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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 72, Number 31

NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JAN. 3, 2018

Christ must be the focus

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- Only when Christ is the focus of the Christmas season do all the colorful lights, carols, special meals and traditions help create a festive and joyous atmosphere, Pope Francis said. "If we take him away, the lights go out and everything become fake, illusory,"

he said at his weekly general audience Dec. 27.

"Without Jesus, there is no Christmas. It's some other celebration, but it isn't Christmas," he said to applause. Dedicating his audience talk to the true meaning of Christmas as a celebration of Christ's birth, the pope

greeted pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall, which was decorated with a Christmas tree and a life-size Nativity scene.

The creche, the liturgies and the seasonal songs all help the faithful relive today the birth of Christ the savior, he said. However, especially

in Europe, he said, Christmas is being stripped of its true nature "in the name of a false respect for those who are not Christian."

But, often the true motive behind eliminating any reference to the birth of Christ is a desire to "marginalize faith," he said.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

Pope: build peace by being welcoming



CNS PHOTO/ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS
Pope Francis shakes hands with a man as he visits a migrant reception centre during a pastoral visit in Bologna, Italy, Oct. 1. The pope is seen wearing a yellow ID bracelet with his name and a number, just like the immigrants and refugees at the center. The pope chose "Migrants and refugees: Men and women in search of peace" as the theme for the celebration Jan. 1, 2018. "Exploiting a fear of migrants and refugees for political gain increases the possibility of violence and discrimination and does nothing to build a culture of peace," Pope Francis said in his message for World Peace Day 2018.

Bishop's message for the new year

In a message for the new year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley suggests that it might be a fitting New Year's resolution to keep a particular question "before our eyes and hearts throughout 2018: *do I live like I believe?*"

Bishop LaValley's reflections come after a week spent with Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Syria. "Certainly, in his recent visit to the North Country, Bishop Chbeir has exemplified for us what it means to serve and love those who do not accept us, indeed, may even hate us."

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Looking back at 2017

In the Diocese of Ogdensburg, 2017 was a year when Catholics showed a 'solidarity in faith' FULL STORY, PAGE 2

FROM OGDENSBURG TO LATAKIA



PHOTO BY JESSE SOVIE

Bishop Terry R. LaValley presented a check for \$25,000 to Bishop Antoine Chbeir as the bishop of Latakia, Syria, neared the end of his Dec. 11-18 visit to the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The Diocese of Ogdensburg established a twinning initiative with the Diocese of Latakia during the past Year which includes offering financial support to the Syrian church. The check was presented during a Dec. 16 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Bishop LaValley writes about his time with Bishop Chbeir in his Follow Me column on page 3.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

A year of solidarity in faith

Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg exhibited a true solidarity in faith in the waning days of 2017 as we welcomed Bishop Antoine Chbeir to churches and schools across the North Country. Bishop Chbeir had traveled from Latakia, Syria to share stories of his warm diocese with people of this diocese which had established a twinning initiative with Latakia during the year.

From Watertown to Ogdensburg to Plattsburgh, the Syrian bishop received a warm and prayerful welcome.

Bishop LaValley has invited Bishop Chbeir to return this summer to visit the rest of the diocese when the warmth of the mountains, lakes and rivers will more closely match the warmth of hearts.



Mary Lou
Kilian

While "Solidarity in Faith" is the official name of the twinning project with Latakia, it could also describe the Catholic life in the North Country throughout 2017.

With faithful togetherness, the diocese celebrated special anniversaries and significant accomplishments.

We welcomed new clergy, sisters and lay ministers and bid sad farewells to those whose journey on earth had concluded.

As teachers, parish ministers and youth, we gathered for programs offering educational and spiritual support for ministry.

We joined in celebrating significant milestones as Catholic Charities marked 100 years and the permanent deacons observed 40 years of service in the diocese. And we gathered in prayer at our cathedral for Masses of healing, consecration and ordination.

