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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 71, Number 38

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

FEB. 8, 2017

'Live in joyful expectation'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) - Christian hope isn't about believing in something that may or may not come true, like hoping tomorrow's weather will be pleasant, Pope Francis said. "Christian hope is the expectation of something that already has been fulfilled

and that certainly will be attained for each one of us," that is, knowing Christ died and is truly risen so that all of humanity may gain salvation and live together with God, the pope said Feb. 1 during his weekly audience. Continuing a series of talks

on Christian hope, the pope looked at St. Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians (5:4-11) and what it teaches about the Christian belief in life after death.

The early Christian community at Thessaloniki was firm in its belief in Christ's

resurrection, but trusting in one's own resurrection and the resurrection of loved ones was a bit harder to grasp, the pope said.

Such doubts and uncertainty still exist today as "we all are a little afraid of dying," Pope Francis said.

YOUNG PRO-LIFERS

Diocesan teens
at March for
Life in D.C.



PHOTO BY COLLEEN MINER

A section of the photo of those who traveled to Washington, D.C., on the diocesan Youth Buses for Life is shown here. The buses carried 106 teenagers, chaplains and chaperones from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to the annual March for Life Jan. 27.

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Rites held for Altona, Sciota pastor



Father Gilbert Boisvert

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Sisters of St. Joseph

Diocesan vocation coordinator writes about the profound effect this religious order had on her life

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN PRAYER



PHOTO BY MADELEINE KELLER

Jack Charlebois, a student at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown, reads one of the Prayers of the Faithful at a Catholic Schools Week Mass held Feb. 3 at Holy Family Church. Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the Mass for the IHC primary, elementary and high school community. More photos and story on page 8

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NORTH
COUNTRY
CATHOLIC

Box 326
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669
USPS 0039-3400
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Publish 45 issues per year: Weekly except skipping every other week beginning July through Aug. and skipping one week in Dec. by the Diocese of Ogdensburg. 622 Washington Street, Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

Editorial Office:
622 Washington Street,
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669.

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news@northcountry
catholic.org

**Entered at the
Post Office:**
Ogdensburg, NY
13669 and
additional mailing offices as
Periodical Postage.

Subscription:
For one year:
In-Diocese Rate: \$27
Outside of Diocese Rate: \$30

Matters for publication should be addressed to PO Box 326 Ogdensburg, NY 13669 and should be received by Thursday prior to publication. Paper is printed each Monday; deadline is Wednesday. Member, Catholic Press Association.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
North Country Catholic,
PO Box 326
Ogdensburg, NY
13669-0326

EDITOR'S NOTE

Rest in peace, Father Gilbert

This week, our diocese faces the sad burden of bidding farewell to another beloved priest.

Father Gilbert O. Boisvert, though challenged by years of sickness, leaves behind parishioners, students, family and friends who cherish the joy he brought to their lives.

His many friends in Chancery Office remember his good-natured support for their work and, from among other accomplishments, the excellent Bishop's Fund dinner he organized for so many years.

We've also heard that his parish dinners were not to be missed, drawing the biggest crowds of any in the Clinton

County area.

RoseAnn Hickey of Lake Placid has fond memories of Father Boisvert from her years as diocesan director of youth ministry.



Mary Lou
Kilian

"I truly loved Father Boisvert, she wrote in a Facebook message after the news of his death was shared. "Every time I did a retreat with his Confirmation students, he would give me a bouquet of flowers. He was such a good man."

She later told me, "I first met him when I was Director of Youth Ministry and had to make the rounds of Bishop Fund Dinners. He was in Treadwell Mills and his dinner was the best. The place was decorated beautifully and the food

was delicious.

"I've heard him referred to as The Martha Stewart of the clergy," RoseAnn said. "He decorated for every holiday. He was in charge of Father Roland Gonyo's funeral. They had been good friends.

"In the last few years, he impressed me with his never give up spirit," she said. "The parking lot was icy one time when I went to Altoona to do a retreat. As I was getting out of the car, I saw him trying to walk to assist me. Such a gentleman."

Father Boisvert's parishioners loved their pastor enough to put some money behind their words.

An October, 1991 issue of the *North Country Catholic* featured a full-page advertisement titled "A Tribute to Father Gilbert Boisvert, pastor, St.

Joseph's, Treadwells Mills, Plattsburgh, NY."

Along with a collection of photos of Father Boisvert with people of the parish, the page included these words: "heartfelt thanks from the parishioners to our beloved Father Gilbert for his many years of dedicated service. You will be sorely missed. Our prayers and best wishes for good health, much happiness and continued success go with you."

Our prayers for Father Boisvert continue this week as the bishop, priests of the diocese and many others who loved him gather one more time at Holy Angels Church in Altoona, the parish he has served since leaving Treadwells Mills 26 years ago.

Rest in Peace, Father Gilbert. Rest in peace.

FATHER MUENCH SAYS

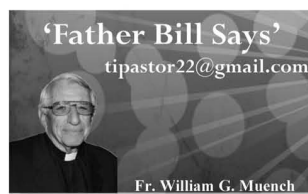
Important words of wisdom from St. Paul

For the last three weeks, while here in Florida, I have been attending Sunday Mass just like you all, sitting with the congregation.

Going to Mass has been good for me. I continue to learn what you experience when you attend Mass. It helps me to realize how I can help you become more involved when I celebrate Mass.

Today, I would like to share with you my thoughts about a Scripture. One Sunday the second reading at Mass, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, caught my attention. I hope you remember it. I read it over several times after Mass and found it has an important message for us all.

St. Paul writes this: "Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth." St. Paul wants these people to realize who they are – just ordinary people. Yet, Paul will go on to encourage them and support them to realize that, despite being ordi-



nary, they can and will accomplish even the extraordinary, through a strong faith in God. (By the way, someone once taught me that a saint is someone who does ordinary things in an extraordinary way.)

Paul goes on to help them and we realize that our God is a God of surprises. God often chooses the most unlikely to accomplish great things, even miraculous, for another, for the Church. Paul writes this: "God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, God chose the lonely and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so

that no human being might boast before God." "Christ Jesus, became for us wisdom from God."

Paul's message is for all of you. You may be the very person that the Lords need to make a difference in this life, actually every day. Too many say to me that they are not smart enough or that they are too foolish or that they are too weak or that they really count for nothing. St. Paul speaks to us today - just as he wrote to the Corinthians so many years ago – the same message. With the help of Our Lord, Jesus, you will recognize the many opportunities – maybe better to say the challenges – each and every day that come from the Lord, something to do for God, something special to accomplish at that very moment.

I believe very firmly that each and every day, the Lord brings us these opportunities to do, to help, to bring someone closer to God, even though we might feel inadequate. Speaking personally, I am

well aware of the many times I felt anxious, even inadequate before preaching a homily or some other responsibility, like talking with a needy person or family. St Paul's message certainly hits home with me. Paul reminds me that Jesus' help and inspiration will come through for me. I have experienced this so often, truly every day. I may be struggling for the right words and then they come truly from the Lord; Jesus breaks through for me.

Let me tell you I know what Paul means when he says don't boast to me; Paul reminds me that all the credit goes to the Lord.

My words seem inadequate, even foolish but trusting in the Lord, the message becomes the right message at the right time. Each time I write to you I stop often and offer a prayer of gratitude to my Lord for the gift of the proper words.

I am so grateful to my God who has given me the right words over and over again. Thank you, Jesus.

FOLLOW ME

The World Day of the Sick

The 25th World Day of the Sick takes place on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 2017. Pope Francis writes that the commemoration of this day "gives the Church renewed spiritual energy for carrying out ever more fully that fundamental part of her mission which includes serving the poor, the infirm, the outcast, and the marginalized."

Suffering and illness have always troubled the human spirit. Christians are not exempt from such pain, yet our faith helps us to grasp more deeply the mystery of suffering and to bear our pain with great courage.

We know that Christ, who

during his life often visited and healed the sick, loves and embraces those who are hurting in their pain. Our attentiveness to those who suffer physical, psychological or emotional anguish is a mark of our Christian discipleship.

Serving the sick is an essential dimension of what it means to be a Catholic Christian. Like me, I'm sure

you know many truly saintly persons in our parishes and families who so devotedly minister to the sick.

Our pastoral outreach to the hurting of our North Country is extensive and so inspiring. Our visits needn't

include learned theological explanations as to why the human person suffers.

