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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 28

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 6, 2017

## Jesus maps the path to peace

**YANGON, MYANMAR (CNS)** - Jesus' love "is like a spiritual GPS" that guides people past the everyday obstacles of fear and pride and allows them to find their way to a relationship with God and with their neighbors, Pope Francis said. Christ's message of "forgive-

ness and mercy uses a logic that not all will want to understand, and which will encounter obstacles. Yet his love, revealed on the cross is ultimately unstoppable," the pope said Nov. 29, celebrating his first public Mass in Myanmar. According to the

Vatican, 150,000 people attended the Mass at the Kyaikkasan sports ground. Thousands of them had traveled hundreds of miles to be at the Mass, and many of them camped out on the sports field the night before the liturgy. Pope Francis ac-

knowledged the sacrifices made by the people as well as the struggles Catholics face as a tiny minority in Myanmar and as citizens of a country struggling to leave violence behind and transition from military to democratic rule.

## VISITOR FROM LATAKIA

Bishop Chbeir will be in diocese Dec. 11-18



Catholics from across the Diocese will have opportunity to meet Bishop Antoine Chbeir of the Maronite Diocese of Latakia, Syria, at Masses and gatherings scheduled throughout his visit to the North Country Dec. 11-18. The Ogdensburg diocese has established a twinning relationship with Latakia as a response to Pope Francis' call to assist Christians of the Middle East who have been persecuted for their faith. The initiative is called "Solidarity in Faith."

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Appeal set for retired religious

The 30th annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held Dec. 9-10 in parishes in the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

"The North Country has been and continues to be blessed by men and women who give their lives in service to the Lord as consecrated religious," said Bishop Terry R. LaValley. "Now is our turn to support them through the Retirement Fund for Religious."

The annual collection benefits 32,000 aging Catholic sisters, brothers and priests in religious orders in the U.S.

SPECIAL SECTION, PAGES 7-10

## Under Four Flags

St. Joseph Sister Mary Christine

Taylor completes history of

the City of Ogdensburg

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## THANK YOU, SALLY



Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented the Bishop Edgar P. Wadhams Award for Distinguished Service to Sally Rusaw during a farewell gathering recently held with members of the diocesan staff. The award reads: "A native of St. Mary's Parish in Potsdam, Sally shared her faith and wisdom with young people as a teacher and librarian in our Catholic Schools, librarian and instructor at Mater Dei College, liturgical musician, religious volunteer at Ogdensburg and Riverview Correctional Facilities, and archivist at our diocesan chancery. In all these roles, Sally generously shared her faith and guided others to the Lord. Her faithful service, kind words, prayers, loving gestures, gentle presence and exemplary witness have been blessings to the countless individual lives she touched and have enriched us as all as a Catholic Diocese."

**GIFT THAT LASTS ALL YEAR:** Subscription to the *North Country Catholic*, p. 16

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

# Welcoming days filled with hope

The Diocese of Ogdensburg promises to be an ideal spot to properly observe the Season of Advent this year. As Catholics we know that these December days should focus on "hope" and Pope Francis has something to say about the topic: "Hope doesn't come with power or wealth, but with trusting in God," he said. Isn't that a good thing for the church of the North Country?

Without a lot of power or wealth we have made a commitment to offer hope to the people in Latakia, Syria. In return, we can expect that

the power of faith among persecuted Christians will be a great source of hope for our own sometimes wobbly trust in God.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

We will also have the chance to assist a group of people whose very lives have been a source of Christian hope for us all – the religious men and women who built up our parishes, schools, hospitals. Next weekend we can "give back" to help our treasured Sisters and Brothers in

their retirement.

The road on our way towards hope, of course, must be paved with prayer. We've been pray-

ing with and for our religious brothers and sisters throughout our lives but prayer for the people of Syria may be a new experience.

As we prepare to welcome Bishop Antoine Chbeir to the diocese next week, the members of the Solidarity in Faith Committee have offered a prayer for the people in his diocese. It's a perfect Advent prayer of hope:

*Almighty eternal God, source of all compassion, the promise of your mercy and saving help fills our hearts with hope. Hear the cries of the people of Syria; bring healing to those suffering from the violence, and comfort to those mourning the dead. Empower and encourage*

*Syria's neighbors in their care and welcome for refugees.*

*Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms, and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace. O God of hope and Father of mercy, your Holy Spirit inspires us to look beyond ourselves and our own needs. Inspire leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with enemies. Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria, and fill us with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Advent: a time to consider our poverty

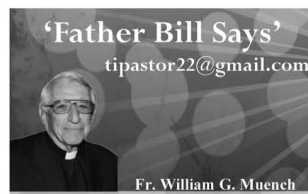
Advent can be a difficult season of the Church year to explain, especially to fit it into present ideas. Our Church tells us that during Advent we do not begin our decorating for Christmas – and we don't in the Church. In fact, we dress down to purple. But we do decorate at home, inside and outside. Personally, I got my Christmas tree up last week.

Advent is the season for preparing for Christmas. We all get involved in the usual Christmas stuff – gift buying, writing cards, holding Christmas parties and such. And it is a busy time – with all these enjoyable activities.

Again, personally speaking, I thought about having a Christmas party next week. But wait! This is not exactly the kind of preparations that Advent Spirit means. However, I like all of these things.

So, let us consider this time of Advent spiritually. For Catholics, Advent is an important opportunity to grow spiritually. It is meant to be a time of prayer and possibly a good time for daily Mass as well as on Sundays.

Advent is a time for some meditating on the Christmas



story.

Advent is the time we again sort out that yearly question – "What is the true meaning of Christmas?"

I am certain that you know the correct answer: Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. We believe that God became incarnate among us with the birth of Jesus. Jesus becomes one of us – human in every way. He lived among us, he taught us, he showed us what life is about, he died for us as our Savior, he rose to a new life in resurrection to lead us to our resurrection.

I would like to add something more to our consideration of Advent Spirituality as our preparation for Christmas. This week, I came across one of those daily meditation books. This book, "Grace in Every Season," used the writings of Catherine Doherty. The

editor, Mary Bizzett, chose a paragraph for each day from Catherine's writings.

I want to share with you the meditation for the first of December. "This is the month of Christ's birthday. The Son of God and Son of Man was born in a cave. Over the centuries men and women have sentimentalized it. It is a time for us Christians of the twenty first century to take another look at this cave and him who was born in it. People who live in caves are not the wealthy of this world. They are poor."

