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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 29

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 13, 2017

## Youths: sign of hope for Asia

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Young people in Myanmar and Bangladesh are a source of hope for a peaceful future in their countries after years of war and suffering, Pope Francis said.

As is customary, at his general audience Dec. 6, the first after his Nov. 27-Dec. 2 trip to Asia, Pope Francis reviewed his visit.

"In the faces of those young people, full of joy, I

saw the future of Asia: A future that doesn't belong to those who build weapons, but to those who sow brotherhood," the pope said.

As temperatures in Rome hovered just above 40 de-

grees, the audience was held in the Paul VI audience hall to avoid the chilly weather. The pope entered the hall, stretching his hands to each side of the aisle to greet people.

## CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

### At the Vatican



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A Nativity scene and a Christmas tree are seen in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Dec. 7. Pope Francis said that such displays are visible reminders of God's benevolence and closeness to all men and women. The traditional Christmas displays are "the signs of the heavenly Father's compassion, of his participation and closeness to humanity who experience not being abandoned in dark times, but instead visited and accompanied in their difficulties," the pope said. "Every year, the Christmas Nativity scene and tree speak to us through their symbolic language. They make more visible what is captured in the experience of the birth of the Son of God."

## Christmas collection helps priests

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese receives 75% of the Christmas Collection proceeds given to each parish.

The 40 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests' Retirement Fund will be direct beneficiaries of the generosity of those who contribute to their parishes in the Christmas collection.

Also, eight priests age 70 and older who remain active in their ministry in the diocese are receiving partial retirement benefits.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Advent scenes

Parishes and schools across the diocese hold special

programs and projects for Advent PHOTOS, PAGE 5

## FAMILY ADVENT FUN



Families of the Roman Catholic Community of Morristown, Hammond and Rossie took part in Advent activities Dec. 3. Above, Pam and Josh David and their son Gaige create an Advent Wreath for their home.

**CHRISTMAS CARD LIST:** Addresses for all your favorite priests... pages 6-7

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Lovely days of watching and waiting

It probably shouldn't surprise me that I appreciate the Season of Advent a whole lot more today than I did when I was an impatient little girl or an overwhelmed mom.

The frenetic preparations have passed safely into the hands of the next generation; Grammy can enjoy much more "watching and waiting" in the first weeks of December than in the days when efforts to create Christmas magic for three kids required so much time, en-

ergy and money.

Of course, this tranquility will be but a memory in the latter days of Advent when the pace will step up considerably. And that's just fine since it means I'll be enjoying the best present of all – time with all the people I love most in the world.

In the meantime, though, I am grateful for these days of anticipation. I appreciate the time I have for the Christmas traditions I cherish the most: writing Christmas cards, lis-



Mary Lou  
Kilian

tening to Christmas music and eating Christmas treats baked by somebody else.

In a couple days I'll start to decorate our house, after weeks of enjoying lights around the city that I didn't have to hang.

When our tree is finally up, it will be the most beautiful of all (in my humble opinion!) since every ornament will be attached to a memory of the most important people and places in our lives.

And that tree will brighten its special corner of our home for all 12 Days of Christmas, at least.

As we look ahead to the

Third Sunday of Advent, I won't be my seven-year-old self, praying away the last week of the season so that Christmas could be here.. now!

Neither will I be Mary Lou the Supermom, wishing for just a little extra time to complete an exhaustive and exhausting holiday to-do list.

Instead I will just be *me*, content to linger in church and sing every verse of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.

There aren't many times that I say this – and I'll certainly take it back soon – but what a blessing it is to get old!

## FATHER MUENCH SAYS

## Time to renew our friendship with Jesus

I have often preached about Jesus as he spoke in the Gospels of wanting to be a friend to each one of us.

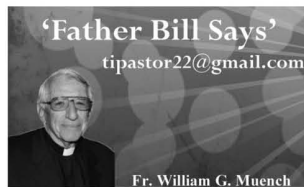
Advent is a perfect time for us to renew our friendship with Jesus. Each year Advent is our preparation time for the celebration of Christmas, a spiritual preparation to celebrate the Birth of Jesus, an ideal time to realize how much Jesus wants to be our friend.

We know the Christmas story well; we have heard it often and we have told it often. Jesus came to our world to be with us. He lived among us, died for us and rose again to new life for us, his brothers and sisters, his friends.

The whole story begins each year with our celebration of Christmas. During Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus – is a perfect time to strengthen our friendship with Jesus.

To set the tone for this, I would like to share with you a short message from Pope Francis:

"Let the risen Jesus enter your life – welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If



up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk; you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid. Trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you, and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do."

Pope Francis asks us if we have kept Jesus at a distance in our lives. So, who is Jesus for you? Have you made Jesus just a statue? Do you keep Jesus far away from you? Is Jesus just an idea?

Advent and Christmas remind us that Jesus did become one of us. We celebrate Jesus' birth to remember that he was one of us. And this Jesus who

lived among us continues to be part of our lives so that he might become our friend. Have you found this Jesus? Is Jesus truly your friend?

So, Pope Francis tells us that, if we have pushed Jesus away from us, now is the time to step forward. We will discover something very special; we will discover the incarnate Jesus who lived in our world among us all. This is the Jesus who was born at Christmas in Bethlehem. This is the Jesus that the shepherds found in the stable in the arms of his mother, Mary, ready to take his place in this world of ours.

We now prepare again to remember Bethlehem and renew our relationship with Jesus.

There are so many ways that we can use this time of Advent to put new life into our friendship with Jesus. I think first of all – and best of all – our participation in the Mass, the celebration of the Blessed Sacrament.

