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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 39

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 15, 2017

## Prayers for trafficking victims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Marking the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, a former slave, Pope Francis urged Christians to help victims of human trafficking and migrants, especially, he said, the Rohingya people being chased from Myanmar.

For the Catholic Church, St. Bakhita's feast day, Feb. 8, is

a day of prayer for victims of trafficking.

Pope Francis asked government officials around the world to "decisively combat this plague" of human trafficking, paying particular attention to trafficking in children.

"Every effort must be made to eradicate this shameful

and intolerable crime."

Describing St. Bakhita as a "young woman who was enslaved in Africa, exploited, humiliated," Pope Francis said she never gave up hope and, finally, she was able to migrate to Europe, holding up a booklet with a photograph of the Sudanese saint, who died in Italy in 1947, the

pope continued telling her story. In Europe, he said, "she heard the call of the Lord and became a nun," joining the Canossian Daughters of Charity.

"Let us pray to St. Josephine Bakhita for all migrants and refugees who are exploited and suffer so much," the pope said.

## Mission of Hope hoping for help

North Country Mission of Hope, based in Plattsburgh, must vacate its present warehouse facility in Schuyler Falls no later than March 20. As of Feb. 10, the organization had no firm prospects for another one.

Dominican Sister Debbie Blow lives in hope every waking moment that this will change. But the woman who leads the North Country Mission of Hope, which brings that intangible yet priceless commodity to the poor in Nicaragua, is running a bit short of it at present.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

## Collegians celebrate Candlemas

With Feb. 2 Latin Mass at St. Mary's in Canton

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

## GREAT TEACHERS AT A GREAT SCHOOL



SCHOOL PHOTO

Some of the teachers of Seton Academy in Plattsburgh got into the spirit of Catholic School Week and School Choice Week, at the end of January. Shown with the yellow school choice scarves are Judy Cosgro, Kristina O'Neill, Natalie Wylie, Molly Mur-nane, and Dulcie Semeraro.

## KNIGHTS SUPPORT LIFE

With donations to RTL groups



The Bishop Brzana Chapter of the Northern Conference of the New York State Council voted to allocate \$1000 of the proceeds from its recent charity ball and auction to support pro-life activities in the diocese. The chapter split the amount, donating \$500 each to the Champlain Valley Right to Life and Liferight of Watertown. Above, David Clark of Plattsburgh, deacon candidate, Past Northern Conference Chair and Past 4th Degree Master, presents the check to Deacon Jack Lukasiewicz of Plattsburgh, chairman of the Champlain Valley Right to Life.

**YOUNG FAITH:** Special events planned, p. 6; IHC students reach out, p. 12

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## The wisdom and courage of our kids

I'm sure I'm not alone in my delight when pages of the *North Country Catholic* are filled with news about younger members of the church of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

This week, we present stories about college students in prayer and high school kids offering selfless service. We show smiling faces of Catholic school children and their teachers and share information about faith building opportunities for young people in the coming months.

This is certainly a source of great hope for our church.

We can also take hope and pride in the powerful witness in support of life offered by young Catholics in our midst.

Through the years, thousands of North Country teenagers have traveled to Washington for the annual March for Life, returning with photos and reflections that have become a standard feature in the *NCC*.



Mary Lou  
Kilian

Catholic newspapers across the country are similarly blessed.

While Jan. 22 - the anniversary of the Roe vs Wade decision legalizing abortion throughout the country - is the date marked by American pro-lifers, Feb. 7 is a day of such commemoration in Italy.

Pope Francis observed this Day for Life in his remarks after the recitation of the Angelus prayer the previous Sunday. Like nearly every Catholic in

the world, the Holy Father is inspired by the words of St. Teresa of Kolkata: 'Life is beauty, admire it; life is life, fight for it!' both for the baby son who is close to death. Every life is sacred!"

Pope Francis reminded his listeners that a culture that protects life from conception to natural death is the only answer to the idea that some lives are expendable due to inconvenience or population control.

"We are close to and pray together for the children who are in danger with the termination of pregnancy, as well as for people who are at the end of their lives; every life is sacred," he said.

The Day for Life celebration which the pope commemorated is promoted by the Ital-

ian bishops' conference. The theme of the 2017 commemoration was "Women and men for life in the footsteps of St. Teresa of Kolkata."

Citing Mother Teresa's call to fight for life, the pope joined the Italian bishops' appeal for "courageous educational action in favor of human life."

"*Courageous educational action in favor of human life.*"

How ironic that, in the United States, many of the most courageous teachers about the sacredness of all human life, have years of school in front of them.

Our church and our country owe our youthful pro-lifers so much, starting with our gratitude and our prayers for the continued strength of their inspiring voices.

They are certainly wise beyond their years.

## FATHER MUENCH SAYS

## 'Be hidden' to become light for the world

I am certain you will remember a recent Sunday Gospel – the one in which Jesus uses the images of salt and light as important qualities of his disciples.

Jesus challenges us, as his followers and disciples, to bring him to the world in the way that salt flavors food and light brightens the darkness.

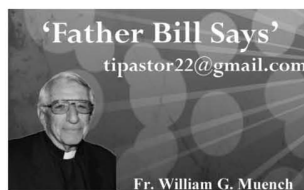
Living our lives as good Christians brings Jesus to our world and helps us make this world a better place.

Pope Francis writes this, as he calls us to be the light of the world: "If we are truly in love with Christ and if we sense how much he loves us, our hearts will 'light up' with joy that speaks to everyone."

I firmly believe that there will be opportunities, each and every day, when we can bring Christ's love and peace to another in need by the way we live out our Christian lives.

When we allow Jesus to be part of our life, we become a light – a light to our world.

I would here like to add



Fr. William G. Muench

something more to this call to be the light to others. Being a light reminded me of the Little Mandate of Madonna House that was composed by Catherine Doherty, their foundress. She wrote this Little Mandate as a guide and a directive to her staff workers.

I think this fits in well here. She writes, "Be hidden. Be a light to your neighbor's feet. God without fear into the depths of men's hearts. I shall be with you."

"Be hidden." I was curious about how this fits into our longing to be a disciple of the Lord. We are to be a light. How does the challenge to "be hidden" fit in?

To understand this better, I went to a book written by Fa-

ther Robert Wild, "Journey to the Heart of Christ." In the book, he investigates the entire message of this Little Mandate. I would like to share with you some of his ideas about this call to be hidden.

Father Wild suggests Hiddenness as Preparedness. Being hidden means being ready. Carrying within us the mystery of Christ, we are poised, ready to be used by God, at any moment. Like an arrow in a quiver.