Advent is our time to again fill our hearts for the Jesus who loved us so much that he would die for us. He was born in a cave and, this, part of our celebration must involve the honor we pay this child, realizing his readiness to be born in poverty.

Jesus chose to be born in poverty – his parents, Mary and Joseph, were poor. Jesus lived his life in poverty. Jesus came to teach and guide us, despite his poverty. Jesus transformed our world – Jesus transformed all of our history – this Jesus accomplished all of this even though he lived in poverty.

So, our Advent must be about poverty. This is not an easy message to speak about. Advent and Christmas have become times of spending and buying. Many make a great deal of money because of Christmas. Yet, spiritually we are encouraged to recognize Christ's poverty during Advent.

Our preparation for the Birth of Jesus must be filled with our recognition of the poverty of Jesus and our call to be poor also. "Are we going to the cave like the shepherds, who were also poor?"

It is time for us to understand how poor we really are and establish a real relationship with Jesus in his poverty. We have so much, yet, we are still very needy. There is so much we like to do, so many we would like to help, so many opportunities to make our world a better place yet, we fail. We are just too poor.

We need to allow Jesus to be part of our lives, part of our Advent. Jesus born in poverty changed the world. Jesus now wants to help us to see how, despite our own poverty, we can accomplish so much, help so many, make this a better world.

# Diocese prepares for visit of Bishop of Latakia, Syria

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will welcome Bishop Antoine Chbeir of the Maronite Diocese of Latakia, Syria, to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Dec. 11-18. Several public events have been scheduled through the week.

The Ogdensburg diocese has established a twinning relationship with Latakia as a response to Pope Francis' call to assist Christians of the Middle East who have been persecuted for their faith.

In his 2017 Chrism Mass homily, delivered April 6 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Bishop LaValley said, "Particularly in the Middle East, the birthplace of our Savior and home to the beginnings of our Church, Christians are experiencing an 'ecumenism of blood' where our sisters and brothers in faith are under constant pressure to abandon their land, even their faith - or die.

"The decrease in the Christian population in the Middle East is staggering," he said. "If nothing changes, soon there will be no Christians left residing in the most ancient of Christian places. Genocide is happening in our midst."

The twinning initiative, Solidarity in Faith, "is our practical diocesan response to the Holy Father's call to assist these suffering families and communities," the bishop said.

The Maronite Catholic Diocese of Latakia is comprised of about 45,000 Catholics with 30 parishes, 27 priests and 27 consecrated religious. War has wreaked havoc on the region; in addition to normal pastoral activities, the Church in Latakia also must minister to thousands of displaced Syrians who have sought a safe refuge.

The Solidarity in Faith

Committee, headed by Father Steven Murray of Watertown, has worked with the two bishops to facilitate Bishop Chbeir's visit to the North Country.

The Syrian bishop will preside at liturgies and meet parishioners at the following sites:

- Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. and the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown

- Dec. 13 at 12 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

- Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. at Seton Catholic Central in Plattsburgh

- Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg

- Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Family in Watertown.

Further information about Solidarity in Faith is available on the website [www.rcdony.org/solidarity](http://www.rcdony.org/solidarity).

## FOR ST. NICHOLAS



SCHOOL PHOTO

Sixth graders and first graders at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga worked together on a St Nicholas project. Pictured are students Macey Mauran, Kaelyn Hurlburt and Aaron Dromgool.

## Sr. Christine Taylor, SSJ completes history of city

The Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph has published a new documentary history of Ogdensburg entitled *Under Four Flags*.

### The Society of the Sisters of St. Joseph has published a history of Ogdensburg, *Under Four Flags*

The large volume of 730 pages covers the era from 1748 to 1960 and is enhanced by hundreds of photos obtained from the Monsignor Anthony A. Milia Collection, the Edward P. Benton Collection and memorabilia contributions from natives of Ogdensburg.

The history has valuable appendixes including lists of politicians who have served in the government of Ogdensburg, the Religious Sisters who have staffed the hospital, orphanage, and educational institutions, and brief summaries of early businesses in the city.

*Under Four Flags* is the result of extensive research by St. Joseph Sister Mary Christine Taylor, Ph.D., in the archives of the Society of St. Sulpice in Oka and Montreal, the Northern New York newspapers, the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office, the City of Ogdensburg Records, the Parish/Rossee Special Collection at St. Lawrence University, the Ogdensburg Public Library and the archives of the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Ogdensburg, the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns of the Cross) in Ottawa, the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in Graymoor, and the Society of St. Viator in Quebec.

Only a limited edition of the history has been printed to date. Those desiring to purchase a copy may contact Sister Mary Christine Taylor at the Sisters of St. Joseph, 1817 NYS Route 95, Apt. 8, Bombay, NY 12914.


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## PICTURE THIS, FUTURE FATHERS AND SISTERS



The students at St. Augustine's Church in Peru had their photo taken in priest and nun cutouts as part of their study about vocations. During the month of November, classes each week included a lesson, article, project, game or discussion about vocations and all the ministries that are avail-

able to lay Catholics. Pictures of the diocesan seminarians are on display in the classrooms and each class starts with a prayer for them. The children have learned about the importance of priests, religious and lay people in parishes and we will continue to pray them.



*Father Tom,  
We appreciate everything  
you do for us!  
May God continue to bless  
your ministry among us!*



*Father Looby,  
We thank you for your  
continued Pastoral work in our  
parishes!*

*From,  
St. Francis, St. George's, St. Joseph's,  
St. Patrick's, St. Mary's &  
Our Lady of Fatima Churches*

## DEACON INSTALLED AS CHAPLAIN



Deacon Ron Gingerich, center, of St. Peter's Church, Lowville, was sworn in by the Lewis County Sheriff's Department, and the Fire and Emergency Management Office, to act as chaplain for both organizations. Deacon Gingerich succeeds Father Christopher Carrara, left, who has been re-assigned to St. Lawrence County. Fire and Law-enforcement chaplains play a vital part in ministering to both organization, on scene to participants and to the victims of accidents and disaster. The dialogue opened in this ministry often translates to involvement with the local church. Shown with Father Carrara and Deacon Gingerich is the Rev. Canon Samuel Lundy, Jefferson County Fire and Emergency Management Office chaplain.