Among the highlights of the past year:

- Priests: Father Michael Jablonski was ordained May 27 at St. Mary's Cathedral and was assigned as parochial vicar at the Massena Catholic Parishes. Father Christopher Carrara succeeded Father James Seymour as vicar for pastoral personnel. Msgr. Harry Snow retired as judicial vicar after 37 years of service in the diocesan tribunal. Father Douglas Lucia succeeded him as judicial vicar. Father Brian Stiff was named director of the Department of Worship.

- Catholic Charities: During the centennial year, Daughter of Charity Sister Donna Franklin announced that she

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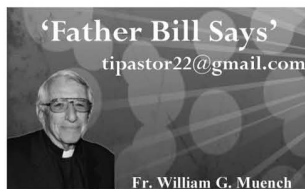
FATHER MUENCH SAYS

A perfect time to celebrate our families

I sincerely hope that your Christmas was a good celebration with your family with peace and joy and fun. I found so much happiness as I celebrated Mass on Christmas Day. Each year when I write my Christmas cards, I include a promise to family and friends that I will remember them in the Mass I celebrate on Christmas. So, my list of intentions for that Mass is rather long.

I depend on God to keep track of my list in case, I forget someone I should not forget. For us, priests, the Christmas Day Mass is very special each year as we join with the people of the parish in celebrating the birth of the Savior.

Our Catholic Church's liturgical celebrations during this Christmas season are a beautiful time for drawing each of us closer to God and with family and friends. It is a special time for family as generations of loved ones are drawn together at Christmas. All the good Christmas stories – like in the movies and such – are always family centered. The scriptural stories for Christmas focus on family also – Jesus'



Fr. William G. Muench

family and our families, too.

Each of the Christmas Gospel stories are about us – you and I – and we should recognize that we have a part in the Christmas message.

On Christmas Day, we join the shepherds as they receive the message of the Angels. We are invited by them to make room in our hearts for Jesus as we celebrate his birth.

Christmas is a family day with parents remembering and celebrating the births of their children. Each of us also can celebrate with our family this life that is ours. We are a blessed people, a loved people. We belong to this human family and Jesus is one of us. Jesus came among us to bless us in love, to live and to die for us.

Recognizing all of this, our Church dedicates the Sunday

after Christmas to family as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. It is a time to celebrate our own family, a Sunday to pray in gratitude for God's gift of family for each of us.

As we celebrate our own family, our Church encourages us to remember and pray for the family that is our Catholic Church throughout the world as well as the family that is our parish. This is a great time to remind ourselves that we are united into a wonderful family: our Catholic Church and our parish. This is a time to pray for all those we pray with at Mass and remember that this family of the Catholic Church in the world is our family.

I want to add to this a special intention for us all as we pray for our Catholic Church. In too many places in the world Christians are suffering the pain of persecution and other such problems. I was impressed and at times shocked by the description of life in Syria which Bishop Chbeir shared during his recent visit to our diocese.

As we begin to form this

union with his diocese in Syria, we become family. Holy Family Sunday becomes a time to pray for our Church family – not just here but also throughout the world – praying for help and peace for them all.

The Christmas season continues with the celebration of the Epiphany on the next Sunday. Each of us walk with the Magi, the wise men, as they travel to find this new born king.

It is a fascinating story. These Gentiles leave their own country and travel a long distance – becoming immigrants – in an effort to find a new king.

We know that they were searching for Jesus. Are we ready to take such a determined search to be open to allow Jesus to be part of our lives? Are we unafraid to go forth so that our Savior will be part of all that we do? We know Jesus – yet, have we truly found him? Each day we should be ready to take that journey with readiness to open our hearts for this Jesus who came into our world – and was born on Christmas to be one of us.

FOLLOW ME

Do I live like I believe?

Every day is a good day to count our blessings. We ring in the New Year with much joy and hope, as we continue to celebrate how blessed we are whose God has been born and continues to live among us.