Mere presence to another is powerful and speaks volumes to the heart. The visits become extensions of Christ's compassion. The tender care that family members, parishioners, consecrated religious, deacons and priests offer the hurting is a sign of our compassionate solidarity.

When one member of the Mystical Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer. (cf. *1 Corinthians 12:26*). For this reason, kindness shown toward the sick and works of charity and mutual help for the relief of every kind of human want are held in special honor.

If one of our New Year resolutions is to participate in more concrete works of

mercy through stronger devotion to Mary, the Mother of Mercies, then this Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is a good reminder for us not to neglect opportunities to visit the sick.

Serving the sick is an essential dimension of what it means to be a Catholic Christian

The Pope urges all the infirm and those who help them to look to Mary as "the sure sign of God's love for every human being and a model of surrender to his will."

As we watch the local and national news and look at our own families, we know too well that many among us suffer the terrible afflic-

tion of substance abuse and its devastating effects on families and communities.

At times, it is difficult to know how to help a loved one who suffers such addictions. We want to support, but not enable. We want to challenge, but not alienate.

We pray that those bound by the chains of addiction be strengthened by the Lord, that God restore them to the freedom of God's children. As we help loved ones obtain the professional assistance they need to address their addictions, we entrust their care and healing to Mary's maternal intercession.

This World Day of the Sick, we pray for an attentive heart and persevering love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Funeral held Monday for Fr. Gilbert Boisvert, 71

ALTONA - A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Gilbert O. Boisvert, 71, pastor of Church of the Holy Angels in Altona and St. Louis of France Church in Sciota, was held Feb. 6 at Holy Angels.

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presided at the funeral Mass with priests of the diocese con-celebrating.

Father Boisvert died Feb. 2 at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh after suffering from a number of health issues in recent years. Burial will be in the spring at the family plot at Calvary Cemetery in Massena.

Father Boisvert was born Nov. 30, 1945, in Massena, the son of Simone Margerite Marciel and Ovelia Joseph Boisvert.

He began his studies for the priesthood in 1963 at Wadhams Hall Seminary in Ogdensburg. He completed his theological studies at St.

John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora, New York before his ordination May 22, 1971, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana.

Father Boisvert's first assignment was as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Victory Church in Plattsburgh before being assigned assistant pastor at St. Alexander's Church in Morrisonville in 1976.

For many years, beginning in 1977, Father Boisvert served as teacher and spiritual director at Mount Assumption Institute in Plattsburgh prior to its closing and merging with St. John's Academy.

While teaching, he also as-

sisted at St. Joseph's Church in West Chazy on weekends.

He was named pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Treadwell Mills in 1984 until his appointment to Altona and Sciota in 1991.

Father Boisvert was known for his creativity, his devotion to family, students and parishioners, and for his

parish dinners which none in Clinton County could rival.

He is survived by his sisters, Marie Irene Boisvert of Virginia; Racheal (Mark) Travis, Massena; brothers, Lawrence (Viola) Boisvert, Massena; and Rene (Anna) Boisvert, North Carolina; and also by several nieces and nephews.

He is pre-deceased by his parents, and his brother, Amie Boisvert.

Memorial donations may be made to Holy Angels Roof Fund or the Priests' Retirement Fund of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

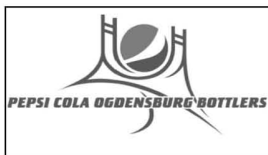
(A reflection on the life and ministry of Father Boisvert appears on page two.)



Bishop
Terry R.
LaValley



Father
Boisvert



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A VOICE OF FAITH

March for Life... *march of life*

By Kristina Dean
Staff writer

WASHINGTON D.C. -- When I was a young girl, one of my fears was I wouldn't marry the right person, and I would regret my decision. But when my 29-year-old self, white-gowned and veiled, walked on the arm of my father down the aisle to the man I would marry, an absolute certainty settled on me. I knew in my heart-of-hearts that God meant for me to marry this man.

On Friday, walking down Constitution Avenue in the 2017 National March for Life - with more than half a million others in winter coats, hats and gloves holding signs and chanting for life - complete and total certainty enveloped me. I was meant to be there. This was God's will.

My fellow marchers included young, old, those in baby strollers, in wheelchairs, men, women, priests, nuns, and families of all races. Some walked briskly, some strolled, some shuffled. Some wore matching shirts, brightly colored hats. Some carried signs with pro-life messages or pictures of Our Lady.

We marched as one, for one reason. Protesting the 44-year-old Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision, a sea of marchers, a tide of life in our nation's capital, was rising, rippling and cresting upon Capitol Hill for hours.



PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Kristina Dean of Antwerp and her son Nick made the trip to the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on the diocesan Youth Buses for Life. Mrs. Dean shares her impressions of the experience here.

And it was cold. The chilly wind blew around and over us, lifting songs and chants over our heads to awaiting ears.

And there was something else I heard in the air. Something called hope.

Prior to the march, we listened to Vice President Mike Pence promise he and the president "would not rest until we restore the culture of life in America."

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said the president would appoint a pro-life Supreme Court justice within the week.

Emotion poured out around me as those previously unheard, unappreciated and unwanted marchers heard Mr. Pence thank them for standing for life, and for their compassion and love for women and children of America. Tears were shed and voices cracked from joyful cheering.

In between hope and joyful cheering, underlying everything was love. Love was the reason we were there. Love for all women and babies. Love for fathers. Love for families. The only hate I witnessed that day consisted of a handful of anti-protestors standing on

corners with microphones strangely proclaiming Roman Catholics were abominations.

That day of walking, seven miles in all, caused more than sore muscles in me. I feel a change that's still settling in my bones; I have yet to fully absorb it.

Although I know all life is precious it seems that marching for it has sub-merged the idea deeply into my spirit, into my heart.

We defend the unborn because God has created a soul in them that has unique and special gifts for the world. He has created a distinctive little soul that is designed to develop and use their gifts over a lifetime for the betterment of others. For the good of the world. At God's time and place of choosing.

As in Jeremiah 1:5, before He formed us in the womb, He knew us. And He greatly loves us, no matter what.

When I ponder this, I realize that once you see life in this manner, everything changes. If all life is precious, then everyone is precious and deserving of love. It doesn't matter who they are or where they are from or how much they make or what color skin they have. It



Hundreds of thousands of pro-lifers filled the streets of Washington Jan. 27 protesting the 1973 Roe vs Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States.

doesn't matter if I don't like them, or if they are annoying, or hateful or drive me crazy.

Earlier, our group consisting of youth and their chaperones from across the diocese, attended Mass at the St. John Paul II shrine.

While there, kneeling among the white columns and glittering mosaics of saints and scripture stories, I experienced a small, quick glimpse inside God's love. I felt how tremendous His love is for me, for us.

It was so overwhelming that I could barely wrap my mind around it. It made me think of my promise to my youngest son, who at his naughtiest moments, will often say, "But you do love me no matter what, right

mom?" And I always tell him yes.

If I, a flawed human mother, can love her son unconditionally, how much more does our Supreme Creator love us? We are special. We are individual. We are uniquely created. And we are loved tremendously.

From conception through natural death and into the afterlife, our souls are eternally meant to be with God forever in peace, joy and love.

So, for this love, this promise, we march. And we hope. And we know in all certainty that we do God's will to defend life. We are the tides of change.

And we pray that next year, our March For Life will be a March Of Life.

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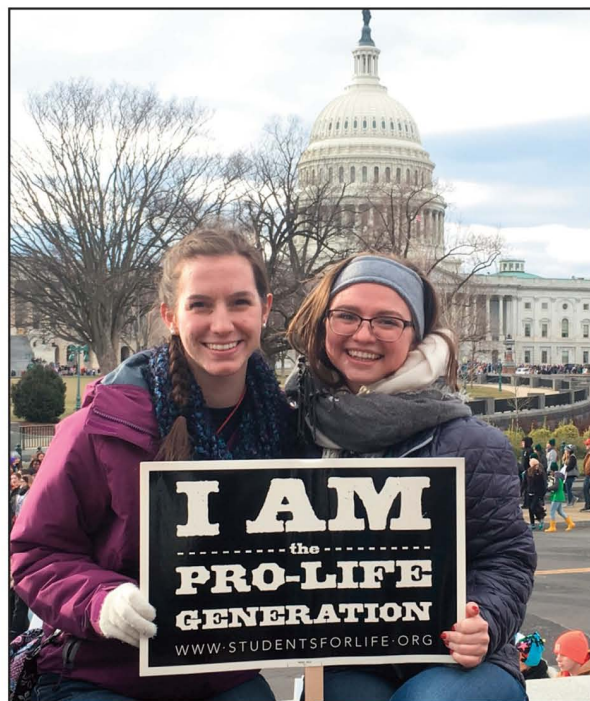


PHOTOS BY COLLEEN MINER

Lisa Reed and her granddaughter Kaitlyn Rabideau of Tupper Lake are shown on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., before joining the March for Life Jan. 27. Members of the Reed-Rabideau families recognize the value of pro-life efforts after Kaitlyn's premature birth. Born at just 23-24 weeks, she was saved with heroic efforts and now is a healthy student at Tupper Lake High School.