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## Father Ted Crosby delivers keynote address for Fall Event of ERCLMA

# Lay ministers are treated to a day about Mary

By Patricia Marie  
Contributing writer

**WEST CHAZY** - The Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers' Association (ERCLMA) hosted its Fall Event Oct. 28. Father Ted Crosby, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, was the keynote speaker.

Father Crosby celebrated an opening Mass, assisted by Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz and newly ordained Deacon James Crowley, diocesan chancellor and delegate for pastor ministers.

In the morning session, Father Crosby focused on the Church's absolute and full support of Mary's role in the Catholic Church. He explained that it's found in Chapter 8 of Lumen Gentium from the Vatican II documents. The chapter is dedicated to Mary and is rich in Marian theology which is scripturally based. He suggested that even non-Catholics who read it would have a better understanding of Catholics devotion to Mary and her importance in the Church.

Father Crosby explained that Mary remains a centerpiece of the Catholic faith. In fact, the Church fathers debated if there should be a separate document about

Mary - or to include her the official Vatican II document. Ultimately, the decision was made to include her because she isn't separate from the Church, she is part of the church, Father Crosby explained.

He called Mary the ultimate lay minister, "sometimes quiet and unnoticed."

The afternoon session was focused on four Marian Dogmas: Mary's Immaculate Conception, Mary's Perpetual Virginity, Mary's Divine Motherhood and her Assumption.

Father Crosby's teaching combined references to Church documents, Church tradition and biblically centered instruction.

The priest also shared stories that help his listeners understand his point with great clarity.

One such story is about St. Bonaventure who said of Mary "...God could have made a better world, but He could not have made a better Mother."

To reinforce his point that Mary and Jesus are inseparable as she constantly leads people to her son, Father Crosby told another story about 12th century, Dominican priest. St. Hyacinth was known for his evangelical work throughout Poland and southern Russia. One day

while he was in Kiev, the city was under siege but he was not aware of it until after he had finished Mass. He had to suddenly flee the church.

He immediately took the Blessed Sacrament with him and as he was leaving, he passed by a statue of Mary. He had a great devotion to

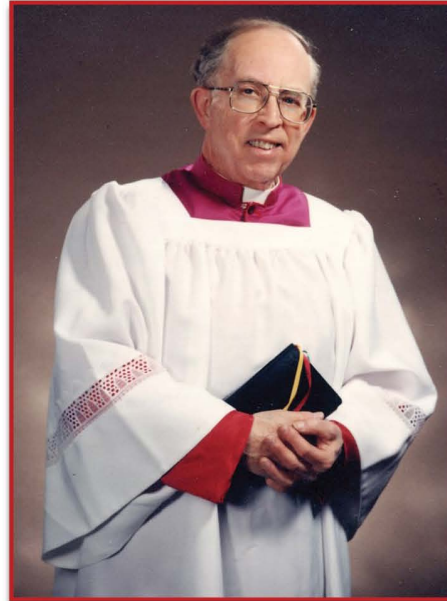
her and he heard her say to him, "My son, would thou leave me behind and alone without my Son"?

As St. Hyacinth explained to her, the statue was too big and heavy for him to carry along with the Blessed Sacrament. However, when he attempted to pick up Mary's

statue, he found that it was as light as a feather so St. Hyacinth was able to save both Mother and Son.

(Editor's note: Father Crosby's talk is available on the diocesan website on YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/B1dVM739L24>.)

Thank you Msgr. Whitmore



The Sisters of the Precious Blood wish to thank Msgr. Whitmore for all that he does.

His homilies are always inspiring and our little chapel is nearly filled each day for Mass. God bless him, his love for and knowledge of music adds so much to each day's celebration.

We are so blessed to have him with us!



The recent Fall Event of the Eastern Region Commissioned Lay Ministers, held in West Chazy, opened with a Mass at St. Joseph Church. Father Ted Crosby, pastor and keynote speaker for the day presided with assistance from Deacon James Crowley, left, diocesan chancellor and delegate for pastor ministers; and Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Plattsburgh.

# Fishers Cub: young men gather to discern vocations

The Fishers Club, a gathering of men who are considering a vocation to the priesthood, will reconvene early in 2018.

The Fishers Club, started in 2015 at St. Mary's in Potsdam, provides opportunities to discern with others who are experiencing the same call. There are currently two groups: the Midlanders in Potsdam/Canton and the Lakesiders in Plattsburgh.

The groups meet on a Sunday afternoon for discern-

ment, evening prayer and dinner; each gathering is facilitated by a priest. The groups are open to high school juniors and older.

Five of the current diocesan seminarians participated in the program.

Carter Pierce of Heuvelton, a second year college seminarian said, "It at first surprised me, the number of men who came to the discernment group, brave enough to consider this unconventional vocation - the

priesthood. I quickly learned I was not alone trying to decipher God's call and this group gave me great advice to determine His will for me."

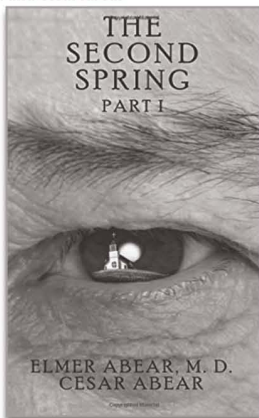
Schedules will be published the *North Country Catholic* and parish bulletins.

Information is also available from Father Douglas Lucia, moderator of the Midlanders at [dlucia@rcdony.org](mailto:dlucia@rcdony.org)/315-348-4466; or Father Howard Venette, Moderator of the Lakesiders, [pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com](mailto:pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com)/315-369-3554.

## THE SECOND SPRING - PART I

By Elmer Abear, M.D. and Cesar Abear

This book is a compilation of extraordinary experiences of the authors and contributors that depict God's unfailing love. The articles, letters, and various testimonies written here are based on true stories, which could be viewed as defining moments and turning points of one's faith. Nowadays, with the adversities and unfathomable events taking place, faith in God could be shaken, leading us all to question God's role in our lives. Even in our mundane lives, we tend to undermine God's hand working for our good, for the greater good. It is the purpose of this book to remind us of God's magnificence and loving kindness. As we look forward to our second spring of life, may we thread this journey with trust and confidence, that the Almighty God has our fate in his hands. Wherever we are in our lives right now, if we only believe in God, even in the simplest of things, we can find His miracles taking place. May this book increase your faith and rekindle the seeds of hope in your heart.