At Mass, Jesus is truly present with us, inviting us to celebrate again and again his life, death and resurrection.

Through this mighty sacra-

ment Jesus enters our hearts as receive the Blessed Sacrament in Holy Communion. Jesus wants to be our friend; Jesus wants to be part of our lives.

Through this sacrament Jesus comes with us into our world and walks with us each day. Jesus is a part of all that we do. What greater friend have we than this – the Lord Jesus.

Pope Francis wonders "if we are indifferent" – indifferent to this Jesus who loves us so much that he was willing to come to our world and live a full life as we do, to die as we must. So, Pope Francis challenges us to "take a risk," to be unafraid to reach out to Jesus, to allow Jesus to become part of all that we do.

Pope Francis says that "we will not be disappointed." Open your hearts in friendship to Jesus. You will find a happiness and joy, you will find peace and strength that will transform your life.

This is what Christmas joy is all about: our friend, Jesus, was born and now wants to be born in our hearts.

# Retirement plan benefits 48 priests of the diocese

By Michael Tooley  
Diocesan Fiscal Officer

The 40 retired priests of the diocese who currently receive pensions from the Priests' Retirement Fund will be direct beneficiaries of the generosity of Catholics in the North Country who contribute to their parishes in the Christmas collection.

Also, eight priests age 70 and older who remain active in their ministry in the Diocese of Ogdensburg are receiving partial retirement benefits.

Your gift this year will help support not only priests currently receiving support from the Priests' Retirement Fund but also benefits to be paid to future retirees.

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese receives 75% of the Christmas Collection proceeds given to each parish.

While your gift helps pay pensions to retired priests, it will also help the diocese make provisions for pensions for other priests as they retire in the future.

Actuarial studies are performed annually to assure

the diocese is preparing for its future obligations to retired priests.

## Priests' Retirement Fund supported by Christmas collections of parishes across the diocese

The firm of Frank J. Walters and Associates has determined that adequate provisions are being made in 2017-18 to fully fund the Plan.

Effective July 1, 2017, retired priests in the diocese received an increase of \$40 per month in their pension benefit. It is the diocese's intention to provide a pension increase when able to do so.

Estimated pension payments in this fiscal year amount to \$892,000. One hundred percent of the cost of health insurance for retired priests is also funded through the PRF.

Retired priests of the diocese receive pensions from the Social Security system. Because priests' income is typically modest, their Social Security pensions are not large and most rely heavily on pensions from

the diocese for a good portion of their financial support.

The value of the investments of the Priests' Retirement Fund increased over a one-year period from \$11,401,164 to \$11,891,753 on June 30, 2017.

The diocese's Investment Advisory Committee, diocesan administration, and the investment portfolio's investment managers closely monitor monies invested in support of the Plan.

The Priests' Retirement Fund of the diocese is also assisted through extraordinary gifts.

Information about gift opportunities to benefit the Priests' Retirement Fund is available from the Development Director of the Diocese, Scott Lalone. He can be reached in Ogdensburg at (315) 393-2920 or through e-mail to slalone@rcdony.org.

Your personal generosity to the Christmas collection in your parish will support all retired priests of the diocese and benefit longer term the diocesan and religious priests serving you today. Your priests, retired and active, will appreciate your support tremendously.

# Family Life Office to launch 'Surviving Divorce' ministry

**CANTON** - The Diocesan Family Life Office is launching a new ministry that aims to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced a broken marriage.

The 12 week program begins Jan. 25, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 at St. Mary's Church.

The cost is \$25 which covers program materials, "Surviving Divorce Personal Guide"

Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage.

Stephen Tartaglia, diocesan director of Family Life

Minister said, "This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later.

"It will help them find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing," he said.

Further information is available from Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 on the website, [www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorcesupport-group.html](http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorcesupport-group.html).

Follow Pope Francis on  
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## Fr. Mickey,

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## A joy-filled celebration

Today we reach the midpoint of Advent. It's a joy-filled celebration, both in the readings and in the rose color of the vestments the celebrant wears today.

In the second reading, we hear "Rejoice! Again I say to you 'rejoice!'"

"Why?", we ask.

The reason for joy is the same as that of the early Christians. They held to their firm belief that Jesus Christ has paid the price for their sins, and that he would bring them to glory in the life of the heaven.

Yet we can be left emotionally unmoved at this teaching. A false "holiday" spirit has robbed Jesus of His own birthday. So we need to spiritually enter into the hearts of Mary and Joseph as they excitedly await the child's arrival.

St. Paul knew that the early Christians would be tested, so he exhorts them (and us) to "pray without ceasing" and "give thanks always."

Above all, he warns them in today's second reading, "Don't quench the Spirit." In this way they will be "preserved blameless in spirit,

soul, and body...for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ."

For many, Christ came quickly as their faith led them to martyrdom. But they never lost their joyful spirit.

Today's Gospel continues the preaching of John the Baptist.

How carefully he makes clear to the Pharisees that he is not the Christ, nor the light, but a voice testifying to the light that has come into

the world.

Fear and doubt thrive in darkness. Just as turning on a light in a dark room can take fear away from a child, so the light that increases in us each day of Advent can shrink our fears and bolster our hopes.

When the light intensifies to the radiance of faith's assurance, then we know joy.

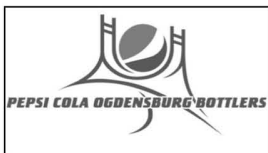
The only legitimate fear we're allowed to cling to is the fear of not appreciating enough what the coming of the Christ Child into the world really means.