Father Joseph Giroux, chaplain of one of the Youth Buses for Life, distributes communion during Mass at the Verizon Center Mass for Life to Maura Bobak of Buffalo who served on the 2016 Guggenheim staff.



Ellen Miner of Saranac Lake and Grace Leader of Gouverneur, traveled from their colleges in Maryland and Ohio, respectively, to join their North Country family and friends for the march.



Two Youth Buses for Life with 106 passengers traveled from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to Washington, D.C., for the 2017 March for Life Jan. 27. They are pictured on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the

Immaculate Conception. Chaplains on the buses, organized by John and Colleen Miner, diocesan directors of respect life ministry, were Fathers Mark Reilly, Thomas Higman and Joseph Giroux.

Climate Ambassador to speak in Plattsburgh

PLATTSBURGH Dr. Gerry Gacoch, chief of cardiology at Rochester General Hospital's Heart Institute who is also one of the nation's 17 Catholic Climate Ambassadors trained by the Catholic Climate Covenant, is slated to offer an hour-long public presentation April 2 at 1 PM in the Emmaus Room at St. Peter's Church.

The Climate Ambassador's hour-long regional presentation will focus on:

- Catholic teachings associated with climate change and environmental stewardship for year 2017 – especially associated with

Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home, the encyclical from Pope Francis; and

- What people can be doing as individuals and doing together.

The regional presentation is co-sponsored by the Diocese of Ogdensburg and the St. Peter's Church Environmental Stewardship Ministry.

The Catholic Climate Covenant is an outgrowth of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, which was established in year 2006 by the collective efforts of a dozen national Catholic organizations, such as the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops, plus the National Religious Partnership for the Environment.

Ambassador Dr. Gacoch is an experienced speaker and has extensive background on the moral implications of climate change consistent with Catholic teachings outlined by Pope Francis *Laudato Si* – Care for Our Common Home.

There is no admission fee for presentation, although individuals interested in attending are encouraged to telephone the St. Peter's Church Rectory at 518-563-1692 well in advance of the presentation, to reserve a seat.

Catholic Daughters hold 51st ecumenical gathering

LONG LAKE - The 51st annual ecumenical meeting sponsored by Court Our Lady of Mercy was held on Jan. 16 at St. Henry's Church as part of the observance of the annual

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme for the service was Reconciliation-The Love of Christ Compels Us (2 Corinthians 5: 14-20).

The Rev. John Cairns Vicar of the Adirondack Mission Churches delivered the sermon. The area Clergy participating were Father Peter Berg, pastor of St. Therese of Newcomb and St. Henry's Catholic Church in Long Lake; the Rev. John Gocke, pastor of Methodist Churches of Long Lake and Newcomb and Wesleyan Church of Long Lake; and the Rev. Harold Austin, retired Wesleyan minister.

Approximately 35 members of the area Churches were in attendance.

A soup luncheon, provided by the members of the Court and ladies of St. Henry's, and pleasant fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Rest in Peace

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

Feb. 8 – Msgr. Patrick B. Riley, 1981

Feb. 9 – Rev. Claude M. F. Sallaz, O.M.I., 1873; Rev. Joseph Weldon Barry, 1945; Rev. Howard James Kennedy, 1971

Feb. 10 – Rev. Zephirin Peloquin, M.S.C., 1944; Msgr. William J. Argy, 2005

Feb. 12 – Rev. Richard O'Donnell, 1949

Feb. 13 – Rev. Richard J. Maloney, O.M.I., 1893; Deacon Edward F. McAuliffe, 1986; Rev. Harry E. Giroux, 2012

Feb. 14 – Rev. John McDonald, 1879; Msgr. Gerald F. Kellogg, 1979; Rev. Charles Joseph Richard, 2007

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 by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Further information is available from Atone-ment Sister Ellen Donahue, 315-393-2920, ext. 1440. Upcoming sessions: **Feb. 8** - 5:30 p.m., St. Mary's School, Canton

To Report Abuse

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

Environmental Stewardship

When the trees say nothing

A compilation of some of Thomas Merton's writings entitled, *When the Trees Say Nothing*, reminds me of the season of winter.

As we look around at the deciduous trees now devoid of leaves, they appear to be dead. But biologists tell us that despite their appearance in the midst of the ice, snow, sleet and winds around them, they are getting their roots in deeper in to the ground so that they can burst forth with new life in the springtime.

Perhaps in the midst of these stormy and turbulent times in our nation and in our world, the message of the Psalmist "Be still and know that I am God" calls us to a deeper sense of the connectedness with the sacredness of ourselves, each other and all of God's creation around us.

It is from this deeper awareness of God's presence within all things that we can respond to the "cries of our sisters and brothers" in their pain and suffering, and the "cries of the earth" being ravaged by greed, ignorance and carelessness. (*Laudato Si*)

"Love casts out all fear." (1 John 4:18) Let us pray for the wisdom and courage to speak and act not out of fear, but out of love and compassion to cries that we hear from our sisters and brothers who come to our doors in the midst of their "winter" fleeing from wars, violence, droughts, seeking a refuge just as many of our ancestors did in years past.

Let us pray for the wisdom and courage to speak out and act, as responsible Christians for the protection and conservation of the environment that has been entrusted to us by God as his caretakers.


With our roots more deeply planted in the sacredness of all life may our actions for ecological justice contain hope and "new life" for all life.





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VOICE OF FAITH

The movie 'Silence' and the March for Life

By Father Bryan D. Stitt
Contributing writer

Last week in our nation's capital for the March for Life, I was talked into attending a late night showing of *Silence*, the new Martin Scorsese film about the spread of the faith in Japan in the seventeenth century. As I walked out of the theater, I was struck with the parallels between *Silence* and the annual pro-life March. I'd like to share three parallels with you.

In the movie and at the March, we got to see people heroically living out their faith

(Note: if you haven't yet seen the film or read the book on which it is based, you may wish to stop reading. Spoilers to follow.)

First a little background on the movie. *Silence* is striking in its portrayal of the respect afforded the priesthood and the place of the sacraments in the Catholic life. Baptism, Confession, and Eucharist, are all explicitly and repeatedly given screen time.

Even more inspiring was the faith of the Japanese lay people in their willingness to endure any threat or torture for their faith in Jesus Christ. Set 100 years after the missionary work of St. Francis Xavier and his great successes spreading the faith in Japan, the movie shows the Japanese authorities persecuting the Christians and claiming that the Catholic faith and the culture of Japan are irreconcilable.

Here is the first parallel with abortion. The film asks the question without offering an answer: Is it pos-

Editor's note

The Catholic News Service review of the film 'Silence' appears on page 13 of this week's *NCC*.



Sarah Buskey of St. Anthony's Parish in Watertown, a participant in Pilgrimage for the March for Life, is shown praying at the Vigil Mass for Life at the National Basilica on January 26. She, Father Bryan Stitt, and four other pilgrims also attended a showing of the newly released movie "Silence" while in Washington which, Father Stitt said, offered many reflections on the cause for life

sible that Catholicism and Japanese culture are mutually exclusive? Is Japan really, as one character stated, "a swamp where the seed of faith cannot grow"?

The same question is asked today of the moral teachings of the Church. "The Church's teaching on abortion might be good for you (read: grandma, the pope, or ignorant medieval church goers), but that teaching doesn't apply to me!"