This book can be ordered on Amazon.com by searching for the title and last name. Cost is \$9.95

## Rest in Peace

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

- Dec. 6** – Rev. Edward F. O'Brien, 1936  
**Dec. 8** – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961  
**Dec. 9** – Rev. Edwin H. McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956  
**Dec. 10** – Rev. James Hogan, 1882  
**Dec. 11** – George Montreuil, 1914; Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr. George Henry Brisson, P.A., 1969  
**Dec. 12** – Rev. Victor Dugas, 1843; Msgr. Albert J. Farrell, 1967; Rev. Julian P. O'Brien, 1988; Deacon Floyd J. Barton, 1999



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## Bishop's Schedule

**Dec. 6** - 9:30 a.m., Diocesan Department Heads Meeting at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg

**Dec. 7** - 8:50 a.m., Prayer Service followed by visit to Immaculate Heart Central Primary School in Watertown  
 11a.m., Visit to Immaculate Heart Central Intermediate School

**Dec. 8** - 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. Mary's Church in Canton followed by visit to St. Mary's School

**Dec. 9** - 10:30 a.m., Council of Deacons Meeting in the Brzana Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 10** - 11 a.m., Installation Mass of Rev. Christopher Carrara as Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Morristown, St. Peter's Church, Hammond, and St. Patrick's Church, Rossie at St. John the Evangelist Church  
 2 p.m., Mass at St. Paul's Church in Black River

**Dec. 11** - 1p.m., Welcome the Most Reverend Antoine Chbeir and meeting with "Solidarity in Faith" Committee in Watertown

**Dec. 12** - 11 a.m., Mass followed by a Luncheon with the area clergy and the Most Reverend Antoine Chbeir at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Watertown.

**Dec. 13** - 12 p.m., Mass with the Most Reverend Antoine Chbeir at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a luncheon with the area clergy

## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, PO Box 2446, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: 518-483-3261; or Fr. Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920, ext. 1340

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## Environmental Stewardship

### The Hope of Advent

"We begin the Season of Advent with a simple message from the gospel of Mark: "Stay awake for the Lord!" Jesus urges an attitude of attentiveness and hope that God will come to set right a world gone awry. "Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming or where to expect him. (Mk 13:34.)

For the 11 million undocumented people living the shadows in the United States, and especially for the nearly 800,000 young immigrants who lost their protection from deportation when the Trump administration rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, it may be difficult to feel hopeful this Advent.

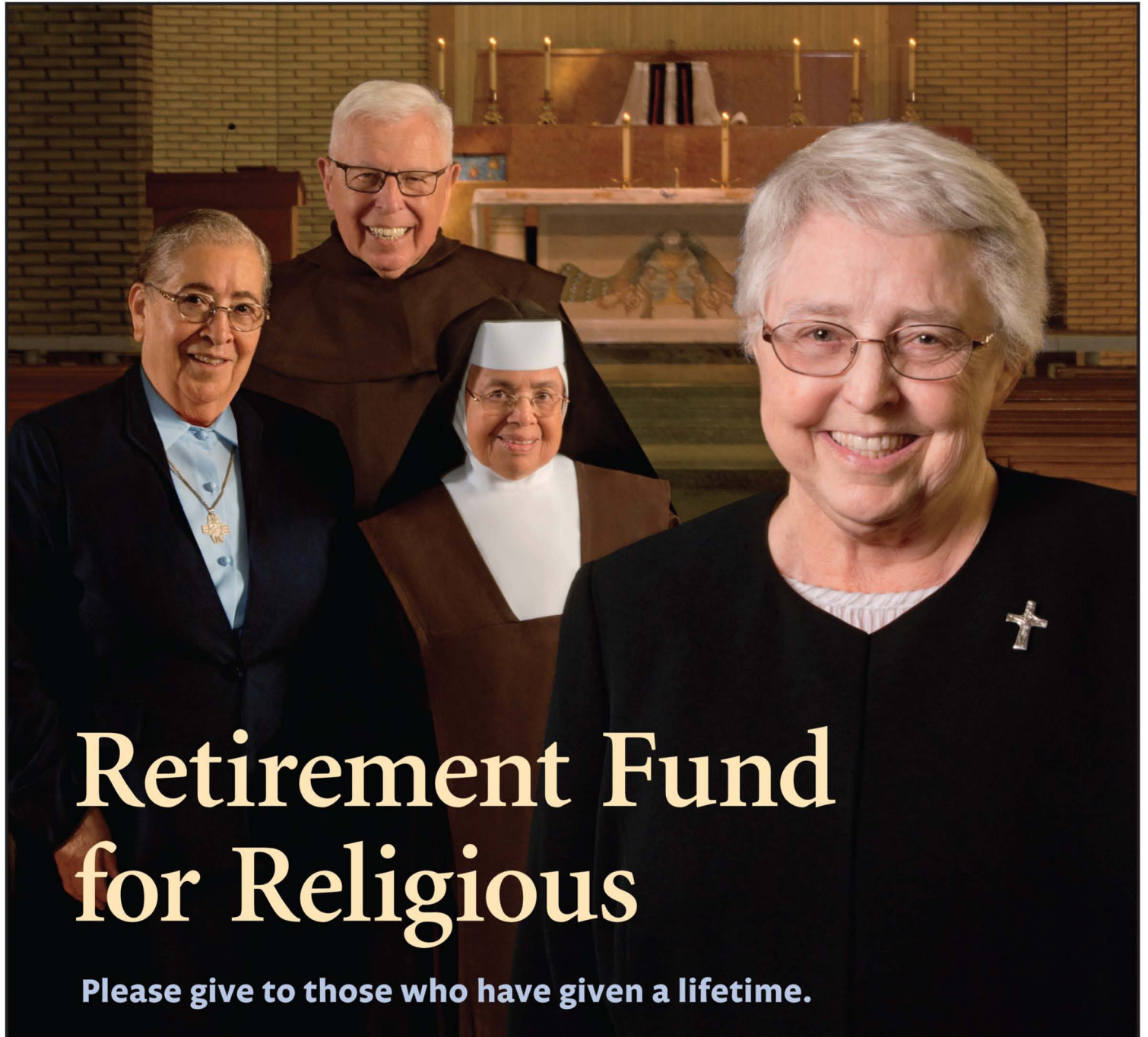
The long night of the watch may resonate more easily for DACA recipient Emmanuel Ramos Barajas. He shared his Latina view point on a Youtube video. "After Trump's decision on DACA, "I was left feeling completely vulnerable. The political system and immigration system are very overwhelming. . . It's literally out of my control. So it's very easy to feel powerless."