His first coming 2000 years ago was truly an earthshaking event. Nothing would ever be the same again. Sin and darkness fled when the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. That is part of our joy.

The other half is our faith that the reason He came was to redeem us from our



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore



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## DEC. 17

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

sins. There is the full meaning of the light and joy of the season.

Only when we close our eyes and choose to live without His Light and refuse to repent of our sins and hang on to the darkness, do we conclude that Christmas is only for children!

When John in prison sends emissaries to Jesus to ask if He is really the Messiah, Jesus sends back the answer that He is already fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah (first reading).

He tells John that the blind now see, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Good News preached to them! John must have been filled with joy, even in prison.

This year, we lose a week of Advent since the Fourth Sunday falls on Christmas Eve!

Have we really changed our hearts in spiritual preparation this year?

We need to intensify our Advent activities in the short time left.

## 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, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Fr. Christopher Carara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

## Bishop's Schedule

**Dec. 14** - 10 a.m., Mass with the Bishop Antoine Chbeir at Seton Catholic High School in Plattsburgh followed by a luncheon at St. Peter's Emmaus Room with the area clergy.

**Dec. 15** - 4:30 p.m., Deanery Clergy Advent Penance Service with the Bishop Antoine Chbeir at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by Dinner.

**Dec. 16** - 10:30 a.m., Meeting and Luncheon with the Bishop Antoine Chbeir at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

4 p.m., Mass with the Most Reverend Antoine Chbeir at St. Mary's Cathedral.

**Dec. 17** - 11 a.m., Mass with the Bishop Antoine Chbeir at Holy Family Church in Watertown followed by a luncheon with the area clergy.

4 p.m., Evening Prayer with the Seminarians and their Parents of the Diocese of Ogdensburg followed by Dinner at St. Mary's Church in Waddington.

**Dec. 18** - 2 p.m., Meeting with the Capital Campaign Advisory Board in the Chancery Conference Room in Ogdensburg.

**Dec. 19** - 2:30 p.m., Episcopal Council Meeting at the Spratt Building followed by Dinner at the Bishop's Residence in Ogdensburg.

**Dec. 20** - 12 p.m., Luncheon with the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society at Church of the Visitation in Norfolk.

## Rest in Peace

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

- Dec. 14** - Rev. P.M. O'Shea, O.S.A., 1942, Rev. Paul Beyette, 2016  
**Dec. 15** - Rev. Leon Cochard, 1915; Deacon Joseph H. Gilbert II, 2010  
**Dec. 16** - Rev. J. F. McGowen, O.S.A., 1935; Rev. Frederick Cummings Horton, 1975  
**Dec. 17** - Rev. John O. Senecal, 1980  
**Dec. 18** - Msgr. Narcisse Lorrain, 1915; Rev. Louis Kopp, M.S.C., 1946; Msgr. Harold J. Skelly, 1980; Rev. George A. Fortaine, 1990

## Environmental Stewardship

## 'Welcoming others means welcoming God in person.'

Pope Francis

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (MT 25:35)

"The brokenness of our modern world has released an unending tide of humans in migration. By land and by sea they come, from Sudan, Syria, through treacherous waters to Lampedusa, across parched deserts to the Mexican border."

"From the rubble of Aleppo a seven-year-old girl tweets, 'Can we build a country called Republic of Refugees? It will be the most peaceful country in the world.'"

Our brother Francis implores us to open our hearts wide to God and says: "Every stranger who knocks on our door brings an opportunity for encounter with Jesus. 'You, O God, call us to be a Eucharistic community in which all are WE and none are strangers."

"From the rubble of Aleppo a seven-year-old girl tweets, 'I take a mission to save as many lives as I can. It's my duty.'"

"The numbing of UN statistics: 65.6 million persons in the world today are displaced.

Can we see the woman in her hijab as Mary fleeing with Joseph into the land of Egypt?"

"From the rubble of Aleppo a seven-year-old girl tweets, 'Dear world, can we stop killing each other and instead love each other? YES WE CAN. . . . Never lose hope. You are future of this world, we suffer now but we shall overcome.'"

\*Taken from Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Advent Reflections, written by Dr. Ann Carr of the Maryknoll Affiliates

This week we will have the opportunity to meet a 'stranger' named Bishop Antoine Chbeir from Diocese of Latakia in Syria.

In an effort to support our suffering sisters and brothers in Syria who are fleeing the ravages of war, destruction of their land and persecution for their faith, our Diocese has established a twinning relationship with the people of Latakia.

Consider answers to tough questions about immigration provided by the U.S. Catholic Bishops <http://bit.ly/2xmDJWK>

## FACES OF FAITH

# DAYS OF DECEMBER



St. Mary's School in Canton held their first "Senior Tea," an opportunity for students and seniors to interact. The theme was classic literature and both groups enjoyed sharing their memories and thoughts on well-known books. Pictured are students Lois Blewett and Ben Hill with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Howard.



St. Mary's Parish in Ticonderoga sponsored an Advent wreath making project led and organized by florist, Francine Burke. Above Miranda Holman works with her 6th grade daughter, Madelyn.



Student winners of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest sponsored by the Canton Knights of Columbus were awarded certificates and prizes on Dec. 4. Pictured are Dan Sweeney, Grand Knight of the Sarto Council 1059 of Canton, and students Matt Gainey, William Rumbaugh and Faith Christy.