We will discover the value of a time of being hidden with the Lord as a time of enriching our Christian discipleship. This will produce in us a spirit that transforms our lives. This truly will make us a light to our neighbor's feet.

It is in these hidden times of prayer, the hidden times of growing in faith, the hidden time at Mass, at the Eucharist when we become true disciples, when we become that dedicated follower of Jesus, that person that the Lord depends on to make a difference

through our Christian life.

I believe that the Lord really does need us. Every day our lives are filled with opportunities and challenges when we can bring the light of Christ, the love of our God, to another in need.

We are constantly needed by our Lord as a disciple prepared to reach out in love and concern to help someone experience God's great love for them.

Hiddenness keeps us focused on the Lord as the giver of graces. God protects us in our hiddenness opening our lives to his grace. God protects those he loves.

A Light to the World: living a good life is a strong witness to the presence of God's love in our hearts and God's great concern for all people. Our light will shine when we are truly genuine people, living lives filled with mercy, always ready to show compassion and God's love to others.

Camus wrote this, "The world today needs Christians who remain Christians."



PHOTO COURTESY PLATTSBURGH PRESS-REPUBLICAN.

North Country Mission of Hope volunteers move into the warehouse in Schuyler Falls in March 2015. The organization is searching for a new facility since the Schuyler Falls warehouse must be vacated by March 20.

## NC Mission of Hope needs new warehouse

By Suzanne Moore  
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Dominican Sister Debbie Blow lives hope every waking moment.

But the woman who leads the Plattsburgh-based group that brings that intangible yet priceless commodity to the poor in Nicaragua is running a bit short of it at present.

North Country Mission of Hope must vacate its present warehouse facility no later than March 20, and, as of Feb. 10, had no firm prospects for another one.

"Hope is who we are — I keep reminding myself of that," Sister Debbie said.

And she reminds herself that locals' generosity has proven itself many times over the past 19 years.

Since the mission group's very beginnings, people have stepped up when apprised of need — whether donating clothing, medications, cash gifts for emergency medical needs of Nicaraguans in need.

They come with pickup trucks to move hospital beds, with muscles to load shipping containers, smarts to handle bookkeeping, contents of entire medical and dental offices.

And five times already, property owners in the Plattsburgh area have provided warehouse space that, at each location has been dubbed MOHtown. There, donated equipment and goods are stored and volunteers organize them for shipment.

Considering that history, the Mission of Leadership Team decided it's time to put down roots.

The word is out — Mission of Hope would welcome donation in the Plattsburgh area of a warehouse-type facility of between 4,000- and 6,000-square feet with an overhead door and, ideally, a dock, as 40-foot shipping containers would need to be loaded there.

Or perhaps a mission supporter might donate an acre or two of land where a building could be erected.

But with time running short, the pressing need is temporary space with cold-storage and also a small heated area where volunteers can prepare goods to hit the road.

Meanwhile, Mission of Hope has been readying for departure from the Schuyler Falls facility it has called MOHtown for the past two years.

A planned shipment was moved up, and some 20,000

pounds of equipment and goods were sent on their way.

But much remains, including a number of hospital beds, lots of school supplies and other items donated to the group.

Sister Debbie is well aware that some things come to them that would otherwise be filling up landfills.

"One person's trash is another's lifeline," she said.

Often, donors have lost loved ones and bring walkers, wheelchairs and other such items to the warehouse.

There's healing when those people realize the equipment will help others, Sister Debbie said.

And MOHtown is a North Country resource, she added, after fires, floods and other disasters strike and victims need clothing and other necessities.

To lease or outright purchase a facility is not an option, Sister Debbie said, as the nonprofit can't afford to do so.

The group's money needs to go toward a long-term solution, she said. But Mission of Hope would consider an arrangement that would include a partial donation combined with a financial agreement, she said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

## Lenten Day of Recollection set

NORFOLK - Bishop Terry R. LaValley will be among the speakers at a Lenten Day of Recollection March 4 at the Church of the Visitation Church and parish center.

The program, which starts at 10 a.m., is sponsored by the Cursillo Movement of the Ogdensburg Diocese but is open to all diocesan parishioners.

The theme will be "Piety, Study and Apostolic Action." In addition to the bishop, Father John L. Downs of Raymondville and Father Timothy G. Cnaan, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Plattsburgh will make presentations.

Father Albert J. Hauser, pastor in Port Henry will share a personal witness, as will Brent Davison, a parishioner of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, and Shirley Larue Kemp of St. Augustine's in Peru.

Also participating in the program will be Cursillo leaders Ken Racette of St. John the Baptist in Plattsburgh, lay director; and Father Patrick W. Mundy, the spiritual director for the Cursillo Movement of the diocese.

The program will offer opportunity for prayer and recollection in front of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession after each set of talks.

A children's program may also be available if enough interest is shown.

Lunch will be provided.

Bishop LaValley will preside at the closing liturgy, 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood

Pre-registration is requested to assure seating and food. A donation of \$10/adult is suggested upon arrival to help defray expenses.

Registration should be made by mail, email or phone no later than Feb. 25. Mail :Ken Racette, 679 Cumberland Head Road, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; email, kathyracette@gmail.com or kracette1a@gmail.com; phone, 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

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Potsdam and Canton Newman Clubs sponsor Latin Mass on Feb. 2

# Candlemas on campus

by Colleen Miner  
Staff writer

**CANTON** - The Potsdam and Canton Newman Clubs co-sponsored a *Missa Cantata* (sung Mass) in the Extraordinary Form with the Blessing of the Candles and Procession for Candlemas Feb. 2 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Father Howard J. Venette, pastor in Old Forge, was the main celebrant for the Mass. Father Douglas J. Lucia and Father Todd E. Thibault, pastor and parochial vicar respectively of St. Mary's, assisted.

Before the Mass began, Patrick Reinhart, campus minister at SUNY Potsdam, offered an introduction to the extraordinary form (Latin Rite.) Members of the congregation had received a Latin-English missal and Candlemas insert as they entered the church.

Reinhart explained how participants would receive their candle while kneeling and then process around the church before taking their seats again. He also explained how the Eucharist would be received - on the tongue, while kneeling, with no "amen."

The High Mass featured unique components including bells which rang out frequently during the important parts of the Mass.