I don't need to rattle off all the ills and evils of the day. Presenting a litany of what's wrong with our world is no way to welcome the New Year.

Now, that doesn't mean we bury our heads in the sand (or snow) or avoid meeting evil head on. On the contrary.

What it does mean is that we take up the challenge to light a candle, to make 2018 the year in which we become blessings ourselves for our neighbors as we consciously seek to bring a ray of light, to radiate the warmth of Jesus' love and compassion in a darkened, cool world (global warming notwithstanding).

It's so easy to become discouraged and lacking in hope particularly when we forget what we just celebrated on December 25th.

God took on the human condition, revealing the depth of the Father's love for every one of us. God shows us how to live in this world so that we might enjoy eternal happiness in the next. Do I really believe this?

It might be a fitting New Year's resolution to keep that question before our eyes and hearts throughout 2018. *Do I live like I believe?*

The Holy Father wrote that "we have often been on the defensive, wasting pastoral energy on denouncing



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

In his New Year's message, Bishop LaValley reflected on the example of Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Latakia, Syria, in encouraging Catholics of the Diocese of Ogdensburg to be sources of encouragement and hope for the world. The two bishops are shown at Seton Catholic School in Plattsburgh during Bishop Chbeir's December visit to the diocese.

a decadent world without being proactive in proposing ways of finding true happiness" in the Lord. (*The Joy of Love, 30*)

Rather than curse the darkness around us, light a candle. A candle sheds light. We can come to see reality around us more clearly when we understand more and more the great gift we have in Jesus and in the companionship of our sisters and brothers in faith.

Candles offer warmth. If I live like I believe, the compassion and care I have for others will radiate the

warmth of Jesus' love to them.

Our neighbors are not competitors to be defeated nor people to be shunned or bullied, but women and men to be accepted, no matter how different from ourselves.

Certainly, in his recent visit to the North Country, Bishop Chbeir has exemplified for us what it means to serve and love those who do not accept us, indeed, may even hate us.

For instance, do I show respect for the other person by being a good listener,

even if I disagree with him or her?

Does my vocabulary affirm and build up another person or does it cause division and reflect a certain meanness of spirit?

Do I give Godly example to my children and grandchildren?

In his recent visit to our Diocese, the Bishop of Latakia spoke about the life of desperation of his people. He asks us to do what he asks of his people: pray and fast. These spiritual disciplines have enabled him to be a source of bless-

ing, of light and hope to his people.

Bishop Chbeir grew up in a country that was under attack by a neighboring nation for over thirty years. His family and neighbors lived in fear for their lives.

Then, about three years ago, Father Chbeir, then a priest of Lebanon, was asked to be the bishop and shepherd of a diocese whose nation had been at war with his. Prayer and fasting have been the spiritual tools that have sustained Bishop in his care and love for those he serves, those who were his enemies.

For me, Bishop Chbeir is a candle that continues to burn brightly in a land where hostile winds blow constantly.

We have the same means at our disposal when we encounter hatred, vitriolic language and disrespect for God's ways. Our prayer and fasting can be the fuel that keeps our candles burning brightly throughout the New Year, keeping us hope-filled.

Now, more than ever, Catholic Christians must be sources of hope and encouragement. We continue to offer prayer and support to Bishop Chbeir and his faithful and here, in our own little corner of the world, we can radiate Gospel joy.

As Disciples in Mission, we can live like we believe. Blessed New Year to you and your loved ones!



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would retire as diocesan director after 22 years in the position. Deacon Patrick Donahue was hired to replace her, effective Jan. 1. Catholic Charities celebrated its local history at the Oct. 25 Caritas Dinner, presenting the Caritas Award to two priests who had directed the Plattsburgh regional office, Msgr. Joseph Aubin and (posthumously) Father Patrick Mundy. The President's Award was also given posthumously to Alex Velto who directed the Watertown office.