St. Augustine's Parish in Peru welcomed students and parents to the Religious Education "Advent Festival." In the parish Memorial Hall - filled with boughs - the families worked with their children as true "Living Stones" to celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Father Alan Shnob, pastor, blessed each wreath before the families took them home. Pictured is the Blaise family: Ethan, Jonathan (both Columbian Squires) Ember, Nina, Mason, Eric and James, first year college, former Columbian Squire and now a member of the Knights of Columbus with his father.



## Share Christmas greetings with the priests of our diocese

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North Bangor, NY 12966

**Rev. Robert O. Lamitie**  
1836 Walden Pond Road  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34945

**Rev. Kris C. Lauzon**  
The CC of Holy Name & St.  
Matthew  
PO Box 719  
Au Sable Forks, NY 12912

**Bishop Terry R. LaValley**  
Diocese of Ogdensburg  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
PO Box 369  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Rev. Clyde A. Lewis**  
St. Patrick's Church  
PO Box 217  
Rouses Point, NY 12979

## Share Christmas greetings with the priests of our diocese

**Rev. Christopher J. Looby**  
St. Mary's Church  
8408 S. Main Street  
Evans Mills, NY 13637

**Rev. John J. Looby**  
St. Francis of Assisi Church  
PO Box 78  
Constable, NY 12926

**Rev. Douglas J. Lucia**  
St. Mary's Church  
PO Box 187  
Waddington, NY 13694

**Rev. Shane M. Lynch**  
St. James Church  
164 East Main Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642

**Rev. Donald J. Manfred**  
St. Stephen's Church  
PO Box 38  
Croghan, NY 13327

**Rev. Lawrence E. Marullo**  
St. Mary's Church  
PO Box 382  
Constableville, NY 13325

**Msgr. C. John McAvoy**  
51 Willow Way Apt. 19  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

**Msgr. Robert J. McCarthy**  
Vianney Hall  
1425 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Kevin D. McEwan**  
St. Mary's Church  
22 Father Jogues Place  
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

**Rev. J. Roger McGuinness**  
94 Maryland Road  
Plattsburgh, NY 12903

**Rev. Bernard D. Menard**  
c/o Father Chris Carrara  
PO Box 369  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Rev. Gilbert B. Menard**  
104 Bea's Way Apt. 118  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**Rev. Raymond J. Moreau**  
St. Mary's Church  
1347 State Route 11  
Brushton, NY 12916

**Rev. Joseph A. Morgan VG**  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
125 Ford Avenue  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Rev. William G. Muench**  
PO Box 664  
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

**Msgr. John R. Murphy VF**  
Parish of the Visitation and St.  
Raymond  
PO Box 637  
Norfolk, NY 13667

**Rev. Steven M. Murray**  
Holy Family Church  
129 Winthrop Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Kevin J. O'Brien**  
St. Raphael's Church  
PO Box 377  
Heuvelton, NY 13654

**Rev. Patrick J. O'Reilly**  
425 Sue Ryder Apartments  
Kilminchy, Portlaoise,

**Rev. Jerome Pastores**  
Kateri Hall  
PO Box 429  
Hogansburg, NY 13655

**Rev. Terrence Patterson**  
18 Flow Drive  
Potsdam, NY 13676

**Rev. Eduardo C Pesigan III**  
St. Peter's Church  
114 Cornelia Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**Msgr. Leeward J. Poissant**  
16 Glen Drive Apt. 4  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**Rev. Sony G. Pulickal V.F.**  
St. Ann's Church, Wells  
PO Box 214  
Speculator, NY 12164

**Rev. Patrick A. Ratigan**  
St. Bernard's Church  
27 St. Bernard Street  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983

**Rev. William G. Reamer**  
Our Lady of Victory Church  
4919 S. Catherine Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

**Rev. Mark R. Reilly**  
St. Mary & St. Joseph Church  
PO Box 609  
Massena, NY 13662

**Msgr. Peter R. Riani**  
Champlain Valley Senior  
Community  
10 Guilliland Lane, Rm. 203  
Willsboro, NY 12996

**Rev. Donald A. Robinson**  
St. James Minor Church  
327 West Street  
Carthage, NY 13619

**Rev. Stephen Rucker**  
St. Patrick's Church  
PO Box 315  
Colton, NY 13625

**Rev. Joseph N. Sestito**  
100 Van Tassal Lane  
Rome, NY 13440

**Rev. James W. Seymour V.F.**  
St. Peter's Church  
5457 Shady Avenue  
Lowville, NY 13367

**Rev. Scott R. Seymour**  
The RCC of St. Alexander and  
St. Joseph  
PO Box 159  
Morrisonville, NY 12962

**Rev. Alan D. Shnob**  
St. Augustine's Church  
3035 Main Street  
Peru, NY 12972

**Rev. F. James Shurtleff**  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
415 Hamilton Street  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Msgr. Harry K. Snow**  
St. Joseph's Home  
950 Linden Street  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Rev. Bryan D. Stitt**  
St. Mary's Church  
68 Court Street  
Canton, NY 13617

**Rev. Richard S. Sturtz**  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
415 Hamilton Street  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Rev. Jonas Rafael Tadayu MSC**  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
Church  
320 West Lynde Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Todd Thibault**  
St. Edmund's Church  
5526 State Route 11  
Ellenburg Center, NY 12934

**Rev. Justin Thomas HGN**  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
415 Hamilton Street  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669

**Rev. Howard J. Venette**  
St. Bartholomew's Church  
PO Box 236  
Old Forge, NY 13420

**Rev. Raymond J. Wertman**  
2292 Costa Rican Drive Apt. 56  
Clearwater, FL 33763

**Msgr. Paul E. Whitmore**  
Holy Family Church  
129 Winthrop Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. Leo A. Wiley**  
Church of the Holy Family  
129 Winthrop Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Rev. John R. Yonkovig V.F.**  
St. Agnes Church  
169 Hillcrest Avenue  
Lake Placid, NY 12946



## VATICAN LETTER

# Year in review: In Rome and abroad, pope urges unity, care for the poor

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Pope Francis spent much of 2017 preaching and teaching about the need to value differences rather than fear them, and he adopted legislation that would allow more room for diversity within the Catholic Church.