Incense was used in abun-



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Father Howard Venette, pastor in Old Forge, was the principal celebrant at *Missa Cantata* (sung Mass) in the Extraordinary Form with the Blessing of the Candles and Procession for Candlemas Feb. 2 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Canton. The Mass was sponsored by the Potsdam and Canton Newman Clubs.

dance, with censuring throughout the liturgy to bless the altar, bless the priests, altar servers and the congregation. Symbolically, incense carries prayers to heaven as

stated in Revelations: "And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel."

The chasuble worn by the



Before the Mass began, Patrick Reinhart, campus minister at SUNY Potsdam, offered an introduction of the extraordinary form (Latin Rite) of the Mass.

priest at a Latin Mass is a rounded, smaller version than normally seen at Mass. The lead altar server lifts the back of the chasuble each time the priest genuflects.

In addition to the language, the most notable difference at a Latin Mass in the extraordinary form is that the priest celebrates Mass facing the altar, not the congregation.

There are two types of Latin Masses - low and high. At a low Mass, there are two candles on the altar, fewer assistants and no singing. At a high Mass, there are six candles, many assistants and the Mass is sung.

Altar servers for the Feb. 2 high Mass included local parishioners and Newman Club students.

Music - a combination of Gregorian Chant and works by Kempter, de Victoria, and Mozart - was provided by the St. Cecilia Choir and Orchestra in conjunction with the St. Mary's Schola and Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.

Candlemas is also known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Feast of the Presentation of our Lord. It falls on Feb. 2, which is traditionally the 40th day of the Christmas season.

While most remove their Christmas decorations by Epiphany, some wait until Candlemas. In the past, parishioners would bring their candles to their local church on Candlemas so they could be blessed and used for the rest of the year.

Reinhart coordinated the liturgy with Lukas Gruber, a student at Crane School of Music.

The evening closed with a pasta supper organized by Canton Campus Ministry and served at St. Mary's School.

## Mission of Hope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Sister Debbie reminds herself of past touch-and-go situations weathered by the mission.

Winter storms have often wreaked havoc with travel to Nicaragua for its February mission, but frantic effort on the phone and last-second adjustments saved the day.

And with each warehouse

move, there has been some little miracle as someone always stepped up to donate a new space.

There was little notice when the group had to leave its Plattsburgh storage building two years ago — frozen pipes meant the building was condemned, so there was absolutely no choice.

That made it essential that

three shipments head out to Nicaragua earlier than expected — at a cost of \$10,000 each.

Once again, a supporter stepped up.

From California, North Country native Sheila Scully gave a \$30,000 gift that got that task accomplished.

And then, just three days before the March 31 dead-

line, Henry Jarvis offered his building in Schuyler falls.

"Talk about the power of prayer," Sister Debbie said then.

And of course many, many prayers have been sent heavenward this time, too.

"I believe we will have an answer to our plea and our prayers," Sister Debbie said.

And she really does. She

has faith that the North Country will come through once again.

But she worries, too.

She laughed, adding, "OK, God. I'm human."

Sister Debbie may be reached at (518) 570-5443 about providing short-term or long-term warehouse facilities for the Mission of Hope.

FACES OF FAITH AT DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

# SCHOOL DAYS



Kindergarten students at Trinity Catholic School in Massena are learning about the water cycle. Here, Liam Compeau and Brooklyn Laguador, watch as Science Coordinator, St. Joseph Sister Judy Adams uses a heat lamp to melt ice, effectively demonstrating how the sun melts ice and snow. Later, students used their hands to melt small cups of snow. The melted water was later brought back to Miss Maynard's Kindergarten class, where students guessed how long it would take for the water to evaporate, and then measured their progress. All of this was done using the correct terminology, such as "energy, evaporation, and precipitation," laying a scientific foundation for years to come.



Students at St. Mary's School in Ticonderoga prepare for Catholic Schools Week by acknowledging what they love about the school. Here , Julianna Holman and Alexis Gibbs, seventh graders at SMS, sit at the top of the stairs with a message.



The pre-K through first grade students at St. Mary's School in Canton learned about sound, which results when something vibrates such as a plucked guitar string. They listened to various sounds and compared their pitches (highness and lowness of the sounds). Dr. Dana Barry and Jim Barry led the demonstration.



Several students from Seton Catholic and Seton Academy met with Plattsburgh mayor Colin Read for the official signing of the Catholic School proclamation. In front, from left, are Sophia Minasi, Oliver Church, Peter Church and Ashleigh Hanshaw; back, Ella Archer, Mayor Read and Maddy Boule

# Registration is open for upcoming events for youth

## National Catholic Youth Conference

The Diocese of Ogdensburg will send teenagers to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana Nov. 16-18.

The registration deadline is March 1.

The conference draws thousands of youth from across the country gather to pray, hear renowned speak-

ers and performers, and participate in a variety of interactive programs.

Interested students must be in grades 9-12 during the '17-'18 academic year. A deposit and registration is due by March 1, and registration is limited.

Details and registration information is available at register at [www.rcdony.org/youthncyc/ncyc](http://www.rcdony.org/youthncyc/ncyc)

## Lenten retreats

Diocesan Youth Council is hosting a peer-led Lenten retreat open to all students in grades 6-12.

The retreat will be offered at two sites: March 25 in Malone and March 26 in Canton.

The event is free, but participants must pre-register and bring a bagged lunch.

Details and registration forms can be found at [www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat](http://www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat).

## Camp Guggenheim

Registration for 2017 season for Camp Guggenheim is now open through [www.rcdony.org/camp](http://www.rcdony.org/camp)

Further information is available from the Office of Youth Ministry at 315-393-2920 or [vlalonde@rcdony.org](mailto:vlalonde@rcdony.org) or visit [camp website: www.rcdony.org/camp/guggy](http://www.rcdony.org/camp/guggy)

## Diocesan Youth Rally

**WATERTOWN** – The 2017 diocesan High School Youth rally will be held May 6 at Immaculate Heart Central School.

This full-day event will feature keynote speaker Paul J. Kim, prayer, interactive workshops and games.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley will preside at the closing Mass.

The cost is \$25 before April 1 and \$30 after

Each group attending needs to have one Virtus-trained and background-checked adult for each eight students.