Here's the trick: If it's a truth of our Eternal God, then it's true everywhere and always. In the film Father Rodrigues testified articulately to this by saying the truth of the faith is greater than national borders. At the March Dr. Seuss attests likewise as he was quoted on countless banners: "A person's a person, no matter how small."

The second parallel is seen in the battle between pride and humility. The two young Jesuit priests in *Silence* are adamant about going to Japan to save their mentor and spread the faith. They are zealous that God is calling them to this. Zeal is a good thing. Thinking you are the Savior is not.

whether he can go through the motions of stepping on the icon while in his heart maintaining good faith. Adding to the complexity, the cunning "friendly" guard would say to him, "It's just a formality."

And both led me to reflect whether I would have the courage and faith to act per my conscience despite any and all pressures around me.

Do you remember the scene from *A Man for All Seasons* when St. Thomas More is being encouraged to go against his conscience and make an oath of fidelity to King Henry VIII? The tempting voice in that film states: "Then say the words of the oath and in your heart think otherwise." St. Thomas More states in response: "When a man takes an oath, he's holding his own self in his own hands like water, and if he opens his fingers then, he needn't hope to find himself again." We find the antithesis of this classic Catholic heroism in *Silence*.

Here we see the most significant parallel with the politics of abortion. How often have we heard, "I am personally opposed to abortion, but I don't want to impose my views on others?" In both the Scorsese presentation of faith and the common political sentiment in regards to abortion, faith is seen as something that can be privatized. My faith is

simply what I believe in my heart. It does not necessarily have any implication on how I live my life. I can be a good faithful Catholic while having an abortion, voting for abortion legislation, or stepping on an icon.

In short, the movie disturbed me. I couldn't get it out of my head. Seeing people tortured is very memorable. It hurts to see people renounce their faith. And most unsettling of all, was the smooth portrayal of the ever-present temptation to think that we can separate our faith from the rest of their lives.

Nevertheless, I'm glad the college students got me to see the film. It gave us food for thought and great conversations for the next few days.

In it and at the March, we got to see people heroically living out their faith. We got to see them live with zeal and humility.

And both led me to reflect whether I would have the courage and faith to act per my conscience despite any and all pressures around me. Please God, give us all the grace to do so.

North Country Catholic has gone



Green



Here is what one subscriber has to say:

"What a pleasure to be able to read the North Country Catholic online. I am pleased that it has been offered in this manner - as sometimes I don't have time to sit and read a paper - but when I can't sleep at night - I log onto the computer. Very nice gesture - thanks"

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PHOTOS BY MADELEINE KELLER

Bishop Terry R. LaValley joined Watertown area priests at Holy Family Church Feb. 3 to celebrate a school-wide Mass for Immaculate Heart Central School. Above left, Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, Missionary of the Sacred Heart

Father Jonas Tandayu, Father Martin E. Cline, Deacon Lawrence R. Ambeau, Bishop LaValley, Father Christopher J. Looby and Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Das Santhanthy surround the altar during the liturgy. At right, Msgr. Aucoin distributes the Eucharist to Jordan McKee.

Celebration of Catholic Schools Week

Bishop LaValley presides at Mass for Immaculate Heart Central schools in Watertown

By Madeleine Keller
IHC Advancement Assistant.

WATERTOWN – In honor of Catholic Schools Week, Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated Immaculate Heart Central School's first school wide Mass.

Students from St. John Bosco's preschool three-year-olds up to the high school seniors gathered at Holy Family Catholic Church along with IHC principals, faculty and staff, as well as parents, alumni, and the members of the community.

The priests who concelebrated with Bishop LaValley were Msgr. Robert H. Aucoin, pastor of St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's; Father Steven M. Murray, pastor of Holy Family; Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Jonas Tandayu, pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; Father Christo-

pher J. Looby, pastor of Evans Mills; Father Martin E. Cline, pastor in Adams; and Missionary of the Sacred Heart Father Das Santhanthy; parochial vicar of St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's. Deacon Lawrence R. Ambeau served as deacon for the liturgy.

Watertown Mayor and IHC '85 Alumnus, Joseph Butler, welcomed those gathered for the liturgy. He expressed how a full Catholic education is both academic and spiritual learning.

IHC Students proclaimed the readings, with older students helping the younger.

The Prayers of the Faithful called for prayer for priests and religious leaders, leaders of government in the United States and throughout the world, teachers, parents, the less fortunate, those that have died, and for the children themselves to be vehi-

cles to carry out Christ's teachings.

In his sermon, Bishop LaValley's told the children that "we are never alone if we are connected with God, through prayer and our Catholic school environment. By cultivating a friendship with Jesus through prayer, you always have someone to turn to when things are going great and not so great during your life, the bishop said.

"Our Catholic school environment helps cultivate and nurture religious interconnections both inside the home and in the classroom," he said. "We can all become great by becoming more holy, through prayer."

Presentation of the gifts held symbolism for both inside and outside the classroom.

Flag : symbolizing the respect and appreciation for

the country and the freedom to worship our Catholic faith

Mask : symbolizing the opportunities for the students to increase self confidence through performance and presentation, as well as to help them learn empathy for others through character development

Scales : not only symbolizing justice, fairness, and moral impartiality, but they also symbolize the pursuit of learning in the area of math, science and technology

Trophy : a cheerleading trophy represented the school spirit that members of the school community generate for each other through extracurricular activities, as well as the spirit and enthusiasm of family and friends who support the extracurricular endeavors -

Linen from Kiteng, Africa : representing the many hours of service and charity IHC

students give each year locally and globally through the Faith Community Service Program. This linen comes directly from IHC's sister school in Kitenga

Candles: as a reminder that the life of Christ must be a light to the world and a symbol of hope and love to us.

Bible: a reminder that the Word of God be in minds, hearts and on lips, so that the students can spread the good news of salvation to others.

Cross: to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Religion Book : a reminder that students continue to learn about our faith and the life of Jesus.

Bread and Wine: the Eucharistic gifts.

Music for the Mass was led by Joan Carlo and Ryan Grant.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PLEASE KEEP A LITTLE BOY SAFE

Children like Darwin desperately need your help

Through a special matching-gift offer, more homes can be built and more food delivered to hungry children

NICARAGUA – Hungry and afraid, 8-year-old Darwin is scared of sleeping in his flimsy shack in an isolated area of Nicaragua. Recently part of the roof blew off and a terrified Darwin ran for his life.

The walls of Darwin's house are merely thin, stitched-together sheets of black plastic, which offer little protection from rain and wind. Darwin lives in this rickety shelter with his mom, Karla, and brother Jose. It's so cold at night that the three of them must huddle together for warmth and protection.

There is no electricity inside the little shack. No water or bathroom. Because the shack is so isolated and offers no protection from strangers who could easily walk inside and hurt them, Karla and the children get scared.

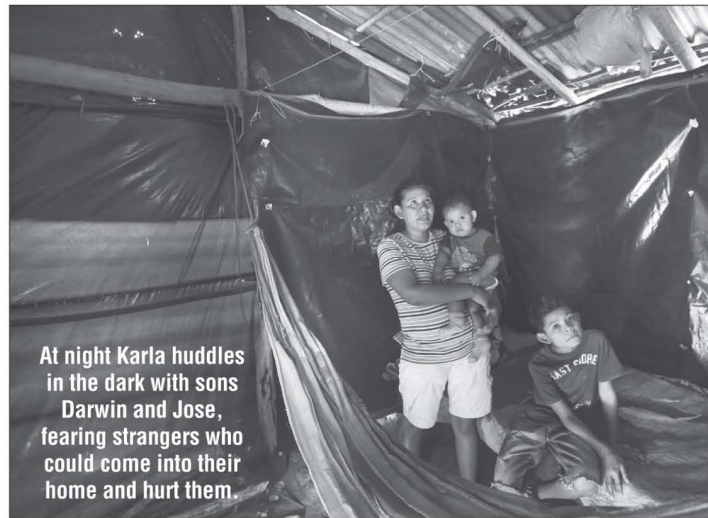
"I wonder if somebody is going to hurt me and the children," said Karla. "They can just cut the plastic."

PRAYING FOR THE SUN TO RISE

Karla struggles to scrape together enough money to buy food for her hungry children and this worries her. She watched as her 9-month-old daughter perished from not being able to provide her nutritious food, and she prays this won't happen to Darwin or his younger brother. The day our staff visited, all Karla had in the house was bread and some coffee for the children.