In his frequent comments about migration and on most of his foreign trips, the pope also tried to convince political, civic and religious leaders that being welcoming, respecting differences and being willing to listen to another's point of view and experience actually enrich a society.

From his trips to Egypt, where anti-Christian violence has sorely tried Christian-Muslim relations, to Colombia, which is recovering from a civil war, and most recently to Myanmar and Bangladesh, Pope Francis tried to convince people that peaceful coexistence and even unity do not require the erasing of all differences.

In fact, during his trip to the two Asian nations, he defined as "ideological and cultural colonization" the political and social pressures to homogenize society.

"The unity we share and celebrate is born of diversity," he told the bishops of Myanmar Nov. 29.

"Never forget this - it is born of diversity," the pope said. "It values people's differences as a source of mutual enrichment and growth. It invites people to come together in a culture of encounter and solidarity."

Pope Francis gave legisla-

tive weight to that view in October when he created two new eparchies, or dioceses, for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in India and extended the boundaries of two others.

In a letter to all of the country's bishops, Latin- and Eastern-rite, he said the presence of two Catholic rites each with their own bishop in the same territory should not be seen as a sign of disunity, but of the richness of the one faith.

The other legislative decision that potentially could lead to greater diversity in the church was contained in Pope Francis' document, "Magnum Principium" ("The Great Principle").

It included changes to the Code of Canon Law to give national bishops' conferences greater responsibility in the process of translating liturgical texts into local languages. The document was published Sept. 9 and went into effect Oct. 1.

In a letter giving further explanation three weeks later, Pope Francis said that while in the past "the judgment regarding the fidelity to the Latin and the eventual corrections necessary was the task of the Congregation (for Divine Worship)," the new norms give "episcopal conferences the faculty of judging the worth and coherence of one or another term in translations from the original, even if in dialogue with the Holy See."

Pope Francis also grabbed headlines late in the year for two statements indicating further developments in Catholic social teaching, specifically regarding the death penalty and nuclear deterrence.

Marking the 25th anniversary

of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* at the Vatican Oct. 11, Pope Francis said the catechism's discussion of the death penalty, already formally amended by St. John Paul II, needs to be even more explicitly against capital punishment.

The death penalty "is, in itself, contrary to the Gospel, because a decision is voluntarily made to suppress a human life, which is always sacred in the eyes of the Creator and of whom, in the last analysis, only God can be the true judge and guarantor," the pope said.

Pope Francis' remarks about nuclear deterrence came at a Vatican conference in early November. For decades, the popes 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.

But at the conference, Pope Francis said that today with nuclear weapons, "the threat of their use as well as their very possession is to be firmly condemned."

He later explained to journalists that the increased sophistication of the weapons means that "you risk the destruction of humanity, or a great part of humanity."

While Pope Francis used large public Masses, his early morning Mass homilies and his Wednesday general audience talks to reach thousands of Catholics with his message, 2017 gave him an opportunity for face-to-face meetings with many world leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Pope concerned by U.S. move on Israel's capital

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Following reports that U.S. President Donald Trump planned to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Pope Francis expressed his concern that such a move would further destabilize the Middle East. Pope Francis said he could not "keep silent about my deep concern" for Jerusalem and urged respect for "the status quo of the city in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations." The pope spoke at the end of his weekly general audience Dec. 6, the same day Trump announced his decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, fulfilling a promise he made during his presidential campaign. Former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush had made the same promises during their campaigns, but once in office, they did not carry through with the move, citing its potential negative impact on Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. Trump drew warnings from Middle Eastern and European leaders that overturning the United States' long-standing policy would further complicate peace negotiations.

### No dispensation for this year's Christmas Mass on Monday

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** -- Although Christmas this year is the day after the fourth Sunday of Advent, Catholics looking to count a Sunday evening Mass Dec. 24 for both that Sunday obligation and Monday's Christmas Mass obligation will have to think again. The U.S. bishops already saw this coming at the beginning of the year and said Catholics should attend separate Masses for the two days. A newsletter issued in February by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship noted that a "two-for-one" Mass cannot occur in the very rare circumstances when two of the six holy days of obligation -- the feast of the Immaculate Conception or Christmas -- fall the day before or after Sunday. "When consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations," the committee said. The reason Catholics might consider the idea of receiving dispensation from a Monday Mass likely stems from the U.S. bishops' vote in 1991 to lift the obligation to attend Mass on holy days of obligation that fall on Saturdays or Mondays. But that vote was only for three of the six holy days: the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1; the feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15; and the feast of All Saints, Nov. 1.

### Pope: Advent is time to identify sin, help poor, see beauty

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** -- Advent is a time to be watchful and alert to the ways one strays from God's path, but also to signs of his presence in other people and in the beauty of the world, Pope Francis said. Reciting the Angelus prayer Dec. 3, the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis told people gathered in St. Peter's Square, "Being watchful and alert are the prerequisites for not continuing 'to wander far from the Lord's path,' lost in our sins and infidelities; being watchful and alert are the conditions for allowing God to break into our existence, to give it meaning and value with his presence full of goodness and tenderness." Like the ancient Israelites who wandered in the desert, the pope said, "we, too, often find ourselves in a situation of infidelity to the Lord's call; he indicates the right path, the path of faith, the path of love, but we look for happiness elsewhere." Advent gives people time to review the paths they have taken and to turn back to the ways of God, he said.