Youth leaders can register themselves and youth at [www.rcdony.org/youthrally/](http://www.rcdony.org/youthrally/)

Further information is available from Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth director, at [kdonnelly@rcdony.org](mailto:kdonnelly@rcdony.org)

## IMMACULATE HEART CENTRAL SCHOOL

### MYSTERY PLAYERS

#### LENT 2017: "Jesus Turners Falls Again"

Date	Place	Time
March 5	Summit Village	Watertown 2:00 p.m.
March 10	St. James	Gouverneur 7:00 p.m.
March 12	St. Cecilia's	Adams 7:30 p.m.
March 16	St. Bartholomew's	Old Forge 7:30 p.m.
March 17	Our Lady of Peace	Turners Falls, MA 7:30 p.m.
March 18	Christ the King	Albany 7:30 p.m.
March 24	Holy Family	Watertown 7:30 p.m.
March 26	Notre Dame	Ogdensburg 7:30 p.m.
April 1	St. Joseph's	West Chazy 7:30 p.m.
April 8	First United Methodist	Watertown 7:30 p.m.
April 9	St. Peter's	Lowville 7:30 p.m.
April 14	St. Patrick's	Watertown 7:30 p.m.

[www.ihschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players](http://www.ihschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players)



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## A Week for 20 Weeks!

All drawings will be held on "Twenty Week Tuesday" February 21, 2017 to July 4, 2017.

**You are eligible for EVERY draw.** You do not have to be present to win. You will be entered into the drawing immediately upon the receipt of this form and a **\$20 check made payable to Seton Catholic.**

You may enter at anytime during the drawing. Please attach all information below for additional entries.

**Seton Twenty Week Club**  
206 New York Rd. Plattsburgh, NY 12903

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_



## Bishop's Schedule

**Feb. 19-20** – Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustees Meeting in Columbus, Ohio

## Announcement

**Father Adrian Gallagher**, pastor in Mooers and Mooers Forks, has been given additional responsibilities as temporary administrator of the Church of the Holy Angels in Altona and St. Louis of France Church in Sciota.

## Rest in Peace

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

**Feb. 15** – Msgr. James H. Driscoll, 1928

**Feb. 16** – Rev. André Marie Garin, O.M.I., 1895; Rev. Joseph Alexander Fournier, O.M.I., 1904

**Feb. 17** – Rev. Joseph A. Hervieux, 1940; Rev. Francis B. Ruddy, 1976

**Feb. 18** – Rev. Charles Guillot, M.S.C., 1985

**Feb. 19** – Rev. William R. Bourbeau, 1954

**Feb. 20** – Rev. Lucian Leger, O.M.I., 1874; Rev. Daniel O'Riordan, O.M.I., 1897

**Feb. 21** – Rev. Charles A. Paquette O.M.I., 1925; Rev. John J. Kelly, 1944

## Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Ogdensburg has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required in order to participate. Participants may pre-register at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information is available from Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions: **Feb. 15** – 5:30 p.m., Seton Academy, Plattsburgh

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter!  
[www.twitter.com/Pontifex](http://www.twitter.com/Pontifex)



## Environmental Stewardship

### Are we listening?

Nature is speaking to us BUT are we listening?

Are we just writing it off as tragic, 'but nothing I can do about it' or when someone does suggest that we are part of the problem, it is simply dismissed as a political ploy?

Pope Francis as a scientist has done his homework and agreed with the 97% of scientists who say our human activity is having a traumatic effect on our common home.

Never in human history have we humans had such power to radically transform the face of the earth... will it be in light of profit and gain? Or will it be guided by our mission given to us in Genesis... to be caretakers of this magnificent home?

We have been called to have DOMINION over all of Creation NOT DOMINATION for it has been misunderstood as the right to plunder the resources of the planet solely for profit and gain, with little or no consideration of the effect on the human family and on the natural world.

We have been given a sacred trust as humans to make decisions that will create a sustainable environment for all living species on this planet.

This week be conscious of the sacred trust you have been given and be conscious of some of your decisions that reflect this trust. We can't do everything, but we can do one thing.

(Reflections gleaned from Laudato Si, Creation at the Crossroads by Fr. Edward Ciuba, and Care for our Common Home: Group Reading Guide by Bill Huebsch)

## To Report Abuse

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

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Urged to pass conscience protections for health care providers

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore have urged the House and Senate to pass the Conscience Protection Act of 2017. They called it "essential legislation protecting the fundamental rights of health care providers...to ensure that those providing much-needed health care and health coverage can continue to do so without being forced by government to help destroy innocent unborn children." The two prelates made the plea in a joint letter dated Feb. 8 and released Feb. 10 by the USCCB. Cardinal Dolan is chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Archbishop Lori is chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. In the Senate, the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 is known as S. 301, and in the other chamber it is H.R. 644. The companion bills would provide legal protection to doctors, nurses, hospitals and all health care providers who choose not to provide abortions as part of their health care practice.

## Bishop welcomes federal appeals court ruling on refugee ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration welcomed a federal appeals court ruling that upheld a temporary restraining order against President Donald Trump's travel ban on refugees from seven predominantly Muslim countries that also temporarily suspended the country's refugee resettlement program. "We respect the rule of law and the American judicial process. We remain steadfast in our commitment to resettling refugees and those fleeing persecution," Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, said in a statement Feb. 10. "At this time we remain particularly dedicated to ensuring that affected refugee and immigrant families are not separated and that they continue to be welcomed in our country," the statement said. The bishop pledged that church agencies would continue to welcome people "as it is a vital part of our Catholic faith and an enduring element of our American values and traditions." A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously rejected the government's argument to lift the freeze on the president's order and maintained that the court's had jurisdiction in the case as a check on executive power.

## Says new gender policy won't affect Catholic Scouting units

IRVING, Texas (CNS) -- The Boy Scouts of America's new policy to accept members based on their gender identity will have no impact on Scouting units sponsored by the Catholic Church, said the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. The Boy Scouts announced Jan. 30 that effective immediately, the Texas-based organization will determine membership eligibility for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts on a youth's gender identity as indicated on the membership application. Previously, the policy based eligibility on the gender indicated on a youth's birth certificate. The change in policy "has no impact on the operation and program delivery of Scouting program(s) in Catholic-chartered units," said a Feb. 4 statement issued by the Catholic Scouting committee. "Scouting serves the Catholic Church through the charter concept, which is similar to a franchise," it said. "The units chartered to a Catholic institution are owned by that organization. The BSA has stipulated that religious partners will continue to have the right to make decisions for their units based on their religious beliefs." The statement was signed by George S. Sparks, national chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, and Father Kevin M. Smith, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, who is national chaplain of Catholic Scouting.

# Church needs religious orders' courage, witness, pope tells superiors

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- Catholic religious orders must have the courage to start new forms of outreach, knowing that the only people who "never make mistakes are those who never do anything," Pope Francis said.

"We will get things wrong sometimes, yes, but there is always the mercy of God on our side," Pope Francis told 140 superiors general of men's religious orders.