- Catholic schools: Five new principals were hired for schools in the diocese-Kari Conklin, IHC Primary in Watertown; Michele Lallier, St. James, Gouverneur; Joseph Orobona, IHC High School in Watertown; Michele Meyers, St. Mary's, Canton; and Mary Ann Margrey, Augustinian Academy, Carthage. The Catholic School Teacher of the Year was Madonna Barney of St. Agnes School, Lake Placid

- Deacons: Sixteen men were ordained permanent deacons Oct. 7 at St. Mary's Cathedral and a new class of potential candidates was started. Deacon Greg Kandra of Brooklyn was the keynote speaker at the annual Deacon Convocation held in May in Lake Placid.

- Vocations: Nine seminarians began or continued studies for the priesthood in September. The annual DOVS (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) pilgrimage took place Oct. 10 with a trip to Syracuse. More than 100 middle schoolers gathered at Guggenheim in October for a day focused on vocations.

- Religious: The Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, who have been serving in Jefferson County for several years, opened up a second community in Cadyville. Atonement Sister Ellen Donahue retired from her position as episcopal delegate for religious and director of the Safe Environment Office. St. Joseph Sister Suanne



PHOTO BY TOM SEMERARO

A highlight of 2017 was the ordination of Father Michael Jablonski

Johnson made her perpetual vows Aug. 27 and Sister Linh Therese Nguyen made final vows as a Precious Blood Sister Oct. 8.

- Youth: More than 100 youth traveled to the March for Life in Washington in January. The annual Youth Rally, held May 6 at IHC in Watertown featured Paul J. Kim as the keynote speaker. Kelly Donnelly, diocesan youth ministry director, led another successful season at Camp Guggenheim.

- Finances: The 2016 Bishop's Fund Appeal reached its \$1.28 million goal while the 2017 appeal was launched with the theme "One Bread, One Body, One Family" with a goal of \$1.3 million. The diocese approved a capital campaign to generate \$15 million over four years.

- Lay leaders: Cathy Russell was named to succeed Deacon Patrick Donahue as Watertown regional director of Christian Formation and coordinator of the Formation for Ministry Program. She remains coordinator of the Vocation Office. Jill Lawrence was hired as director of the Safe Environment Office. Deacon James Crowley, chancellor, was given added responsibilities

in overseeing the Family Life Office. Bishop LaValley commissioned 57 lay ministers June 25 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Three new sites of Formation for Ministry opened in September.

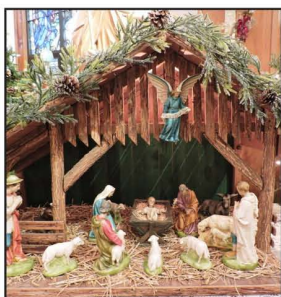
- Diocesan events: Bishop LaValley announced the Solidarity in Faith twinning initiative at the Chrism Mass April 6. A Mass of Healing for victims of clergy sexual abuse was held on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23. A parish hospitality workshop "Entertaining Angels" was held June 3 in Potsdam. The Harvest Mass was held Sept. 17 in North Bangor, Marriage Jubilee Sept. 24 at the cathedral; Blue Mass Oct. 1 at St. Patrick's in Watertown and the religious Jubilee Oct. 15 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Bishop LaValley consecrated the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Oct. 22 at the cathedral, marking the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. Leadership was the theme of this year's Celebrate Christ held Oct. 20 for Catholic School teachers and Oct. 21 for parish ministers.

- National events: Diocesan participation in events held in other parts of the country included the national March for Life in Washington and the Convocation of Catholic Leaders held in July in Orlando, Florida. Bishop LaValley led a delegation to the convocation that included Father Douglas Lucia, Deacon John and Maura Fehlner, Cathy Russell and Marika Donders. At the annual Catholic Media Conference held in Quebec City in June, the *North Country Catholic* took home a first place award for its 2016 Year of Mercy series and honorable mention for newspaper of the year.