## AT THE MOVIES

# JUSTICE LEAGUE

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

When it comes to repetitiously threatening the world with annihilation, Hollywood is almost as persistent as North Korean state media.

So the global danger looming over "Justice League" (Warner Bros.) feels all-too-familiar, a case of Yogi Berra's famous *deja vu* all over again.

Set to bring on the apocalypse this time is Steppenwolf (Ciaran Hinds), a giant alien who wants to reassemble a trio of energy-generating boxes collectively known as the Unity. Bad idea, as this would unleash a chain reaction that would leave all life on Earth kaput.

From humanity's perspective, Steppenwolf's timing couldn't be worse since, as viewers of 2016's "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" will remember, Superman (Henry Cavill) is dead. With Krypton's favorite son out of the picture, it's up to Bat-

man (Ben Affleck) and Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) to thwart Steppenwolf's scheme.

Realizing they'll need all the help they can get, the Caped Crusader and the Amazonian warrior set out to gather a team of superheroes or, in DC Comics parlance, metahumans. Their trio of targeted recruits is made up of the Flash (Ezra Miller), Aquaman (Jason Momoa) and Cyborg (Ray Fisher).

The speedy Flash is enthusiastic but human-robot amalgam Cyborg has a tendency to brood while master of the sea Aquaman is a loner. Batman and Wonder Woman, meanwhile, have contrasting ideas about how to pursue their quest.

Adding to a franchise that kicked off with his 2013 film "Man of Steel," director Zack Snyder deploys predictably outsized special effects. But the meager story laid out in Chris Terrio and Joss Whedon's screenplay features a crucial plot development -- not to be speci-

fied for fear of a spoiler -- that may not go down well with Christian viewers. And, overall, the script offers little in the way of human interest.

There are some laughs to be had from the Flash's socially inept persona, however. The idea of a youthful, Woody Allen-like nebbish endowed with superhuman powers is an appealing one, and Miller makes the most of it. But his performance is hardly enough to compensate for this action adventure's glaring weaknesses.

With Steppenwolf's weapon of choice vaguely suggesting a sinister version of the Trinity and science intruding on a divine prerogative in the sequence referred to, but not analyzed, above, this is not a suitable choice for young and impressionable moviegoers. Neither will it satisfy demanding grownups.

The film contains constant stylized violence, two uses of profanity, a milder oath, several crude and a couple of crass terms and



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Gal Gadot, Ben Affleck and Ezra Miller star in a scene from the movie "Justice League."

some bleeped-out swearing. 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.

## GO GREEN!

Receive the NCC in your e-mail every Monday where ever you are in the world.  
E-mail [cward@diogodensburg.org](mailto:cward@diogodensburg.org) to sign up today.




## ALSO PLAYING... DADDY'S HOME 2



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Mel Gibson, Mark Wahlberg, Owen Wilder Vaccaro and Will Ferrell star in a scene from the movie "Daddy's Home 2." Silly slapstick predominates in this follow-up to the 2015 comedy about the blending pains of a post-divorce family. 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.



**Adult Children of Alcoholics**  
Weekly meeting - Wednesdays at 7:30 PM  
St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh  
Upstairs Room

Adult Children of Alcoholics is a recovery program for adults whose lives were affected as a result of being raised in an alcoholic or other dysfunctional family. It is based on the success of Alcoholics Anonymous and employs its version of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

For more information on ACA, go to [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org)

# BARSTOW

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## ADIRONDACK

## NAVE LESSONS, CAROLS

**Lake Placid** - The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble (NAVE) will present a program of Lessons and Carols

**Date:** Dec. 17

**Time:** 4 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes Church

**Features:** Anthems, carols, and hymns illuminate the Christmas story along with community readers and congregational singing in the beloved tradition of King's College, Cambridge. NAVE, under the musical direction of Andrew M. Benware, is a mixed chamber choir of professional and amateur singers that performs choral music from a variety of periods and styles with harmonies of four to eight parts.

**Price:** suggested donation of \$10.

**Contact:** More information on Facebook or drew.benware@gmail.com.

## FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

**Tupper Lake** - Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program.

**Date:** Jan. 11 and 18

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Features:** More than 100 Friendship Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake help elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and helping to make their lives a little easier and happier.

**Contact:** Mercy Care's Friendship Volunteer Training Program is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. To request registration information, please contact Jenn Grisi at Mercy Care by calling 518-523-5583 or by e-mail at jgrisi@adkmercy.org.

## CLINTON

## NAVE LESSONS, CAROLS

**Plattsburgh** - The Northern Adirondack Vocal Ensemble (NAVE) will present a program of Lessons and Carols

**Date:** Dec. 16

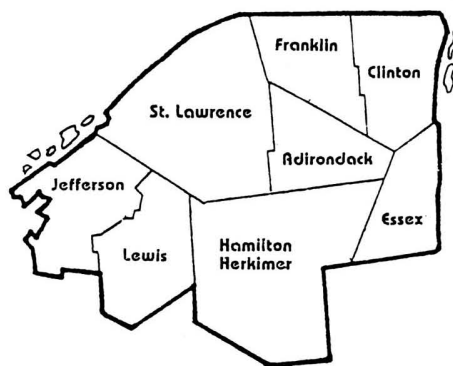
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

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

**Features:** Anthems, carols, and hymns illuminate the Christmas story along with community readers and congregational singing. NAVE, under the musical direction of Andrew M. Benware, is a mixed chamber choir of professional and amateur singers that performs choral music from a variety of periods and styles with harmonies

**Price:** suggested donation of \$10.

**Contact:** More information on Facebook or drew.benware@gmail.com.



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.