A transcript of questions and answers from the pope's three-hour meeting with members of the Union of Superiors General last November was published Feb. 9 by the Jesuit-run journal, *La Civiltà Cattolica*.

Running through Pope Francis' responses to the questions on youth ministry, religious life, his personal approach to the papacy and evangelization was an emphasis on prayer, courage and, especially, discernment.

A lack of expertise in discernment, he said, "is one of the greatest problems that we have in priestly formation," which focuses too much on "black and white" answers rather than on "the gray areas of life."

"You look for the will of God following the true doctrine of the Gospel and not in the fixations of an abstract doctrine," the pope told the superiors.

By choosing "Young people, faith and vocational discernment" as the theme for the Synod of Bishops in 2018, the pope said he hopes to draw universal attention to the importance of helping youth discover God's call.

The decreasing number of priests and religious in the West, he said, is worrying, but some of the newer religious communities that are

attracting many youths are also a concern.

Some small, new religious orders "are really good and do things seriously," usually with close support and guidance from a bishop, he said. "But there are others that are born not from a charisma of the Holy Spirit, but human charisma, from charismatic people who attract others by their alluring human skills.

"Some are, I could say, 'restorationists': they seem to provide safety and instead they offer only rigidity," the pope continued. "When I am told that there is a congregation that attracts many vocations, I confess, I am worried. The Spirit does not work with the logic of human success."

In the end, the life of the community members will prove whether or not it is the Lord at work, he said. Unfortunately, some already have ended with scandal, he said, although he did not name particular orders.

One of the tasks of religious orders in the church, he said, is to provide the charismatic and prophetic impulse that can keep the church, a diocese or parish from being totally absorbed with worldly concerns and keep its ministers from thinking they are "little princes."

"You don't need to become a cardinal to think of yourself as a prince," he said.

Clericalism is a danger to the church, as is the gulf sometimes existing between religious orders in a diocese and the local bishop and clergy, he said. "From a position of isolation, you cannot help one another." The task of the church is not to shore up its institutions, but to set out to help those who are materially or spiritually poor, the pope said.

One of the superiors present asked Pope Francis why he chose a series of Marian

themes for the local celebrations of World Youth Day in 2017 and 2018, as well as for the international gathering in Panama in 2019.

"I did not choose them," he said; the bishops of Latin America did, "and it seemed a very good thing."

The focus, the pope said, will be on the Mary of Catholic faith, "not the post-mistress who sends out a letter every day saying, 'My child, do this and then the next day do that.'"

The true Mary "is the one who generates Jesus in our hearts," he said. "The trend of the Madonna superstar, who puts herself at the center as a protagonist, is not Catholic."

When he opened the session to questions, Pope Francis told the superiors they even could offer criticisms because "misunderstandings and tensions are part of life. And when they are criticisms that make us grow, I accept them, I respond."

Asked later about how he maintains his serenity, the pope assured the superiors, "I do not take tranquilizers." He said the Italians may be on the right track when they suggest that to be at peace, "you need a healthy dose" of "couldn't care less."

But, Pope Francis said, he was "more anxious," tense and worried as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina. From the moment he was elected pope in March 2013, he said, he has had an experience of peace "and it has not left me."

Six hours of sleep every night and prayer are the daily routine, the pope said. "The breviary is very dear to me and I never leave it. Mass every day. The rosary. When I pray, I always take the Bible. And peace grows. I do not know if this is the secret. My peace is a gift from the Lord. Let it not be taken away!"

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Striving for excellence with faith and grace

Two weeks ago, millions of people watched the Super Bowl. We love to watch the clashing of teams straining for possession of that pigskin.

We know those tackles can not only hurt a lot, but that they can do bodily injury, sometimes permanent.

Those who compete for excellence pay a price. Young people who compete, and those who just watch, learn so much about discipline that is connected with perfection.

In the first reading today, God reveals to Moses and to the whole people of Israel how holy He is.



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

As our Creator, He called the people to very high standards, unlike those of other nations. At every step, God persuades His people to "Go for the Gold!"

In the Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that He has not come to destroy the Law that His Father laid down centuries before, but that He came on earth to intensify go deeper into the heart of its

meaning. The new law and covenant will go even further.

As we resume hearing the Sermon on the Mount this week Jesus goes into detail. "An eye for an eye, and a

tooth for a tooth" kept the Jews to exact justice in righting a wrong.

If a neighbor knocked out one of your teeth, you could only knock out one of his teeth in retribution!

If a Roman soldier commanded you to carry his baggage for a mile, which was allowed by law, then Jesus' followers were to go with the soldier for two miles. We have all admired people who "go the extra mile" for someone.

Jesus' listeners must have scoffed at Jesus when He told them not only to love your neighbor, but to love your enemies as well!

While that may have seemed absurd foolishness, we all know that keeping our distance, and viewing

FEB. 19

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

our enemy as somehow sub-human, doesn't get us anywhere.

However, treating him with compassion can often bring about a reconciliation, and even turn our enemy into a friend. Abraham Lincoln used that tactic in forming his new government.

How can we ever possibly get the grace and strength to follow all this advice?

Today's second reading

from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us how.

First, he tells us that we are stronger and holier than we think. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Incredible! Talk about bolstering our confidence in ourselves to become perfect!

Then St. Paul tells us not be worried if society thinks us fools for acting on Jesus' advice. "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God..."

When we act according to God's wisdom, then we belong to Christ, and Christ's wisdom will guide our course all the way. We will be truly blessed, and land ourselves right into God's heaven.

## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

## How are new bioethical questions resolved?

A number of years ago, I participated in a debate at Harvard on embryonic stem cell research which also included a Jewish rabbi, an Episcopalian clergyman, and a Muslim imam.

The debate went smoothly and cordially, although I was the only voice in the group who defended the human rights of individuals who happen still to be embryos.

After the debate, the Episcopalian clergyman pulled me aside and told me how he thought Catholics should consider themselves fortunate to have such an authoritative reference point in the Church and the Vatican, particularly when it comes to resolving new bioethical questions.

With surprising candor, he shared how he had sat on various committees with others from his own faith tradition where they had tried to sort through the ethics of embryonic stem cells, and he lamented, "we just ended up discussing

feelings and opinions, without any good way to arrive at conclusions."

Many people, indeed, appreciate that the Catholic Church holds firm and well-defined positions on moral questions, even if they may remain unsure about how or why the Church actually arrives at those positions, especially when it comes to unpacking new scientific developments like embryonic stem cell research.