- Rest in Peace: The diocese mourned the loss of five clergymen - Father Gilbert Boisvert who died Feb. 2, Deacon David Wells, Feb. 11; Father Victor Lamore, March 30; Father John Cosmic, May 7; and Father Patrick Mundy, Sept. 4.

IN A SEASON OF HOSPITALITY, FAITH, GENEROSITY

FACES OF FAITH



At the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Watertown, Santa Claus paid a visit to Msgr. Robert McCarthy during the Sisters' Christmas party. The creche in the motherhouse chapel is shown above.



Mrs. Zikowitz's preschool class read at Immaculate Heart Central School in Watertown read "The First Christmas Night" by Keith Christopher and then each of the children created a plush baby Jesus using socks.



There are only two children in the third grade catechism class of St. Mary's, Constableville, but they decided they wanted to have a raffle to raise money to help the church with the heating fund. The first prize was a Christmas centerpiece made and donated by Bonnie Smith and Michelle Smith. Second prize was a Yankee candle donated by Amy Ortlieb. Winners were Kimberly Arthur and Eva Shambo. Father Lawrence Marullo drew the winning tickets after Mass Dec. 17, when he also thanked the students for their thoughtfulness in helping the church. From left are Father Marullo, Julie Hutchins, Mason Arthur and Grace Smith.



Bishop Antoine Chbeir of Latakia, Syria, had the chance to meet many Catholic school children during his visit to the Diocese of Ogdensburg Dec. 11-18. At left, he and Bishop LaValley are pictured with students from St. James in Gouverneur. Above, he accepts gifts from students of the Seton schools in Plattsburgh.

TV EYE

Top television viewing choices for people of faith

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- It's probably no surprise that people who go to church watch TV.

What may be a surprise are their prime-time favorites.

An online polling firm called E-Poll Market Research conducted one of its monthly surveys among Americans ages 13-54, who had identified themselves in previous polls as being "people of faith," focusing precisely on their evening viewing habits.

Respondents were asked which shows they "make a special effort to watch," those they would describe as "one of my favorites," and those they would "miss a lot" were it no longer on the schedule.

Among over-the-air programs they make a special effort to watch, NBC's "This Is Us" topped all comers, with 82 percent. Fox's "Star," not anywhere the ratings powerhouse "This Is Us" is, was second with 79 percent saying so.

In fact, Fox led the other networks with four shows in the top 10: "Lucifer," about a crime-solving devil who does good in spite of himself, was fourth, with "Lethal Weapon" sixth and the prime-time soap "Empire" seventh.

Among the poll's top 20 programs, only two were re-

ality shows, both from CBS: "The Amazing Race" was fifth, and the summertime series "Big Brother" was 18th. Each of the top 20 shows were mentioned by at least 62 percent from respondents.

In the "one of my favorites" category, "This Is Us" again came out on top, but only that and the runner-up, the CW's "Supernatural," came in at over 50 percent.

Here, shows that have been around for several seasons dominated; filling out the top 10 were Fox's "Bones" and "Lucifer," CBS' "Blue Bloods," NBC's "Grimm," ABC's "The Goldbergs," "Lethal Weapon" (the only other second-season series to crack the list), the CW's "Reign," and CBS' "Elementary."

"This Is Us" picked up the network triple crown, as it were, as it also led in shows respondents said they would miss a lot if it were canceled. (Using flashbacks and present-day scenes, the show chronicles the Pearson family.) "Lucifer" appeared again here, this time in fifth place. Finishing 2-3-4 were Fox's revival of "Prison Break," CBS' "The Amazing Race" ABC's "How to Get Away With Murder"; landing in sixth through 10th positions were, respectively, CBS' "Madam Secretary" and "Chicago Fire," "Grimm," the CW's "The Vampire" and CBS' "Scorpion."