## BUS TO MARCH FOR LIFE IN DC

**Plattsburgh** - A bus will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for the annual national March for Life.

**Schedule:** Meet at St. Peter's Church, Plattsburgh Jan. 18 at 7:15 p.m., Jan. 19, March for Life and Leave Washington at 4:45 p.m.

**Cost:** \$30

**Contact:** Deacon Randy Smith at 518-566-6229. Please leave a message with your name and phone number and he will get back to you.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Treadwell Mills** - The Knights of Columbus will hold an all you can eat Pancake Breakfast.

**Date:** Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 22

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

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Children 6-12, \$3; under 5, Free

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

## FRANKLIN

## 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

## 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

## JEFFERSON

## FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS

**Clayton** - The Birth of Jesus, A Franciscan Christmas by St. Mary's and St. John's Franciscan Mystery Players, is set.

**Date:** Dec. 17

**Time:** 6 p.m.

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

**Features:** Based on St. Francis' recreation of the Nativity at Greccio, Italy over 800 years ago, this Christmas mystery play portrays the events surrounding the Lord's birth, from the birth to the slaughter of the innocents. This presentation hopes to renew the real meaning of Christmas in such a way that its true message speaks to our hearts, the world we live in, and our daily lives. A free-will offering will be accepted

## LEWIS

## CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

**Lyon Falls** - A Chicken and biscuit dinner to be held to support Salvation Army Bell ringing in this area and the St. John's Altar and Rosary Society.

**Date:** Dec. 12

**Time:** 5 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children, \$4; under 5, Free

**Contact:** Deliveries and take-outs available by calling 315 348-8945 or 315 348-6599.

## INTERNATIONAL CRECHES

**Houseville** - An exhibit of International Creches-Nativity is set

**Dates:** Dec. 17, 21 Jan. 7

**Time:** The display may be viewed before or after the 11a.m. Masses or between 1 p.m. to 3 by appointment during the week.

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

**Features:** This exhibit is free and open to the public. Bring family and friends and experience the universality of Christ and Christmas through the eyes of many different cultures.

## OPLATEK CHRISTMAS WAFER

**Houseville** - The Polish Christmas Wafer or OPLATEK is available from St. Hedwig's Church.

**Cost:** \$3 per package plus postage.

**Features:** The Christmas Wafer of OPLATEK is part of a Polish, Lithuanian and Slovak custom that is observed during the Vigil of Christmas (Wigilia). After the first star is visible, family and friends gather around the dinner table to share the OPLATEK, which symbolizes the presence of Christ, the Newborn Child. The OPLATEK is sent and shared with family and friends all over the world as a symbol of love, unity and forgiveness while wishing God's Blessing on each other this Holy Night.

**Contact:** 315-348-6260.

## ST. LAWRENCE

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## DISCERNMENT RETREAT

**Syracuse** - The NYS Vocation Directors announce the annual priesthood discernment retreat.

**Date:** Jan. 2 to 4

**Place:** Christ the King Retreat House

**Features:** Gather with other young men from across NY State who are considering the call to the priesthood. Participate in special Masses celebrated by bishops from NY dioceses. Meet seminarians and hear their stories. Enjoy adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as well as time for silent personal prayer. Have an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Contact:** For more information or to register, contact the Vocations Office at crussell@rcdony.org, your pastor or Fr. Doug Lucia at dlucia@rcdony.org

## SURVIVING DIVORCE

**Canton** - The Diocesan Family Life Office has announced a new ministry that will bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage.

**Date:** 12 week program begins Jan. 25

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

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

**Cost:** \$25, includes program materials "Surviving Divorce Personal Guide"

**Features:** Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later.

**Contact:** Steve Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or go to <http://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorcesupport-group.html>.

## FISHERS CLUB

Fishers Club is about men gathering to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

**Date:** Groups will reconvene in early 2018, check parish bulletins, the NCC or one of the priests listed below.

**Contact:** Midlanders (Potsdam/Canton) Fr. Doug Lucia dlucia@rcdony.org/315-348-4466 and Lakesiders (Plattsburgh) Fr. Howard Venette pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com/315-369-3554



## 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

# Preparing for Christmas

*"On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth."*

Pope Francis...

As we prepare to joyfully celebrate Christmas, we know that so many children in the world live a different reality. These vulnerable little ones, some all alone in the world, too often experience dire poverty and immense suffering, endure violence or forced labor, face human trafficking and other challenges beyond their age and innocence.

What does your Christmas gift list look like? Can you possibly add a gift of joy and hope for one child in the Missions?

Through your prayers and generous help to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith you can make sure a child in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands or Latin America is fed and clothed, receives medical care and an education, and, above all, learns of God's love, born in our hearts anew each Christmas. Anything you are moved to send will bring such great joy and hope to a child half a world away.

As the season of Advent prepares us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we have seen racial tension, disease, terrorism at work, and continued war. As we reflect upon this, we come to realize what millions of people in developing countries have endured for their lifetime.

There is light in the darkness in the third world countries because of missionaries. Yes, missionaries like yourselves let the light of Christ shine in the lives of people in the missions as they receive your generous donations. I thank you for your support in bringing Christ's light into the darkness of the suffering poor in mission lands.