Consumed by fear, he called his mother. "She reacted so calmly. That made me angry. But the more she spoke, the more peaceful I felt, because she reminded me: No matter how alone you feel, or how powerless, or how broken, or how tired, there's always your community there to back you up."

The Advent season reminds us that God has never forgotten us. It invites the discouraged to rekindle hope and prepare to see God's love and truth in people and places where we may have never looked before.

Questions for reflection: When have you felt like Emmanuel, vulnerable and powerless? In what ways can we be "community" for each other and offer hope?

*\*Taken from Advent Reflection Guide, First Sunday, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns*



# Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

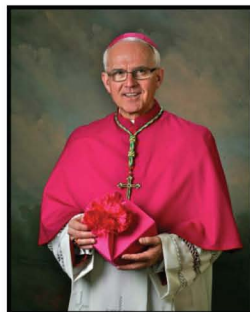
Collection Weekend  
Dec. 9th and 10th

*"Agents of mercy, channels through which God watered the earth" ... (Pope Francis)*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

On December 9 and 10, our parishes will conduct the appeal for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**, an annual collection that benefits 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.



Our senior religious are a treasure. Their dedication and hard work laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and numerous social service organizations across the North Country. We are indebted to the many religious communities of men and women who have served and continue to serve across our Diocese. We are grateful for their ongoing prayer and witness that enriches us in countless ways. I am sure you can recall a sister or brother who made a positive difference in your life.

Most religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. Rising health-care costs and decreased income compound the challenge to meet day-to-day needs such as medications and nursing assistance. The Retirement Fund for Religious offers financial support that helps religious communities provide quality, loving care for older members while ensuring younger religious can continue the good works of their elders.

I understand you are asked to support many worthy causes. I invite you to give what you can. Most importantly, please pray for God's continued blessing on all our women and men religious. Rest assured they are praying for us!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

### Orders Serving in the Diocese

- Daughters of Charity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Franciscan Friars of the Atonement
- Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
- Mid-Atlantic Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
- Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
- Servants of Mary
- Sisters of Charity of St. Louis
- Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod
- Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
- Sisters of St. Joseph

*...through the many religious men and women who came to our Diocese.*



## ***Please give to those who have given and are giving a lifetime***



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the anniversaries of the Consecrated Religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg. Left to Right: Sister Brian Marie Latour, RSM, Sister Cathleen Moore, SSJ, Bishop Terry R. LaValley, Sister Marie Cordata Kelly, SSJ, Sister Mary Paul Blank, SSJ.



- ◆ Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members.
- ◆ There are more than 32,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States.
- ◆ Last year, the average annual cost of care for senior religious was \$42,000 per person, while skilled care averaged more than \$63,000. In 2016, the total cost of care for women and men religious past age 70 exceeded \$1.2 billion.
- ◆ By 2027, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earners by more than three to one.
- ◆ Many elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for little to no pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough money for their care. Please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection at Mass.

**YOU SHARE IN THEIR PRAYER LIFE AND FREE OTHERS FOR MINISTRY...**



Sister Catherine Laboure Goodbout, a Sister of St. Joseph for 67 years, celebrated her 100th birthday Oct. 29.

*Grateful for all the support you have given us throughout the years.*

*Religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg*

**... WHEN YOU GIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN A LIFETIME.**



Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make your tax-deductible check payable to your parish. Write *Retirement Fund for Religious* on the memo line and give it to your parish collection.

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parish's annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious  
 - OR -  
 send your donation directly to:  
**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**  
 P.O. Box 106  
 Canajoharie, NY 13317

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Catholic liturgies avoid decorations, carols in Advent

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- During the weeks before Christmas, Catholic churches stand out for what they are missing. Unlike stores, malls, public buildings and homes that start gearing up for Christmas at least by Thanksgiving, churches appear almost stark save for Advent wreaths and maybe some greenery or white lights. "The chance for us to be a little out of sync or a little countercultural is not a bad thing," said Paulist Father Larry Rice, director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin. By the same token, he is not about to completely avoid listening to Christmas music until Dec. 24 either. The key is to experience that "being out of sync feeling in a way that is helpful and teaches us something about our faith," he told Catholic News Service. Others find with the frenetic pace of the Christmas season it is calming to go into an undecorated church and sing more somber hymns like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." But that shouldn't be the only draw, noted Jesuit Father Bruce Morrill, who is the Edward A. Malloy professor of Catholic studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Fixing immigration system doesn't mean demonization

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski said laws need to be changed to fix the country's broken immigration system, but in the process, immigrants should not be demonized. "Fixing illegal immigration does not require the demonization of the so-called 'illegals,'" said Archbishop Wenski, addressing an audience at a Nov. 28 event in Miami sponsored by the Immigration Partnership and Coalition Fund. "America has always been a land of promise and opportunity for those willing to work hard. We can provide for our national security and secure borders without making America, a nation of immigrants, less a land of promise or opportunity for immigrants." His comments were posted on the Archdiocese of Miami's website. Laws, he said, are "meant to benefit, not to enslave, mankind," and the laws in the country, regarding immigration, are too "antiquated" and "inadequate" to deal with the problem. "Outdated laws, ill adapted to the increasing interdependence of our world and the globalization of labor, are bad laws," the archbishop said.

## Net neutrality protections called critical to faith community

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications has urged the Trump administration to keep current net neutrality rules in place because an open internet, he said, is critical to the nation's faith communities and how they interact with their members. "Without open internet principles which prohibit paid prioritization, we might be forced to pay fees to ensure that our high-bandwidth content receives fair treatment on the internet," said Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont. "Nonprofit communities, both religious and secular, cannot afford to pay to compete with profitable commercialized content," he said in a Nov. 28 statement. The concept of an open internet has long been called "net neutrality," in which internet service providers neither favor nor discriminate against internet users or websites. Neutrality means, for example, providers cannot prioritize one type of content over another, nor can they speed up, slow down or block users access to online content and services. On Nov. 21, the current chairman of the Federal Communications Commission announced his proposal to roll back rules on neutrality put in place in 2015 by the Obama administration.

## VATICAN LETTER

# Rohingya crisis shows danger of identity politics

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

**DHAKA, BANGLADESH (CNS)** -- The themes chosen by the local bishops for Pope Francis' visits to Myanmar and Bangladesh - "Love and peace" and "Harmony and peace" - sounded naive or just too "nicey-nice" to some people.