Karla and Darwin read together from the Bible for comfort when the darkness falls and there is only a little flickering light inside their shanty. Psalm 91 is their solace.



At night Karla huddles in the dark with sons Darwin and Jose, fearing strangers who could come into their home and hurt them.

"We pray and we read that Psalm. That's the one that gives me strength and courage," Karla said.

"You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day." (Psalm 91:5)

And then they wait for the sun to rise. Karla trusts in God's plan and His mercy. "When I get up, I thank God for the day He has given us, for taking care of us through the night."

YOU CAN SAVE LIVES

So many children suffer from poverty throughout Nicaragua and other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Darwin's plight mirrors the terrible poverty and hunger that many children live with each day. But you can help. Your gift today can give children like Darwin the nourishment they need to grow up healthy. Your gift to build a safe and secure home with a strong roof and a

solid door that locks, protects them from the harsh elements and allows them to sleep peacefully.

God has blessed us with a tremendous opportunity. Any gift of a home in Nicaragua, Honduras or Jamaica will be matched. And every dollar gifted for food will be matched with a dollar's worth of lifesaving food. This is an incredible chance to show suffering families that God has not forgotten them, and that He has sent someone to help them.

Today, because of a compassionate friend's matching-gift offer, many more children like Darwin can receive the gift of nutritious food and live in safety and peace. Your gift of \$3,600* can build a double-unit home with sanitation and a water component for a poor family like Darwin's. Or you may choose to give a gift of \$200 a month for 18 months* to build a double-unit home.

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much

more than feed millions of the hungry poor primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicines, educational materials, homes, support for orphans and the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance, with a 10-year average of more than 95 percent of all donations going directly to programs that help the poor.

Your loving and compassionate gift will be a life-changing blessing for a family like Darwin's.

Your gift will provide food or safe shelter for suffering children, and give them a new life where they can feel safe at night from the wind, rain and those who might harm them. Please take advantage of this matching-gift opportunity to change the lives of children with your gift today! May God bless you for your kindness. ♦

**This gift will be matched. A gift of \$3,600 will build a single-unit home with sanitation; a gift of \$7,200 will build a double-unit home with sanitation and a water component. In some countries, where the average household has seven members, Food For The Poor builds only double-unit homes by combining two single-unit donations.*



Robin Mahfood, Food For The Poor President/CEO, and his wife, Gail, meet with His Holiness Pope Francis.

SUFFERING CHILDREN LIKE DARWIN NEED YOUR HELP

Your gift today will help innocent children like Darwin by providing safe shelter or nutritious food. And through this special matching-gift offer, even more homes can be built to provide peace and security for frightened children, and even more food delivered to hungry children. Your compassion and generosity will restore hope and give a brighter future to those who have suffered so much. Please use the Food For The Poor brochure enclosed in this publication to send your gift today. God bless you.

Food For The Poor, Dept. 118878 • 6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073 • 800-487-1158

www.FoodForThePoor.org/savinglives



Ban of refugees ignites firestorm

But also gains support...

WASHINGTON (CNS) As President Donald Trump signed an executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States in the guise of refugees, the action brought quick response from Catholic and other religious leaders.

The largest response came from more than 2,000 religious leaders representing the Interfaith Immigration Coalition who objected to the action in a letter to the president and members of Congress. The heads of Catholic charitable agencies, organizations working with immigrants and Catholic education leaders also decried the president's action.

The action also drew supporters, with organizations such as the Heritage Foundation and some church leaders saying it was necessary to protect the country's security.

Trump signed the memorandum, titled "The Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States," during a Jan. 27 ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes as new Secretary of Defense James Mattis was sworn in.

The president also signed a second executive action designed to build the strength of the U.S. military.

Regarding the refugee action, Trump said it was meant to keep "Islamic terrorists out of the United States. We don't want 'em here. We want to make sure they don't enter the country." He added, "The only ones we want to admit into our country are those who will support our county and deeply love our people. We will never forget the lessons of 9/11."

The memorandum suspends the entire U.S. refugee resettlement pro-

gram for 120 days and bans entry of all citizens from seven majority-Muslim countries -- Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia -- for 90 days. It also establishes a religious criteria for refugees, proposing to give priority to religious minorities over others who may have equally compelling refugee claims.

The seven countries previously were identified under guidelines established in the Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act of 2015. The act includes a provision that allows the Department of Homeland Security's to limit Visa Waiver Program travel for certain individuals who have traveled to the seven countries.

The religious leaders' letter said the U.S. has an "urgent moral responsibility to receive refugees and asylum seekers who are in dire need of safety." The correspondence called on elected officials to "be bold in choosing moral, just policies that provide refuge for vulnerable individuals seeking protection."

The leaders also insisted that the U.S. refugee resettlement program remain open to all nationalities and religions that face persecution.

They decried "derogatory language" about Middle Eastern refugees and Muslims in particular, adding that refugees "are an asset to this country," serving as "powerful ambassadors of the American dream and our nation's founding principles of equal opportunity, religious freedom and liberty and justice for all."

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore called for prayer as the country responds to the series of im-

migration-related memorandums signed by the president since Jan. 20. He specifically cited the need for prayers for the nation's leaders and "the people who call this country their home, including our immigrant sisters and brothers."

"While we affirm the right of sovereign nations to control their borders, we likewise affirm our moral responsibility to respect every human being's dignity. We must remember that those fleeing horrendous and unspeakable violence and grinding poverty have the right, as children of God, to provide for the basic needs of themselves and their families," Archbishop Lori wrote in a Jan. 30 open letter to Catholics in the archdiocese.

Soon after Trump signed the memorandum, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, who is Catholic, commended the action, saying "our number one responsibility is to protect the homeland."

"We are a compassionate nation, and I support the refugee resettlement program, but it's time to re-evaluate and strengthen the visa vetting process. President Trump is right to make sure we are doing everything possible to know exactly who is entering our country," Ryan said.

Members of Congress lined up primarily along political lines, with Democrats opposing the measures and most Republicans supporting them.

About 20 Republicans voiced reservations about portions of the action, with some describing its potential to inspire terrorists overseas and its need to have been vetted more widely before implementation.

Outcry from U.S. church leaders

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- President Donald Trump's executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States brought an outcry from Catholic leaders across the U.S.

Church leaders used phrases such as "devastating," "chaotic" and "cruel" to describe the Jan. 27 action that left already-approved refugees and immigrants stranded at U.S. airports and led the Department of Homeland Security to rule that green card holders - lawful permanent U.S. residents - be allowed into the country.

The leadership of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops late Jan. 30 praised fellow prelates for "their witness" in speaking out against Trump's actions and "in defense of God's people," and called on "all the Catholic faithful to join us as we unite our voices with all who speak in defense of human dignity."

"The bond between Christians and Muslims is founded on the unbreakable strength of charity and justice," said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB president, and Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, USCCB vice president, in a joint statement.

"The church will not waiver in her defense of our sisters and brothers of all faiths who suffer at the hands of merciless persecutors," they said.

"The refugees fleeing from ISIS (Islamic State) and other extremists are sacrificing all they have in the name of peace and freedom," they said. "Often, they could be spared if only they surrendered to the violent vision of their tormentors. They stand firm in their faith."

Like all families, refugees "are seeking safety and security for their children," they said. The U.S. "should welcome them as allies in a common fight against evil" and also "must screen vigilantly for infiltrators who would do us harm." But the country "must always be equally vigilant in our welcome of friends," the prelates said.

"Our desire is not to enter the political arena, but rather to proclaim Christ alive in the world today. In the very moment a family abandons their home under threat of death, Jesus is present," Cardinal DiNardo and Archbishop Gomez said.

Shortly after Trump signed the document at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, said the bishops "strongly disagree" with the action to halt refugee resettlement.

"We believe that now more than ever, welcoming newcomers and refugees is an act of love and hope," Bishop Vasquez said.

The USCCB runs the largest refugee resettlement program in the United States, and Bishop Vasquez said the church would continue to engage the administration, as it had with administrations for 40 years.

"We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collaboration with Catholic Charities without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunified with their loved ones," he said.

He also reiterated the bishops' commitment to protect the most vulnerable, regardless of religion.

All "are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity," he said. "We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christian faith as Jesus has challenged us to do."

CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

Judge Neil Gorsuch nominated to fill Supreme Court vacancy

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- President Donald Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the seat on the U.S. Supreme Court that has been empty since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia last February. Gorsuch is a man the country needs, Trump said in announcing his nominee the evening of Jan. 31. He added that his pick for the high court already has had bipartisan support. "Judge Gorsuch has outstanding legal skills, a brilliant mind, tremendous discipline," he said. When Trump announced his choice at the White House, in the audience was Maureen McCarthy Scalia, the widow of the late justice. One of the couple's children also was present: Father Paul Scalia, a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. In his remarks, Gorsuch said he was thankful for friends, family and faith giving him balance. He also said he was honored and humbled to be chosen as a nominee to the nation's highest court. He described Scalia as "lion of the law" and said he misses him. He said he respects the fact that Congress, not the courts, writes new laws. Pro-life organizations were quick to praise Gorsuch as someone who they said will "carry on the legacy" of Scalia.

Bishops launch campaign urging Trump to protect religious freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Saying "religious freedom in America has suffered years of unprecedented erosion," the U.S. Catholic bishops have posted an online letter for Catholics to send to President Donald Trump urging him to sign an executive order promoting religious freedom. The letter, found at www.voterveice.net/USCCB/Campaigns, says the president can "restore the federal government's respect for the religious freedom of individuals and organizations" with an executive order that establishes a "government-wide initiative to respect religious freedom." Individuals can sign the letter and hit a link to submit it to Trump. A leaked draft version of a potential religious freedom order was circulating in the media and among federal staff and advocacy groups at the end of January. When White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer was asked about the draft Jan. 30, he said he would not get "ahead of the executive orders that we may or may not issue." He noted that there have been a lot of executive actions and "a lot of things that the president has talked about and will continue to fulfill, but we have nothing on that front now." A White House official told ABC News that the leaked draft on religious freedom is one of hundreds of circulating orders that were either written by the transition team or the White House.

Jesus sought the people, not popularity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Jesus did not come into the world seeking popularity, but rather to be close to those in need, Pope Francis said. The large crowds that would gather around Jesus wherever he went "had their eyes fixed on him and he had his eyes fixed on the people," the pope said Jan. 31 during Mass in the chapel of Domus Sanctae Marthae. "This is the peculiarity of Jesus' gaze: Jesus does not depersonalize the people; he looks at each one" individually, he said. The pope reflected on the day's Gospel reading from St. Mark, which recalled the great crowds that would follow Jesus seeking healing. Jesus, he noted, "is always in the midst of the people. He is not with guards who escort him so that the people will not touch him. No, no! He remained there and the people pressed in."

Canadian bishop worries euthanasia could be seen as a moral obligation

By Philippe Vaillancourt
Catholic News Service

VALLEYFIELD, QUEBEC (CNS) - Even though medical assistance in dying has been legal in Quebec for almost a year and in Canada for a few months, Bishop Noel Simard of Valleyfield has not yet come to terms with this new reality. To him, medically assisted death is just plain euthanasia.

Bishop Simard acted as a spokesman for Quebec and Canada's Catholic bishops on issues related to life. The bishops have not been able to persuade the legislators to refrain from legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide. Despite his numerous interventions on the issue, Bishop Simard had to watch this new paradigm reshape the Canadian medical world.

"This 'medical-assistance in dying' is a threat to the foundations of our society," he said, arguing that it challenges some basic values: the way laws used to prohibit homicide and the way medical personnel are expected to treat their patients.

In the past few years, Bishop Simard has been one of the most vocal Canadian bishops on this issue. He sometimes used harsh words to express his opposition to euthanasia.

In the early 1990s, in his early years as a priest, he accompanied a score of terminally ill AIDS patients in Sudbury, Ontario. When he recalled those years, his voice became soft and muffled by emotion.

"I've seen people die, many. We all assume that terminally ill patients desperately wish to die. But it isn't the case: What they long for, first and foremost, is someone to hold their hand and accompany them," said Bishop Simard.

He said this whole process helps them give meaning to their suffering and reclaim for themselves some dignity.

I'm afraid that pressures will be exerted on individuals to make sure they ask to be euthanized, because they've become a burden, an expense

Bishop Noel Simard, Valleyfield, Que.

"Too often, we tend to limit one's dignity to his ability to interact, to speak, and to remain conscious. But dignity shouldn't be related to a capacity: Dignity is intrinsically and inherently attached to us, as a human being. And that intrinsic dignity remains attached us, no matter what happens," the bishop said.

"Each individual is becoming his own standard. He's offered values of self-fulfillment through pleasure. No wonder suffering is being thrown away. It's an obstacle to pleasure and enjoyment. In a hedonistic and epicurean society such as ours, suffering is a nonsense that needs to be eliminated. When I'll no longer be able to enjoy myself, help me get out of here," said Bishop Simard.

In today's society, one's ultimate value is too often determined by what he or she can produce, said Bishop Simard.

"When we're no longer able to produce the things that are valued by our society, we become a burden," said the former ethics professor. "What our society is saying to us is that one's worth is determined by his ability to produce and to contribute. That specific context is a direct threat for the sick, the crippled and the weak."

The bishop said he was troubled when he saw a

study recently published by the Canadian Medical Association suggesting that medical assistance in dying could eventually allow the country's health care system to save \$139 million yearly. Such projections are Bishop Simard's worst fears.

"My biggest worry is that euthanasia - now enshrined as a right - will become a (moral) duty. I'm afraid that pressures will be exerted on individuals to make sure they ask to be euthanized, because they've become a burden, an expense," said Bishop Simard. "Beyond medical euthanasia, one must be particularly attentive to 'social euthanasia' that abandons and casts some people aside, instead of helping and accompanying the most vulnerable members of our society."

In the past few months, the Canadian Catholic Church has had debates about the pastoral attitude to use with people who choose a medically induced death. Bishops from Alberta and the Northwest Territories opted to refuse funeral rites or sacraments to people that deliberately want to be euthanized. The Atlantic bishops said funeral rites could be offered. In Quebec, the Assembly of Catholic Bishops simply published a document to offer spiritual guidance to terminally ill people.

Bishop Simard said he was not surprised to see so many church debates around the pastoral responses to medical assistance in dying. As the official statistics reveal that more and more Canadians opt for euthanasia, the church must continue its reflection on "how to communicate Christ's message, as well as the teaching of the church, so to offer some compassion and a soothing and healing voice to broken hearts," he said.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

Jesus and his relationship to the Jewish Torah

Our readings this week discuss Jesus' relationship to the Jewish Torah, and the wisdom it contains.

He actually teaches his listeners the deeper meaning of the Torah, even using His authority to extend its meaning for the New Covenant.

Using many examples, He shows, that far from abolishing the law, he demands an even higher standard of living for those who would follow Him.

St. Paul, in the second reading, urges the new Christians to seek the Wisdom that comes from God's



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

Spirit, a divine wisdom, a mysterious wisdom planned from eternity.

This wisdom urges us to embrace Christ's crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Faith in this mystery will reveal to us the meaning of following Christ to life and victory.

In the Gospel, which continues the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus

amazes his listeners by declaring that He has come, not to destroy the law of Moses, but to fulfill it. Then he proceeds to go beyond the law to its radical conclusion.

He concentrates on two sins forbidden especially by the Law - murder and adultery. He emphasizes in practical terms the sins that lie behind the commandments. If we are to avoid murder, then we must root out the sin of anger which leads to murder. If we are to avoid adultery, we must root out the sin of lust which leads to adultery.

If we want to be righteous, then we must take very strenuous efforts to go beyond the law. Even anger against one's brother or sister is cause for severe judgment, if you want to offer your gifts at the altar, "leave your gifts at the altar, and go first to be reconciled to your brother... then come

FEB. 12

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

READINGS

Sirach 15:15-20
Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-37

and offer your gifts."

He tells his followers that when one even looks at a woman with lustful eyes, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Jesus then departs from the literal, deliberately exaggerating his advice: "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members,

than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna (hell)."

He says the same about sinning with your hand.

Obviously, Jesus does not want us to physically carry out his advice! But we certainly get the point!

The passage is a long one, forbidding divorce unless there are grounds for the invalidity of the marriage. He warns against false oaths, urging us to use simple language. "Let your 'yes' mean 'yes', and your 'no' mean 'no'!"

Exterior observance is not enough. His disciples must give wholehearted trust and obedience to the Father that radiates one's love for God and neighbor.

