocation, 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.

## 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, pastor in Brushton Will address the question "Bored At Mass?"

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

## 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



## The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc.

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSI, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
mbrett@rcdony.org

# Fall is a time for reflection

This time of the year with the Fall chill in the air. It reminds us that Winter is coming. While the weather will change, the work to fight hunger, poverty and adversity in the mission lands does not stop.

As Catholics, we take time to reflect on Jesus carrying the Cross. Reflections that lead us to remember why Jesus willingly carried His cross. Reflections that can no doubt fill us with emotions as we contemplate His great love for each of us. As Jesus met His mother while carrying His cross, Mary suffered as she watched her Son endure pain and could do nothing to help Him.

We as Catholics need to pray for mothers around the world who are forced to see their children suffering from malnutrition and lack of healthcare but can do nothing to help them. During difficult times, we are offered the opportunity to think about people living in poverty and carrying the cross of poverty. We are reminded of those who possibly have nothing or no one to comfort them and ease their adverse conditions.

Almost half the world today, three billion people live in poverty. 800 million live vastly below the poverty line. Severe malnutrition accounts for the death of one million children each year and 5000 children die each day from unsanitary conditions in the developing lands. These hard to comprehend facts are what drives the engines of the Pontifical Mission Societies. This raw data is unacceptable and the call on all of us to reduce and eradicate these conditions is louder than ever.

Thank you to all of you who contribute to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and other poverty and hunger alleviation efforts. Your contributions help people to receive relief from the daily crosses of hunger and poverty. Did you know that even closer to home that 15.1% of all Americans are living below the poverty line? This is the highest percentage since 1993. Give of your time to volunteer at a local agency that reaches out to the poor in your community. Pick a meal to fast in solidarity with those who are hungry. Make a sacrifice and a pray.

Let us pray for the wisdom to always remember that the poor at home and around the world are not statistics; they are our brothers and sisters. May we all place hope in Jesus' love to work towards justice for all people. May we remember that by our baptism, we are all Missionaries. May we stop to reflect that we need to be aware of the harsh realities of the world we live in. Prayer and sacrifice can make a difference. But you all know that already. God bless the Diocese of Ogdensburg and all of the generosity you bestow on the Mission Lands.

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** – Theresa M. (Pinchney) Brown, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2017 at St. Cecilia's Church.

**Brushton** – Gerald E. White, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Bombay.

**Carthage** – Helen M. (Bowman) Lawton, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Kenneth F. Bolia, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot

**Croghan** – Elaine F. Bush Click, 69; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 1, 2017 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in St. Stephen's Cemetery.

**Gouverneur** – Anita Mae (Papineau) Hayes, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 2, 2017 at the Green Funeral Home; burial in Florence National Cemetery, South Carolina.

**Harrisville** – Karen Ann (Ducan) Kramer, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Nov.

4, 2017 at St. Francis Solanus Church.

**Malone** – Kathleen A. (Safford) Fountain, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Massena** – Patty A. (Patraw) St. Louis, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Moors** – Ronald G. Favreau, 69; Funeral Services Oct. 30, 2017 at Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**North Lawrence** – Joyce V. (LaClair) Normile, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 3, 2017 at St. Lawrence Church; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Georgianna M. (Robillard) Bruyere, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 4, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Catharine (Lynch) Zabriskie, 99; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Albert J. Gates, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 3, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Port Henry** – Pamela Raye (Thatcher) McGuinness, 62; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Port Leyden** – Wanda L. Brown, 60; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 28, 2017 at St. Martin's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Thelma M. Patnode, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 3, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Michael T. Gillespie, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 30, 2017 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Dexter Cemetery

**Watertown** – Anna M. (Surace) Kane, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 2, 2017 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Martha E. (Kiah) Luciani, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 31, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery

## War brings only death, cruelty, pope says at military cemetery

**NETTUNO, ITALY (CNS)** -- "No more, Lord, no more (war)" that shatters dreams and destroys lives, bringing a cold, cruel winter instead of some sought-after spring, Pope Francis said looking out at the people gathered for an outdoor Mass at a U.S. war memorial and cemetery.

"This is the fruit of war: death," he said, as the bright Italian sun lowered in the sky on the feast of All Souls, Nov. 2.

On a day the church offers special prayers for the faithful departed with the hope of their meeting God in heaven, "here in this place, we pray in a special way for these young people," he said, gesturing toward the rows of thousands of graves. Christian hope can spring from

great pain and suffering, he said, but it can also "make us look to heaven and say, 'I believe in my Lord, the re-

deemer, but stop, Lord," please, no more war, he said. "With war, you lose everything," he said.

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IN THE YEAR OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

# CARITAS DINNER

Evening marked by special honors for former and current directors of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg



PHOTOS BY JESSE SOVIE

The 2017 Catholic Charities Caritas dinner, held Oct. 25 at the Gran View Restaurant in Ogdensburg, featured honors for three individuals who have championed the building of compassionate and caring communities in the North Country. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of Catholic Charities, the 2017 awards were presented to two priests and a lay man who made significant contributions to the growth of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The Caritas Award recipients were Msgr. Joseph Aubin of Plattsburgh and Father Patrick Mundy, who died Sept. 4. Father Mundy's niece and nephew, Maureen Lowry and Gerald Mundy, shown above with Bishop LaValley, accepted the award on his behalf. Father Mundy worked at the Watertown Catholic Charities office from 1967 to 1968 and, after receiving a degree from the Fordham University School of Social Service, succeeded Msgr. Aubin as director of the Plattsburgh office in 1971.



Annette Dame, who is retiring after 30 years of service in the Malone Catholic Charities office, was recognized during the dinner.



Msgr. Joseph Aubin is shown as he accepts the Caritas Award. He placed more than 170 babies for adoption during his time as director of the Plattsburgh regional Catholic Charities office from 1958 to 1971.



Dr. Jeanne Emery accepts the President's Award on behalf of her deceased husband Alex Velto. Mr. Velto worked with Msgr. Robert Lawler, Catholic Charities director from 1959 to 1986, to bring federally funded housing to the North Country. From 1976 to 1986, they raised nearly \$30 million for the elderly and handicapped. Shown at right is the Rev. Frederick Garry, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Watertown, who introduced the President's Award recipient.



Bob Gorman, CEO/president of United Way of Northern New York, presented Sister Donna Franklin with a Community Spirit Award in recognition of her service to the North Country as a whole during her 22 years as director of Catholic Charities.