But when love, peace and harmony are missing, the situation is pretty much hell on earth. The Rohingya refugees from Myanmar now living in teeming camps in Bangladesh could testify to that.

Pope Francis, on the other hand, wanted to testify to the Gospel. And that meant emphasizing love, peace and harmony.

The situation of the Rohingya is an extreme example of what happens when one's ethnic or religious identity incites such strong fear or pride or that it creates iron-clad categories of "us and them."

And when the lines are drawn that clearly, the migration of the minority group is a natural result.

Holy Cross Father Daniel Groody, an associate professor of theology and global affairs at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, told Catholic News Service he had been in Myanmar a year and a half ago studying the situation of the Rohingya, as they identify themselves, or the undocumented Muslims from Rakhine state, as the government refers to them.

"They are the most stateless people I have ever encountered," Father Groody said. In Myanmar, "they are not only undocumented, they are so totally defined as 'other' that they are considered nonpersons."

Some media and human rights groups criticized Pope Francis for accepting the advice of local Catholic leaders and not referring to the Rohingya by name while in Myanmar.

The wisdom of that decision will probably be debated for some time.

"But I think his very presence says everything," Father Groody said.

Pope Francis has not publicly berated any government official of any country during a visit. He treats them with respect, listens and - drawing on the values they profess - he tries to show them what the next step toward the common good should be.

"It requires real care," Father Groody said. "You wouldn't want to see him do this gangbuster prophecy thing and ride into the sunset, thinking he'd done the heroic thing. I think he's not just trying to be heroic; he's

trying to be a bridge-builder."

"There's real heroism and courage in just being able to build bridges," the priest said. "In the long run, that may be more effective, and in the end, that's what matters."

Indian Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, a member of the pope's international Council of Cardinals, was in both Myanmar and Bangladesh for Pope Francis' visit.

In his own country, the cardinal has seen how the identity question and ethnicity and religious belonging can become points of social tension. But it wasn't always that way, he told CNS.

Growing up, he said, the neighbors in his apartment building in Mumbai were Hindu, Muslim and Christian. "We were very good friends. We never saw a different religion or culture as the basis for any division."

"Now, all of a sudden, I must say that it has changed, and I blame politicians for this," he said. "Politicians used and are still using religion to get votes."

And in neighborhoods where people just accepted that they each had their own faith and culture, the cardinal said, now people are starting to think, "Oh, he is different from me."

Playing up differences has had deadly results in Myanmar and India and in many other places around the world. And the fear caused by those acts of violence and terrorism have fed isolationism and an exaggerated "us-first" attitude.

In response, Cardinal Gracias said, "the whole Christian Gospel value of love seems a cliché - but it is a commitment, love is a decision to imitate Jesus' and rescue those in danger and help those in need, including migrants and refugees."

Obviously, he said, reasonable measures must be taken to ensure people allowed into a country are not coming to do harm.

"There's a real point there, but on the other hand, when you see the tremendous amount of suffering people have undergone, when they are fleeing persecution, economic injustice and violence and they are looking for a better life and to contribute to society, you have to act," he said.

Or, as Father Groody said, "A sovereign state's right to protect its borders is a recognized right," including in Catholic social teaching, "but it is never seen as an absolute right and never as reason for violating human rights."

"Sovereign rights must be evaluated in view of human rights and the universal destination of goods, which means that every human being should have at least the minimum necessary for a dignified life," Father Groody said.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

## Advent: a time to rouse us all to our roots

Advent is a time of a time of "stirring up," of rousing all of us to our roots, partly in the spirit of repentance, and even more in a rousing in joy to a world-shaking event.

God is coming to earth in human form. He will transform and renew us.

Of course, it happened a few thousand years ago, but it happens again through the power of the Holy Spirit this year too!



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

We must be really alert and listening so as not to miss our chance for the gifts it brings.

In the first reading, God is pictured on His throne, surrounded by the angels. He sends his prophet, Isaiah, with the news: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that... her guilt is expiated"

In effect, God says that

they have suffered enough. "Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low..."

Then he tells his messengers to up a high mountain and shout: "Here is your God... Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms, he gathers the lambs..."

St. Peter, in the second reading, is more urgent: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar."

He echoes John the Baptist in his plea for all people to repent and be cleansed of

## DEC. 10

## Second Sunday of Advent

## READINGS

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

their sins. Why? So that all will benefit from the redemption promised by the Son who is to be born in Bethlehem is the God-man.

Christ is Himself the Gospel of Mark which tells us how important it is for us to hear the voice of John

crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths... One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals..."

There is definitely a note of urgency and excitement in Advent.

How we all need to really listen God's Word in these fast-moving two weeks until Christmas Day!

Spend some special prayer-time every single day as the Holy Spirit works powerfully to bring "Joy to the World."

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## Destroying my freedom in the name of freedom?

In an August 2015 column in The Washington Post, George F. Will argued in favor of physician-assisted suicide, summing up his perspective this way: "There is nobility in ... affirming at the end the distinctive human dignity of autonomous choice."

His conclusion, however, raises several important questions: Shouldn't death-dealing actions directed against ourselves be seen as a deep repudiation of our autonomy, insofar as suicide eliminates our personal freedom once and for all?

If our ability to freely make choices is among the highest of our human faculties, isn't it a radical contradiction to mount an attack on that autonomy through suicidal acts? Isn't there a certain absurdity to marshaling our freedom to obliterate our freedom?

Autonomy is often described as being able to do what we want, being "self-governing" and "self-directing." Authentic freedom, though, doesn't actually mean the ability to do whatever we want; it means the

ability to do what we ought, in accord with who we are.

To grow in freedom and autonomy means acting in such a way that we attend to, and respect the designs written into our nature. Otherwise, autonomy collapses into a caricature of its real meaning, or worse, into raw violence and forcefulness against ourselves or others.

We can consider a simple example: exercising autonomy with respect to our car doesn't mean doing whatever we want with it, like pouring milk in the gas tank, and orange juice in the oil reservoir.

If we intentionally side-swipe other vehicles as we drive along, and strike pedestrians on the sidewalk, these would be acts of violence, not acts of "autonomy" or "free choice."

Authentic freedom with an automobile implies using it in an ordered way to get from A to B, driving safely and legally, and even doing the right maintenance and upkeep on it, maintaining respect for the way the vehicle was designed and intended to be used.