A VOICE OF FAITH

The seven sacraments: 'keys to heaven's gate'

By Tracy Leonard
Contributing writer

An efficacious sign of grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the church by which divine life is dispensed to us. This is the definition of a sacrament – a definition I memorized in 9th grade when I studied the sacraments at Immaculate Heart Central with Father Mark Reilly as my teacher.

Father Mark worked hard to ensure we could rattle this off in 30 seconds or less. Ironically, 17 years later, I can still do it!

Not only did I memorize this, I also worked hard to internalize it for they pre-

pare us for divine life – what a gift!

Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick – seven different sets of keys to the gates of heaven.

While not all of us may receive all seven, they are given to us freely, touching all the stages and important moments of Christian life. They give birth and increase healing and mission to a life of faith.

There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life represented through initiation, healing and service.

Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist nourish us and lay the foundation of every Christian life.

Through purification, regeneration and renewal, they are the gateway to life in the spirit. Through these sacraments of initiation, we are sealed and enriched with a special strength from the Holy Spirit and are obliged

to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

We are all called to be a blessing and to bless

In particular, and in a profound way, the Eucharist, or the source and summit of the Christian life, unites us in love with the heavenly Father. According to the Catechism (1327), "our way of thinking is attuned in the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."

Through the sacraments of initiation, we become earthly vessels subject to suffering, illness and death. A life in Christ can be weakened and lost by sin. Jesus, the physician of our souls and bodies continues, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to heal through the sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick.

Through our conversion, God forgives and shows mercy directing us towards holiness and eternal life. He gives us strength, peace and

courage to overcome the difficulties that come with sin and/or illness.

We become participants of, or united with the Passion of Christ. His grace is sufficient and His power is made perfect in weakness.

Through the sacraments of initiation, we are also grounded with a vocation or call to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world. We are given grace to march on as pilgrims on the journey of life towards our heavenly home. Hold Orders and Matrimony, the sacraments of service, are directed towards the salvation of others and personal salvation.

By exercising our baptismal promise according to our own vocation, we are participating in Christ's mission as priest, prophet and king. Just as in Baptism and Confirmation, those who receive Holy Orders are marked with an indelible/permanent seal or spiritual character. God created man out of love in His

image and likeness and He calls us to love the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being.

This love which God blesses is to be fruitful and multiplied. Christ Himself has invited certain persons to follow Him in the way of Holy Orders or Matrimony; however, we are all called to be of love and service to one another and to the church. It is within our homes that we can first receive this proclamation of faith as children. In this domestic church, or our homes, we can create a community of grace and prayer – a school of human virtues and Christian charity.

We are all called to be a blessing and to bless. May the seven sacraments sanctify you at the various stages of Christian life and in various circumstances. May they prepare you to receive the fruits of the Spirit, sanctifying and enriching your life for eternal life with Him.



AT THE MOVIES

SILENCE

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

Directed and co-written (with Jay Cocks) by Martin Scorsese, "Silence" (Paramount) is a dramatically powerful but theologically complex work best suited to viewers who come to the multiplex prepared to engage with serious issues.

Those willing to make such an intellectual investment, however, will find themselves richly rewarded.

In adapting Catholic author Shusaku Endo's 1966 fact-based historical novel, a project in the works since the late 1980s, Scorsese finds himself in what might be called Graham Greene territory. As fans of that British novelist know, he had a fondness for stretching and twisting fundamental issues of faith and morality, and Endo's plot shows the same tendency. So this is also not a film for the poorly catechized.

The movie's primary setting is 17th-century Japan, where persecution is raging against the previously toler-



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Liam Neeson stars in a scene from the movie "Silence."

ated Christian community.

Shocked by rumors that Christavao Ferreira (Liam Neeson), their mentor in the priesthood, has renounced the faith under torture, two of his fellow Jesuits, Sebastian Rodrigues (Andrew Garfield) and Francisco Garpe (Adam Driver), volunteer to leave the safety of Europe for the perils of the Land of the Rising Sun. Their twin goals are to find their role model and to minister to the underground

Japanese church.

What follows is a long, sometimes harrowing battle between doubt and human frailty on the one hand and fidelity on the other. Earthly compassion is set against faithfulness and an eternal perspective, with both divine and human silence contributing to the appropriateness of the title.

Scorsese has crafted an often visually striking drama that's also deeply thought-provoking and

emotionally gripping. And the performances are remarkable all around. But the paradoxes of the narrative demand careful sifting by mature moviegoers well-grounded in their beliefs.

Those lacking such a foundation could be led astray, drawing the conclusion that mercy toward the suffering of others can sometimes justify sin.

While Catholics who are blessed with the freedom to practice their faith in peace

are hardly in a position to judge those facing martyrdom, the principle that circumstances can mitigate guilt but not transform wrong into right remains universally valid.

In the end, "Silence" vindicates a certain form of constancy. That may, in a roundabout way, match the historical record: There is edifying, though inconclusive, evidence that the real person behind one of the three main characters in the picture not only rejected his previous apostasy, but ultimately surrendered his life for the faith.

The film contains religious themes requiring mature discernment, much violence, including scenes of gruesome torture and a brutal, execution, as well as rear and partial nudity.

The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

ALSO PLAYING... GOLD

A strong performance from Matthew McConaughey fails to dispel the sour taste of "Gold," a loosely fact-based story, set in the 1980s, about the zigzagging fortunes of the scrappy Nevada prospector he plays.

Joining forces with a more sophisticated geologist (Edgar Ramirez), the miner braves the jungles of Indonesia to claim the largest gold strike of the decade. But all, of course, is not as it appears. A seedy atmosphere and a low moral tone in the boardroom are matched by an ongoing but unhallowed bedroom relationship between the protagonist and his live-in girlfriend (Bryce Dallas Howard).

Additionally, screenwriters Patrick Massett and John Zinman embed their script with a motherlode of vulgarity, making director Stephen Gaghan's salute to entrepreneurial grit unfit for most.

Cohabitation, nongraphic nonmarital sexual activity, rear and partial nudity, frequent use of profanity, pervasive rough and crude language, a couple of obscene gestures.

The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.



CNS PHOTO/WEINSTEIN

Matthew McConaughey and Edgar Ramirez star in a scene from the movie "Gold."

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

CDA TEA PARTY

Peru – Tea Party to be held to honor women serving in WWII sponsored by the CDA Court St. Monica #2598.

Date: Feb. 12
Time: 1 p.m. to 4
Place: St. Augustine's Church
Cost: \$10; 50% of the proceeds will go to the Plattsburgh Honor Flight.
Contact: Jane Woods 518-834-5324 or Janice at 518-643-2435 ext. 101

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 Church (Holy Family Chapel)

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.

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

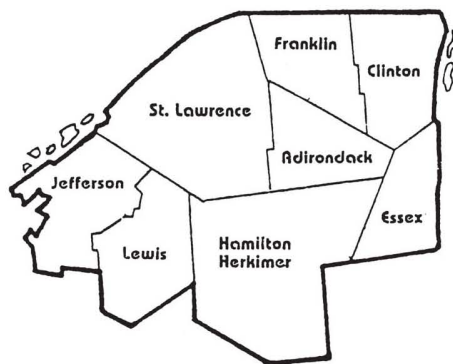
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

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



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.

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

MARDI GRAS

Carthage – Augustinian Academy to celebrate Mardi Gras.

Date: Feb. 11
Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Augustinian Academy
Cost: \$40 per person or \$70 per couple
Features: Choice of Prime Rib, Louisiana Grilled Chicken or Baked Haddock
Contact: Call 315-493-1301 or stop in to the school to purchase tickets

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 315-788-8480

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 EUCHARISTIC 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

EUCHARISTIC 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: Tues, from February 7 through April 4 (the week before Holy Week)

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 or call the parish Rectory at 315-769-2469.

EUCHARISTIC 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

LENTE 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, pastorsmp@gmail.com, 315-265-9680; or Fr. Doug Lucia, frdoug@twncv.rr.com

EUCHARISTIC 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 in-

terested 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.

LENTE RETREAT FOR YOUTH

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

Dates: March 25 in Malone; March 26 in Canton

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

Contact: Details and registration can be found at www.rcdony.org/lentenretreat.

COLLEGE SPRING RETREAT

Ogdensburg – If you are an area college student, please join us for our annual Catholic Campus Ministry Spring Retreat.