On behalf of the Mission Office, we promise prayers, throughout Advent and especially at Christmas for you and your families, and for the "gift" that you are to one another and to the world.

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

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

**Carthage** – Helen E. (Cocuzzoli) Liola, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2017 at St. James; burial parish cemetery.

**Clayton** – Claire M. (Green) Farrell, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2017 at St. Mary Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – James E. Lindley, 50; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Elmwood Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Katherine D. (Zelazowski) Van Nest, 82; Funeral Services at Isenecker Funeral Home; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Massena** – Francis "Chisky" Perry Sr., 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – John J. Kukie, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 7, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Pinehill Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Flora LaPoint – St. Louis, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

**Port Henry** – Dorothy (Wood) Hagey, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 5, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Raymondville** – Robert J. Charland, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2017 at St. Raymond's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Saranac Lake** – Luella M. (Thompson) Carr, 91; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2017 at the Fortune-Keough Funeral Home; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

**Schroon Lake** – Helen A. (Pratt) Turvich, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 9, 2017 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

**Watertown** – Deborah Hallsworth, 51; Funeral Services Dec. 8, 2017 at the Reed & Benoit Funeral Home.

## Edmundites celebrate 175 years

By Cori Fugere Urban  
Catholic News Service

COLCHESTER, VT. (CNS) - As the Society of St. Edmund celebrates the 175th anniversary of its founding in France, its members continue to serve God with zeal.

"That zeal was in our DNA right from the beginning," said Father Stephen Hornat, superior general of the order based at St. Michael's College in Colchester. "Our founders were holy men with passion for the faith and the priesthood. ... I see that same zeal playing out" in current Edmundite missions of education, social justice, spiritual renewal and pastoral ministry.

The Society of St. Edmund began in a rural region of France to revitalize the faith of people who had become increasingly alienated from the Catholic Church.

The founder, Father Jean-Baptiste Muard, began the society at St. Mary's Abbey in Pontigny, the final resting place of St. Edmund of Canterbury. The saint was the 13th-century archbishop of Canterbury.

### Founders of St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vt.

The arm of St. Edmund was once enshrined at St. Michael's College, then at Nativity of the Blessed Mary Church in Swanton, which at one time was staffed by the Edmundites, as members of the order are called. The arm is now at the order's Enders Island retreat center in Connecticut.

At the end of the 19th century as politics became increasingly hostile toward religious orders, the Society of St. Edmund decided to establish a new ministry in

Canada, ministering to the French-speaking Catholics in Quebec.

Later asked to serve the French-speaking Catholics of northern Vermont, the Edmundites established several parishes and St. Michael's College in Vermont.

The order also provided priests to minister in Venezuela for many years; the last Edmundite to serve there returned to the United States in July after 51 years.

The order currently has 25 members - priests and brothers - most living in Vermont. Edmundites serve in parish ministry in Selma, Alabama, and in retreat house administration in Mystic, Connecticut. In Vermont they serve at St. Michael's College - an educational institution the order founded - and at churches in eight cities and towns in Vermont.

They also run St. Anne's Shrine in Isle La Motte.

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(CNS PHOTOS/PAUL HARING)

Pope Francis embraces Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of Al-Azhar University, at a conference on international peace in Cairo April 28. The pope spent much of 2017 preaching and teaching about the need to value differences rather than fear them.

## Year in review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

He welcomed Trump to the Vatican May 24 for a visit described in the official statement as "cordial."

Common ground was found on the issues of protecting the unborn and defending religious freedom. But they also discussed their different positions on climate change and on the obligation to assist migrants and refugees.

Just a few days after he met the pope, Trump announced the U.S. was pulling out of the U.N. Paris agreement on climate change, an agreement the Vatican had urged him to uphold.

Just hours after Pope Francis appealed Dec. 6 for "wisdom and prudence" in protecting the status quo of Jerusalem, Trump publicly announced formal U.S. recognition of the city as Israel's capital and a project to begin moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

The Holy See, like the overwhelming majority of nations, has said political control of the city must be determined by negotiation as part of an Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

In addition, for decades the Vatican has urged a special status for the city to guarantee Jews, Muslims and Christians access to



Pope Francis meets U.S. President Donald Trump during a private audience at the Vatican May 24. The two leaders found common ground on protecting the unborn and religious freedom but also discussed their different positions on climate change and migrants and refugees.

their faith's holy sites.

Pope Francis also spent months urging the international community to ensure the new U.N. global compacts on migration and on refugees would support programs to help the poor stay in their countries rather than migrate and would open safe and legal immigration pathways for people fleeing extreme poverty and conflict.

Citing U.S. sovereignty,

the Trump administration announced Dec. 3 that he was pulling the U.S. out of negotiations on the global compact on migration.

Unity in diversity and care for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society also were on Pope Francis' mind in early June when he joined celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Catholic charismatic renewal.

Celebrating Pentecost with tens of thousands of Catholic charismatics from around the world and with dozens of Pentecostal and evangelical leaders, the pope said, "In a way both creative and unexpected," the Holy Spirit "generates diversity, for in every age he causes new and varied charisms to blossom. Then he brings about unity: he joins together, gathers and restores harmony."

Christians, he said, must be "united by the work of the Holy Spirit in prayer and in action on behalf of those who are weaker."

"Walk together. Work together. Love each other," Pope Francis told them.



Pope Francis gestures before speaking about the death penalty at an encounter marking the 25th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church at the Vatican Oct. 11. The death penalty is "contrary to the Gospel" the pope said in his speech.

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