Freedom and autonomy regarding what we eat and drink, to consider another example, doesn't mean we can consume anything at all.

We can legitimately choose between apples and oranges, but not between milk and drain cleaner. If, in the name of autonomy, we were to declare that we're free to do whatever we want with our bodies, and we ingested drain cleaner on purpose to make ourselves ill, we would actually undermine and surrender our personal autonomy.

We would no longer be able to do what we might wish to do, as our body rebelled and constrained us to a stretcher on our way to the emergency room or poison control center.

Looking at a misguided choice of this kind reminds us how our autonomy is never absolute. This kind of choice would also raise doubts in the minds of those who cared about us

regarding our mental and moral sanity.

To deem self-inflicted sickness to be desirable would itself be a sickness, a kind of lie, spoken in the name of a perverted sense of being free to do whatever I want, even to the point of self-harm or self-annihilation.

The decision to intentionally end our own life by an act of suicide (whether alone or with the assistance of others) pivots our uniquely human power to make sound choices into a seditious power directed against our own good.

To self-inflict death in collusion with a physician would constitute a profoundly disordered decision, and a radically corrosive attack on our autonomy. Rather than something dignified, this abuse of freedom is ethically indefensible.

If sane people can recognize that drinking poison to get ourselves sick is wrong,



**Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk  
Ph.D.**

how can we feign that ingesting drugs or using other means to kill ourselves is somehow right and noble?

Abusing our own freedom or autonomy isn't free or autonomous; instead, it enslaves and diminishes us. When medical professionals pivot in their role of healing and curing, and instead become accomplices in terminating the sick and vulnerable, they, too, undermine their own autonomy and corrupt their own professional freedom to genuinely care and "first do no harm."

True autonomy is not limitless or absolute, but is necessarily conditioned by the truth of who we are and the way we function.

Properly exercised, our personal freedom manifests a genuine nobility, and a real dignity. We should never will that our final "autonomous choice" be directed against that noble dignity.

Rather, we must flee the tyranny of false autonomy if our lives are to be authentically marked by human freedom in its full splendor.

## AT THE MOVIES

# WONDER

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

"Wonder" (Lionsgate) is a beautiful film about ugliness.

Its protagonist is August "Auggie" Pullman (Jacob Tremblay), a 10-year-old boy born with facial deformities whose misshapen visage becomes a moral Rorschach test for the people around him.

This gentle, moving drama centers on Auggie's struggle to win acceptance from his peers as he transitions from being educated at home to attending the fifth grade of his local middle school. But it also explores the lives of his supportive parents, Nate (Owen Wilson) and Isabel (Julia Roberts), and his loving older sister, Via (Izabela Vidovic).

Via gives Auggie unstinting affection despite the fact that his emotional

needs have left her feeling overlooked by Mom and Dad.

Though reluctant to subject Auggie - who usually goes out in public wearing an astronaut's helmet that conceals his face from view -- to the potential ordeal of school life, Nate and Isabel know it will be the best thing for him in the long run. They find an ally in Auggie's principal, Mr. Tushman (Mandy Patinkin), a rabbi-like figure who serves as the movie's ethical core.

As for Auggie's fellow students, their attitudes range from the open friendliness displayed by easygoing Summer (Millie Davis) to the cruel hostility embodied by would-be top dog Julian (Bryce Gheisar). Somewhere in the middle is Auggie's on-again, off-again pal, Jack Will (Noah Jupe).

Though fundamentally kind and, eventually, genuinely fond of Auggie, Jack is case study in subtle variability and the negative ef-

fects of peer pressure. When circumstances enable Auggie to overhear some heartless remarks about him that Jack makes simply in order to fit in with the crowd, the effect is devastating.

A later scene in which Julian comes to recognize the full impact of his bullying also carries a wallop.

Subplots involving Via's best friend, Miranda (Danielle Rose Russell), and newfound love interest Justin (Nadji Jeter) reinforce the idea that all of us are potential heroes or villains. Though some of the people in Auggie's world are wholly good - his parents and Justin, for example - no one is presented as irredeemably wicked.

In adapting R.J. Palacio's 2013 best-seller, director and co-writer (with Steven Conrad and Jack Thorne) Stephen Chbosky has created a winning and memorable film about the significance of ordinary life and the lasting impact of



CNS PHOTO/LIONSGATE

Jacob Tremblay and Julia Roberts star in a scene from the movie "Wonder."

everyday choices. Despite a few mature elements, the movie's valuable lessons make it appropriate fare for most teens.

The Catholic News Service

classification is A-II - adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG - parental guidance suggested.

## ALSO PLAYING... COCO



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

In the animated movie "Coco," a young Mexican lad's (voice of Anthony Gonzalez) strives to follow in the footsteps of his hometown's most famous son (voice of Benjamin Bratt) by becoming a world-renowned musician. The film takes a supernatural turn on the Day of the Dead when he is mysteriously transported to the afterlife as depicted in the folklore associated with the pre-Columbian aspects of that celebration. While free of any age-inappropriate content and strong on the importance of family solidarity, co-director Adrian Molina's script, penned with Matthew Aldrich, is stuffed full of notions about the fate of the departed that clash with revealed truth and so are unsuitable for impressionable viewers. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

### GO GREEN!

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



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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.

## CLINTON

## CRAFT SHOW

**Morrisonville** - 6th Annual Craft show to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 9

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

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

**Features:** Works of local vendors selling jewelry, quilts, homemade holiday crafts, wood crafts, candles, Adirondack items, fresh wreaths, and much more. Lunch will be available at Padre's café. Bake sale and homemade chocolates

## 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 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.

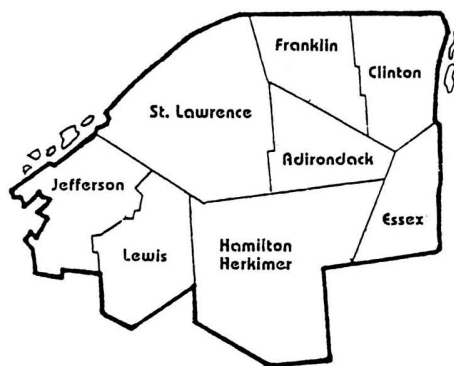
**Price:** suggested donation of \$10.

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

## 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



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese". Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:  
North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

Items must be received in the NCC office by the Thursday before publication.