So how does the Church arrive at its positions on bioethics?

For one thing, it takes its time, and doesn't jump to conclusions even in the face of media pressure for quick sound bites and rapid-fire news stories.

I once had a discussion with a journalist for a major newspaper about the ethics of human-animal chimeras. He mentioned that a leading researcher working on chimeras had met the pope and afterwards implied that the pope had given his

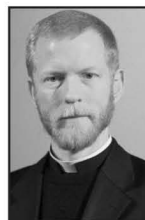
blessing to the project.

I reminded him that it's quite common for the pope to offer general encouragement and blessings to those he meets, though that wouldn't be the same thing as sanctioning new and morally controversial techniques in the biosciences.

As a rule, the Catholic Church does not address important bioethical questions that way, through chance encounters with the pope as you are strolling through the hallways of the Vatican.

Instead, the Church may reflect for months, years, or even decades, to identify important considerations and guiding principles when new moral dilemmas arise in the biosciences. Even with this slow and deliberative process, I think it's fair to say that the Church gen-

erally stays ahead of the curve. By the time of the successful cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1996, for example, the Catholic Church had already been reflecting on the question of human cloning for many years, and concluded, nine years prior to Dolly, that human cloning would be morally unacceptable in an important document called *Donum Vitae* (On the Gift of Life).



Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk Ph.D.

This same document also identified key moral problems with doing human embryonic stem cell research eleven years before it was even possible to destructively obtain those cells from human embryos.

When the first test tube baby was born in 1978, the serious moral concerns raised by the procedure had already been spelled out twenty-two years earlier, by

Pope Pius XII, in his 1956 Allocution to the Second World Congress on Fertility and Human Sterility wherein he concluded: "As regards experiments of human artificial fecundation 'in vitro,' let it be sufficient to observe that they must be rejected as immoral and absolutely unlawful."

Whenever definitive conclusions about medical ethics are reached or otherwise clarified by the Church, they are normally promulgated through official Church documents, like papal encyclicals and addresses, or, with the approval of the pope, documents and commentaries from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF — the Vatican office responsible for preserving and interpreting Catholic doctrine), or other congregations, councils or dicasteries of the Church.

Even today, certain bioethical controversies remain

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## AT THE MOVIES

# THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

In 2014's "The Lego Movie," Will Arnett voiced an amusingly self-absorbed version of Gotham City's Dark Knight. With the entertaining spinoff "The Lego Batman Movie" (Warner Bros.), Arnett's character, together with his inflated ego, takes center stage.

Despite occupying the spotlight, however, this time out, the Caped Crusader will have to learn some important lessons in humility, teamwork and emotional openness if he's going to meet his latest challenge. That's because his longtime adversary, the Joker (voice of Zach Galifianakis), is leading an army of bad guys in a bid to prove that he is Batman's most important enemy.

Just as the isolated, relationship-shunning hero insists on working alone to fight crime, so he slaps the Joker down when the Clown Prince of Crime puts himself forward as the Cowled One's indispensable foil.

"You're nothing to me," Batman growls in a scene that cleverly inverts a familiar trope, substituting the Joker's longing to be told he's hated for the more usual goal of exacting a declaration of love.

Soon the spurned villain is scheming to destroy Gotham and thus bring his rivalry with Batman to a decisive close.

To vanquish him, Batman will have to accept the help of the trio of supporters who have rallied to his side: would-be adoptive son Dick Grayson, aka Robin (voice of Michael Cera), love interest Barbara Gordon, aka Batgirl (voiced by Rosario Dawson), and father figure (as well as butler) Alfred Pennyworth (voice of Ralph Fiennes).

Still burdened by the loss of his parents - their murder is only hinted at by a childhood photo taken at a moment aficionados of chiropteran lore will recognize as laden with doom - Bruce Wayne, and therefore his alter ego, finds it difficult to make himself vulnerable again.

It will take all of Robin's ir-

repressible good spirits and Alfred's patriarchal concern, as well as Barbara's head-turning effect on Batman, to break through his barriers.

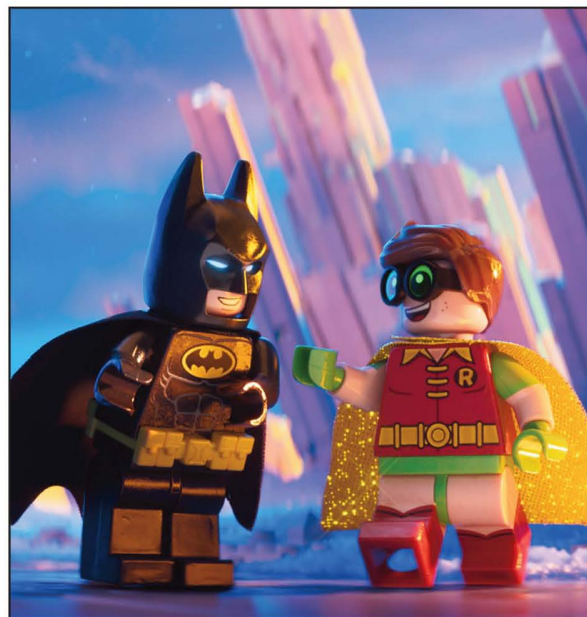
Fast-paced fun is the order of the day in director Chris McKay's animated treat for viewers of almost every age. Still, scenes of danger and a bit of potty humor as well as a few joking turns of phrase designed for grownups suggest that small fry would best be left at home.

The wide remaining audience will find the screen chockablock with good guys, black hats and monsters -- and the dialogue enlivened by sly wit.

The film contains perilous situations, including explosions, and a couple of instances each of vaguely crass language, scatological humor and mature word-play.

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.



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Animated characters Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, and Robin, voiced by Michael Cera, appear in the movie "The Lego Batman Movie."

## New questions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

under active discussion within the Church, such as the question of whether it would be allowable to "adopt" abandoned frozen embryos by implanting and gestating them in volunteer mothers. While a 2007 CDF document expressed some reservations and concerns about the proposal, debate continues inside and outside the Vatican.

New medical discoveries and technological developments challenge us to careful moral reflection and discernment. These scientific developments can either be an opportunity for genuine human advance-

ment or can lead to activities and policies that undermine human dignity.

The U.S. Bishops in a recent document summed it up this way: "In consultation with medical professionals, church leaders review these developments, judge them according to the principles of right reason and the ultimate standard of revealed truth, and offer authoritative teaching and guidance about the moral and pastoral responsibilities entailed by the Christian faith. While the Church cannot furnish a ready answer to every moral dilemma, there are many questions about which she provides norma-

tive guidance and direction."