Date: Feb. 10 – 12
Place: Wadhams Hall
Cost: \$20, includes meals and lodging
Features: Come take a rest from the business of campus for Faith, Fellowship, and Formation.
Contact: Please contact your local Campus Minister or Amanda Conklin at aconklin@stlawu.edu or 315-386-2543 for more information or to register.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Norfolk – The Cursillo Movement of the Ogdensburg Diocese is sponsoring a Day of Recollection open to all diocesan parishioners

Date: March 4
Time: 10 a.m. to 5
Place: Our Lady of the Visitation Church and Parish Center
Features: Bishop LaValley, Father Jack Downs and Father Timothy Canaan will make presentations. Father Albert Hauser and two laypersons will share their personal witness. There will be opportunity for prayer and recollection in front of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession after each set of talks. The day ends with 4 p.m. anticipated Sunday Mass celebrated by the bishop at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood

Contact: Registration by mail, email or phone by Feb. 25: Ken and Kathy Racette, 679 Cumberland Head Rd, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901; kathyracette@gmail.com, kracette1@gmail.com, 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056.



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

Gratitude from India

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

The Sisters of Chavanod of the Cross last year once again engaged in our annual summer Mission COOP program. I recently heard from their Directress of Ishpremalaya, Sister Emily Jacob, who resides in the Maharashtra State in India.

I thought that I would share an excerpt from her letter regarding their gratitude and how they use the funds they raised here over there.

Sister Emily says, "Greetings of love, peace and joy. I am extremely overwhelmed to word this letter to you for the help rendered to our Hospice. Our words are inadequate to express our sincere thanks to you for sending the amount for the benefit of our end stage cancer patients.

We assure you that your valuable help will be well utilized in rendering palliative care for the terminally ill cancer patients, for their well being and comfortable stay.

We are ever grateful to all our benefactors who contributed towards this good cause. May God Bless each and every one of you and your generous helping hand. Kindly help us to continue our mission with your support and prayers. You are most welcome to visit our hospice Ishpremalaya, which means An Abode of God's love.

Our motto is "To add life days and not days to life". We hold our patients' hands from the beginning to the end. We offer a listening ear, understand them, care with compassion and much more. We try to alleviate the anxiety of the family members by caring for them and helping them face their loss.

Thank you once again for the great help and we assure you of our constant prayers and God's blessings. May God be with your endeavors."

These words exemplify a concrete example of where your generous resources go to make a difference. Cancer exists in India too and to know that your gifts of prayer and sacrifice help with the suffering at a hospice facility is rewarding. Your gifts do matter.

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

www.dioogdensburg.org/missionoffice

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OBITUARIES

Altona – Ronald A. Boulrice, 69; Funeral Services Jan. 30, 2017 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

AuSable Forks – Margaret "Peg" Lloyd Hoey, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2017 at Holy Name Church.

Brasher Falls – Raymond M. Donnie, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Carthage – Alice (Schreck) Burrell, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. James Church.

Chateaugay – Elizabeth "Betty" (Ryan) Lyons, 91; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Clayton – Ronald R. Mayer, 71; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

Constable – Marsha A. (Reynolds) Cunningham, 64; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2017 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Constable – Joan Marie (Debyah) Langlois, 82; Funeral Services Feb. 8, 2017 at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Dannemora – Robert P. Flick, 64; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Deferiet – Joann L. (Reed) Zando, 74; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Rita's Church; burial in Black River Cemetery.

Gouverneur – Hollis M. Montgomery, 92; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2017 at Green Funeral Home.

Lyon Mountain – Abbie E. Sorrell, 83; Funeral Services Jan. 31, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in St. Bernard's Cemetery.

Mineville – Francis Joseph Bobbie, 67; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2017 at All Saints Church; burial in All Saints Cemetery, Mohr.

Ogdensburg – Dolores "Dody" T. (Barr) Cummings, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at Foxwood Memorial Park Chapel.

Ogdensburg – Joanne L. Monroe, 77; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Lisa A. (McGuire) Parks, 55; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2017 at the Fox & Murray Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

Ogdensburg – Paul L. Robillard, 87; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Peru – Rita E. (Neverett) Dwyer, 96; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Peru – Virginia G. (Merritt) Geddes, 79; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2017 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery.

Plattsburgh – Hubert E. Rock, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 4, 2017 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Rouses Point – Gregory Scott Bosley, 69; Funeral Services Jan/ 28, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

Theresa – Leonard A. "Tony" Simpson, 76; Funeral Services Feb. 3, 2017 at St. Theresa of Avila Church;

Tupper Lake – Amy Lynn Becker-Symonds, 49; Funeral Services Feb. 1, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Church.

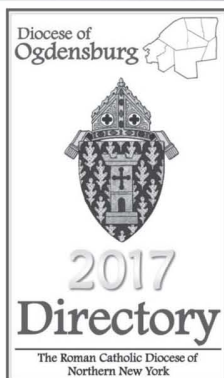
Waddington – Mary C. Phillips, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 2, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Lyle Servage, 85; Funeral Services Feb. 10, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

GO GREEN!

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED LIFE HELD ON FEB. 2

With gratitude for our Sisters

By Catherine Russell
Diocesan Vocation Coordinator

The celebration of Catholic Schools week recently and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life invites us to consider the impact made by consecrated men and women in the life of the church.

For me, many fond memories as well as a deep sense of gratitude fill me as I reflect upon my own experiences with consecrated men and women over the years.

It is difficult to imagine how different my life would have been had it not been for a decision my mother made many years ago. Without diminishing the significant contributions of consecrated men, it is the Sisters of St. Joseph of Watertown who had and continue to have a profound influence in my life.

On a bright end of summer day, my mother sat this soon-to-be second grader down to tell her I would be changing schools. I was not happy! Like any typical second grader, I worried about time with my friends, having to ride a bus, where this



St. Joseph Sister M. Gregory Munger led a Catholic Schools Week spelling bee for students at St. Mary's School in Canton. She is pictured above with the winners from each class. From left are Gavin Schryver, grade three; Matthew LaPage, grade four; Sister Gregory, Faith Christy, grade five; and James Bailey, grade six. The Sisters of St. Joseph have served generations of Catholics in schools and parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. In this article, Catherine Russell, the diocesan vocation administrator, writes about the "profound influence" that the Sisters of St. Joseph have had on her life.

new school was located.

My mother explained that although there was a bus that brought students from Sackets Harbor to St. Anthony's School in Water-

town, I would be riding with two of her teacher friends to St. Patrick's School. She explained that she had been taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Oswego and that is what she wanted for her children.

So began the gift of my Catholic education and my life-long relationship with the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Recent history affirms that American Catholics love their Sisters! What drives this American love affair with their Sisters?

Catholic institutions were built by the blood, sweat and tears of consecrated women. My experience with the Sisters of St. Joseph is not that different from the experience of other Catholics in this regard. My exceptional Catholic education, the opportunities for my faith to deepen and the example of the Sisters living together harmoniously in community are just some of the reasons I am indebted to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Sisters of St. Joseph

have been in our diocese more than 130 years. Can you imagine how many people have been heartened by their warmth, joy and love? How many countless young men and women have been formed in the faith through their efforts? How many faithful have experienced the power of their prayer?

After my parents, it really is the Sisters of St. Joseph most responsible for making me the person I am today. During our school days, it was a sense of happiness that drew all of us to want to spend time with them. We stuck around after school to help, they played basketball with us. We had fun but we knew when it was time to settle down to learn.

Expectations were always high and we rose to meet them. If a little extra help was needed, it was given. Each year, Sister would take the time to visit our homes. This highly anticipated event served to show again how much the Sisters cared. They coached our teams, attended our games, produced our plays, directed our glee clubs. They went to our family wakes and funerals. They were indeed part of our family.

Though I am long graduated from school, the Sisters of St. Joseph continue to be for me an example of love and support as I try to live my Catholic faith in a challenging world.

Despite the difficulties of diminished numbers, the Sisters continue to be a beacon of hope in re-imagining how they can serve in new and different ways.

I hope and pray that the presence of the Sisters of St. Joseph will continue to inspire the people of the north country for many years to come and that I will continue to be enriched by my interactions with them.

Yes, my mother was right. She was a very wise woman!

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.ihcschools.org/spiritual-life/mystery-players

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