**Time:** 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

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

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

## SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

**Plattsburgh** - The Sacred Heart Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

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

## FRANKLIN

## ST. NICK BREAKFAST

**Fort Covington** - St. Nick Breakfast to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 9

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**Place:** St. Mary's of the Fort Parish Center

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

**Features:** photo area with St. Nicholas, Raffles, bring or write your letter to St. Nicholas

## 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

## 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

## EUCHARISTIC 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

## LEWIS

## INTERNATIONAL CRECHES

**Houseville** - An exhibit of International Creches-Nativities 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 or 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

## IHC MYSTERY PLAYERS

**Gouverneur** - The Immaculate Heart Central Mystery Players from Watertown, will present an Advent program

**Date:** Dec. 10

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** St. James Church

**Features:** Through the use of special lighting, pantomime, and liturgical readings, this group of high school seniors and adults presents a moving, dramatic and prayerful meditation.

## 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

## EUCHARISTIC 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

## COLLEGE MARCH FOR LIFE

**Washington, D.C.** - A pilgrimage to the annual March for Life 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:** fora registration form, email: Father Timothy Canaan, Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry frtim@broadstreetcatholics.org Space is limited.

Registrations with payment must be submitted by Dec. 15.

## YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

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

**Date:** Jan. 18 to 20

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

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

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



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

# A blessing to the MCA

Who is a missionary?

Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, a native of Massena, was sent to Ecuador through the Peace Corps where she met the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She joined the community and was sent back to serve in Quito, Ecuador as a BVM Sister.

Sister Cindy was missioned for 43 years to be Jesus' hands, feet, eyes, and ears to the Body of Christ families in the "Working Boy's Center". She reminds us that a missionary is a person who has been "sent."

Many of you know Sister Cindy from her Mission appeals in our parishes over the summers when she was on home visits with her parents. She is now missioned back here in the North Country.

Her missioning to the North Country is a big blessing for the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA). She has traveled around the Diocese of Ogdensburg to visit the Catholic Schools reminding students that we are all missionaries.

Eager students asked the question, "What do missionaries do?" To that question Sister Cindy asks the students, "What would Jesus do in any given situation? That is what a missionary needs to do.

The young missionaries in St. Mary's, Canton; Augustinian Academy, Carthage; St. James, Gouverneur; St. Agnes, Lake Placid; Holy Family, Malone; Trinity Catholic, Massena; Seton Academy, Plattsburgh; St. Bernard's, Saranac Lake; St. Mary's, Ticonderoga, and Immaculate Heart Elementary, Watertown are great in answering the questions of how they can be Christ's hands, feet, eyes, and ears. They get it! They help by accepting the assignment of being "missioned". They pray for other kids and make sacrifices raising money. Many are bringing in clothes, food and toys for local need during the upcoming holidays.

Sister Cindy is hopeful that the "missionary captains" in each classroom, with the help of their teachers, will keep the importance of being Christ's Body as missionaries alive and well. Sister Cindy will keep in contact with the schools on their progress of life as missionaries and will revisit the schools.

Thanks to principals, moderators, faculty and staffs for the warm welcome and for being open to meeting the new challenges of helping kids to help kids. The mission office is anxiously awaiting stories and photos from the schools of the kids taking their missionary assignments seriously.

Sister Cindy would like to visit students in parish religious programs. She is happy to come speak in your classroom. Please contact Molly Ryan in the mission office by phone at 315 393 2920 or via email at mryan@rcdony.org to set up a meeting or to be put in touch with Sr. Cindy. God Bless!

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)

## OBITUARIES

**Au Sable Forks** – John R. Dockum, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2017 at the Holy Name Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Terry L. Rigabar, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2017 at St. James Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Colton** – Lawrence C. Rousell Jr., 72; Memorial Mass Nov. 29, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Louisville** – Lisa A. Baxter, 49; Mass of Christian Burial Spring, 2018 at St. Lawrence Church.

**Lowville** – Florence Bickford Burke, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in the Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lyons Falls** – Kenneth Ward McCall, 24; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Cortland.

**Lyon Mountain** – Lillian Pain, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Edwin "Bub" G. Bois-menu, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – William J. Dodd, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Makawao Cemetery, Hawaii.

**Plattsburgh** – John H. McGaulley, Jr., 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2017 at St. John's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Donna L. (McGee) Preno-veau, 71; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2017 at the Brown Funeral Home; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Patricia A. (Gonyo) Wood, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 4, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Divine Mercy Cemetery

**Potsdam** – Irene (Russell) Gilson Forbes, 94; Funeral Services Nov. 29, 2017 at the Garner Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ticonderoga** – Becki Sue Wykes, 53; Funeral Services Dec. 2, 2017 at the Harland Funeral Home.

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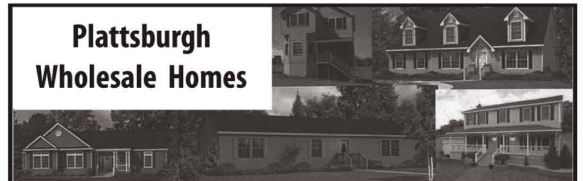
ISAIAH 9:6

## HIBERNIAN GIFT



For Thanksgiving, members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) donated turkey dinners, with all the fixings, to the St. Mary's food pantry in Evans Mills. Father Christopher Looby, pastor of St. Mary's, received the donation from the AOH, noting that many residents in the Evans Mills area have family members in the U.S. military and would welcome the gift. Members who made personal donations to cause were Kevin Shaughnessy, Tim Sweeney, David Ard, Sean Hennessey, Dick Lawlee, Bill Flynn, Jim Fitzpatrick and Tom Shaughnessy. Sean Hennessey, president of Watertown's AOH Division, named in honor of Msgr. James Ruddy, said, "The AOH was founded on the motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Hopefully this donation, by members of the Msgr. James Ruddy Division, lives up to our mission." The AOH is the oldest and largest Irish Catholic fraternal organization in the world with the Msgr. James Ruddy Division located in Watertown. Practicing Catholics of Irish ancestry, over the age of 16, who would like to learn more about the Order should email [nnyirish@gmail.com](mailto:nnyirish@gmail.com). The AOH meets regularly in the Watertown area with a focus on faith and a united Ireland. Pictured, from left, are David Ard, Dick Lawlee, Bill Flynn, Father Looby, Mr. Hennessey and Kevin Shaughnessy, treasurer.

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