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*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org)*

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• View diocesan events and much more  
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**CLINTON**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**West Chazy** – St. Joseph's Men's Club will host a pancake breakfast.

**Date:** Feb. 19  
**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to Noon  
**Place:** Parish Center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8.50; Children 6-10, \$3; under 5, Free

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Treadwell Mills** – St. Alexander and St. Joseph to hold pancake breakfasts.

**Dates:** March 5, April 2 and 23  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to Noon  
**Place:** St. Joseph's Hall  
**Cost:** Adults, \$7; kids, \$3; under 5, Free

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

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

**Time:** 2 p.m.  
**Place:** St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

**MOVIE FUNDRAISER**

**Plattsburgh** – Support Seton Catholic's Model UN trip to Boston and NCCS by coming to Lego Batman Movie.

**Date:** Feb. 16  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Cumberland 12 Movie Theatre  
**Cost:** \$10 cash or check per person, includes popcorn. Pre-Sale tickets available at Seton Catholic or \$10 (cash only) at the door.  
**Contact:** Mr. Everleth 561-4031 ext. 2004 with questions.

**LENTEN ADORATION**

**Plattsburgh** – St. Peter's Church will offer Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament during Lent on Mondays and Tuesdays.

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
**Features:** Concludes on Tuesday of Holy Week with Benediction at 7 p.m.

**ALUMNI WEEKEND**

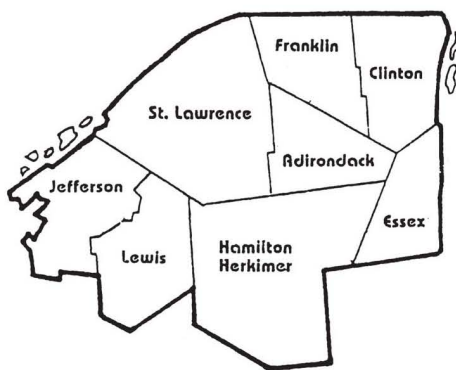
**Plattsburgh** – Graduates from St. John's Academy, Mount Assumption Institute and Seton Catholic Central are planning a joint reunion.

**Date:** May 26-28  
**Contact:** Susan FitzPatrick Pellerin, spellerin@thesetonschools.org with contact information

**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.



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@northcountycatholic.org.

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

**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 & Fellowship  
**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

**Brushton** – St. Mary's Church events committee to have a breakfast buffet.  
**Date:** Feb. 19  
**Time:** 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Parish center  
**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Seniors, \$7; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free; Immediate Family of 5 or more, \$25 (Mother, Father, and school age children)  
**Contact:** Take-outs available by calling 518-529-6580

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

**Malone** – Five first Saturdays in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary are set  
**Schedule:** 7:40 a.m., Rosary; 8 a.m., Mass  
**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**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

**HAMILTON-HERKIMER**

**DAYS OF DISCERNMENT**

**Old Forge** – Discerning men are invited to consider the call to the priesthood.  
**Dates:** Feb 19; March 5&26; April 9 and

23; May 7 & 21  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Bartholomew's Rectory  
**Features:** Reflection, Vespers & dinner. Juniors in high school and older.  
**Contact:** Fr. Howard Venette, pastor.stbarts@roadrunner.com/ 315-369-3554;

**JEFFERSON**

**BEREAVEMENT MEETING**

**Watertown** – An Ecumenical Bereavement Meeting to be held.  
**Date:** Feb. 27  
**Time:** 7p.m.  
**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse  
**Program:** Joyce Combs, Bereavement Coordinator of Hospice of Jefferson County, on challenges of a new year

**PETER PAN at IHC**

**Watertown** – IHC to present their High School Musical, Peter Pan.  
**Date:** March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 4 at 1 p.m.  
**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Students, Seniors, and Military, \$8; under 5, \$6  
**Features:** Our students will be soaring to new heights with the help of world-class flying and production experts, Flying With Foy. <http://flybyfoy.com> Peter Pan is presented in through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

**Watertown** – Holy Hour for Vocations to be held every Tuesday.  
**Time:** 3 p.m. to 6  
**Place:** St. Anthony's Church

**PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

**Watertown** – The St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will adore the Blessed Sacrament.  
**Date:** Feb. 25  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Anthony's Church  
**Features:** The purpose is to pray for vocations to priesthood, religious life.

**LIFERIGHT MEETING**

**Watertown** – Liferight of Watertown meets the first Wednesday of the Month.  
**Time:** 1 p.m.  
**Place:** 870 Arsenal Street.  
**Features:** The office has a variety of pro-life videos, books and educational materials which may be borrowed.  
**Contact:** Phone 315-788-4359

**CURSILLO MEETINGS**

**Carthage** – The Jefferson/Lewis Cursillo holds its monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.  
**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8  
**Place:** Community Room of St. James  
**Features:** All Cursillistas are encouraged to attend. We also welcome those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.  
**Contact:** Anne Seegebarth  
 ams2962@gmail.com, 315-783-4596

**WEEKLY EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Sackets Harbor** – St. Andrew's has scheduled weekly exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.  
**Time:** 5 p.m. to 6

**HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

**Watertown** – Holy Hour for vocations  
**Date:** Mon.-Fri.  
**Time:** 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Holy Family Church

**LEWIS**

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Lowville** – To thank God for & to honor the Blessed Sacrament, all are invited to one hour of exposition, silent adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, benediction.  
**Date:** Feb. 16  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5  
**Place:** St. Peter's Church

**ST. LAWRENCE**

**BISHOP BARRON STUDY PROGRAM**

**Massena** – Begin the journey from sin to sanctity with Bishop Barron's 9 week study program "Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues".  
**Date:** Tuesdays through April 4  
**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4 and also offered at 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall  
**Cost:** No Charge (though a free will offering will be accepted)  
**Contact:** Visit website at [www.massenacatholics.com](http://www.massenacatholics.com) or call the parish Rectory at 315-769-2469.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's parish offers a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction.  
**Time:** Thursdays, immediately following the 8:15 a.m. Mass until 10 a.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's

**LENTEN ADORATION**

**Massena** – Lenten Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to be held.  
**Date:** Beginning March 3 every Mon. and Fri during Lent  
**Time:** 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Church family room

**DAYS OF DISCERNMENT**

**Potsdam** – Discerning men are invited to come together & consider the call the Roman Catholic Priesthood.  
**Dates:** Feb 12; Mar 5;  
**Time:** 3 p.m.  
**Place:** St. Mary's Rectory  
**Features:** Reflection and vespers. No reservation necessary. Open to men who are Juniors in high school and older.  
**Contact:** Your Catholic Campus Minister or Father Stephen Rocker, pastorsmsp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twcny.rr.com

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

**Massena** – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction and Adoration every Friday  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 10  
**Place:** St. Mary's Family Room

**DIOCESAN EVENTS**

**DEACON FORMATION INFORMATION**

The Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Ogdensburg is offering Informational Sessions for Pastors and all interested parties.  
**Schedule:** Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk  
 March 8, 6:30 p.m., Sister of St. Joseph Motherhouse, Watertown  
 March 15, 6:30p.m. St. Peter's Church (Emmaus Room), Plattsburgh  
**Contact:** Deacon John White at [jwhite@rcdony.org](mailto:jwhite@rcdony.org).

**DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

**Norfolk** – The Cursillo Movement of the Ogdensburg Diocese is sponsoring a Day of Recollection open to all diocesan parishioners. See page 3 for info



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director

622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669

(315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296

mbrett@rcdony.org

# On the spirit of sacrifice

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

The Franciscan Mission Association out of Ellicott City, Maryland send their prayers and gratitude. In the summer of 2016, once again they participated in our summer Mission Coop Program. I recently heard from their Mission Director, Joseph Hamilton, with his best wishes for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

### Message of thanks from the Franciscan Mission Association

"I wish to take this opportunity to express sincerest thanks and appreciation to you and the people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for their contribution made in support of our mission work.

These contributions sent to us will help those affected by leprosy in Ghana, those affected by HIV/AIDS in India, those evangelizing through Catholic publications in the former Soviet Bloc countries and those young men who seek formation in Franciscan life in Paraguay and Zambia. In all corners of the globe, the Conventual Franciscans are proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The needs are so great but the friars' spirit of sacrifice, their hard work and dedication are truly making a positive difference in the lives of those they serve. Support such as yours is so vital to their ministry and will truly make good things happen.

Once again, on behalf of our missionaries and our Province's mission effort, thank you and the good people of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for your generosity. May the good Lord reward your kindness many times over."

I am happy to once again share another concrete example of how our efforts in the parishes here each summer translate to tangible examples of love at work around the globe. As the Franciscans say, the Spirit of Sacrifice is hard at work and making a difference.

God bless.

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

**Altona** – Theresa J. (Renadette) Vassar, 89; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2017 at St. Louis de France Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Bombay** – Edward L. "Toby" Brown, 66; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Burke** – Ralph Edward Spinner, 61; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2017 at St. George's Church; burial in Burke Center Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Quentin J. Gebo, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2017 at St. James Church.

**Chateaugay** – Francis Eleanor (Blow) Whalen, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Brainardsville Cemetery.

**Ellenburg** – Lelia M. (Berthiaume) Cayea, 86; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2017 at St. Edmund's Church.

**Lowville** – Lori L. (Ward) Cobb, 44; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2017 at Isenecker Funeral Home.

**Lyons Falls** – Peter A. Jarecki, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Mark J. Mittiga, 52; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2017 at the Phillips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Geradline L. (Stone) DeFayette, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church.

**Ogdensburg** – Peter Heinz Baltradis, 59; Funeral Feb. 8, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Colonel John H. Howard, 84; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park.

**Plattsburgh** – Hazel E. Titus LaBarre, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Edmund's Cemetery, Ellenburg.

**Port Henry** – Charles E. Parah, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 6, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Conrad S. Penfield, 83; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

**Redford** – Michael A. Ahern Sr., 78; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2017 at Assumption of Mary Church.

**Tupper Lake** – Robert T. Salamy, 57; Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2017 at the Stuart-Fortune-Keough Funeral Home.

**Watertown** – Margaret N. Jones, 90; Funeral Services Feb. 11, 2017 at Holy Family Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.



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# YOUNG FAITH

## From Watertown to Tanzania

By Patricia Minter-Powell  
Coordinator, IHC Faith  
Community Service Program

**WATERTOWN** - Ten years ago, as the genocide in Darfur was claiming so many innocent lives, a small Catholic school in upstate New York demonstrated its idea of Mercy in Motion by raising thousands of dollars to support survivors of the tragedy.

Born out of these acts of compassion for its "neighbor" Immaculate Heart Central School's annual Respect Life Initiative continues to reach out to those in need.

The funds raised each year are generated entirely by student driven activities and showcase both the creativity of the students and the over-



The students in the inaugural class of The Kitenga School for Girls in Tanzania, a "sister school" adopted by Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, are ready to begin their studies.

whelming support we receive each year from our entire school community.

Now, ten years into its celebration of Mercy in Motion, IHC's Respect Life Initiative has taken a new direction with the adoption of a "sister school" – one just for girls – in Kitenga, Tanzania.

When selecting the focus of the initiative the IHC students considered the community already supporting its development: The Tanzanian government who donated land for the school.

Area villagers committed not only to the vision but also to the hard physical work required.

The Buffalo based Girls Education Collaborative is ensuring accountability of donated funds with regular "boots on the ground" feedback on the school's progress and The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart have pledged their assistance in educating the young women.

With such comprehensive support students of IHC's Faith Community Service



Tony Mitchell, eighth grader at IHC, is one of the many "Super Heroes for Kitenga."

program felt not only the promise of the initiative but its power to truly change lives.

But why a school just for girls? Because it's a well-documented fact that girls in many developing nations, lacking access to secondary education, and some as young as nine years old, are forced into early marriages where they face physical abuse, early and dangerous

pregnancies and HIV – the very conditions their parents had hoped marriage would protect them from.

So when presented with the opportunity of joining hearts and hands with the GEC the IHC community did not hesitate. After all, how could we, a body of faith and a body of hope, turn our backs on these girls, their dreams, this hope?

The buildings in phase one are now complete – classrooms, a science center, the dormitory and a library.

On Jan. 16, the inaugural class of 53 girls s opened their books to their brand new futures. But 53 changed lives is only the beginning. When completed The Kitenga School for Girls hopes to educate over 1000 young women each year.

It is this forward-thinking goal of the GEC and the Kitenga community as well as the shared conviction that education remains the key to a brighter future for these girls that convinced IHC to adopt this school and its students as the newest celebration of Mercy in Motion.

### Editor's note

Further information about the progress of the Kitenga School is available at Respect Life Initiative, Immaculate Central JRSR High, 1316 Ives St. Watertown, NY 13601. Donations may also be sent to that address.

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