In the cable realm, HBO's "Game of Thrones" led in all three categories, although in the "one of my favorites" category, its margin over second-place finisher, the new CMT episodes of "Nashville," was only three points, and no series collected more than 47 percent of respondents' votes. In fact, no cable outlet had more than one show on the "one of my favorites" list.

In the "make a special effort to watch" category, behind "Game of Thrones" and "The Walking Dead," were, in order, Netflix's "Sense8," AMC's "Better Call Saul," Starz' "Power," Freeform's "Pretty Little Liars," Bravo's "Top Chef," A&E's "Nightwatch," "Nashville" and Netflix's "The Crown."

After "Game of Thrones," "Nashville" and "The Walking Dead" in the "one of my favorites" category came HGTV's "Fixer Upper," BBC America's "Doctor Who," the Discovery Channel's "How It's Made," "Sense8," Comedy Central's "South Park," "Top Chef" and History's "Vikings."

This survey did not break out favorite shows within particular faith groups, so there's no way of knowing -- at least not yet -- what Catholics may prefer.

And there's no way to compare the choices of people of faith with people who don't profess a religious faith, since the latter group was not polled.

Rest in Peace

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

Jan. 3 — Rev. A. J. M. Viau, 1966; Rev. Hilary Neal, O.P., 1986

Jan. 4 — Rev. James Edwin O'Haire, 1877; Rev. Michael Walsh, M.S.C., 1977; Rev. Charles E. Chase, 2011

Jan. 5 — Rev. Louis Lebrecht, O.M.I., 1903; Msgr. Dennis E. Lynch, 1979; Rev. Raoul J. Poirier, M.Afr., 1997

Jan. 6 — Rev. James D. Phalon, 1974; Deacon George W. Carroll, 1994; Rev. Benoit Dostie, M.S.C., 2007

Jan. 7 — Rev. Leonidas Geoffrion, 1954

Jan. 8 — Rev. Michael Moris, 1893; Rev. Frederick C. Hatch, 1961; Msgr. Robert John Arquette, 1969; Rev. Leo McCarthy, O.S.A., 1975; Rev. Roland Gaulin, O.M.I., 1984; Rev. Anthony F. Pease, 1997; Msgr. Morris L. Dwyer, 2004

Jan. 9 — Rev. James P. Santoni, O.M.I., 1890; Rev. Joseph Ferdinand Durin, M.S.C., 1897; Rev. Fred Commins, O.S.A., 1924; Rev. Joseph Edward Doyle, 1958; Rev. Jeremiah Albert O'Brien, 1974

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Environmental Stewardship

Who are these families seeking peace?

Pope Francis' Christmas Eve Mass homily focused on refugees and migrants, drawing a parallel between their travails and that of the Holy Family at the time of the birth of Jesus.

"Building on his September launch of the "Share the Journey" campaign in support of migrants and refugees, Pope Francis' Message for the 51st World Day of Peace (Jan. 1) invites Catholics to embrace those who endure perilous journeys and hardships in order to find peace. He urges people of faith to turn with a "contemplative gaze" towards migrants and refugees, opening our hearts to the "gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their houses, in their streets and squares."

In his message, Pope Francis echoes St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, pointing to war, conflict, genocide, ethnic cleansing, poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental degradation as reasons that families and individuals become refugees and migrants.

Some "mileposts for action" are necessary in order to allow migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and trafficking victims the opportunity to find peace. These include:

- 1) Welcoming, which calls for "expanding legal pathways for entry" and better balancing national security and fundamental human rights concerns;
- 2) Protecting, or recognizing and defending "the inviolable dignity of those who flee";
- 3) Promoting, which entails "supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees"; and
- 4) Integrating by allowing migrants and refugees to "participate fully in the life of society that welcomes them." Doing so enriches both those arriving and those welcoming.

**Taken from US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) suggestions for actions that we can take to 'welcome the stranger' will be shared next week, as the U.S. Catholic Church celebrates Migration Week (January 8-14, 2018).*

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CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

The 'hurt is still there,' says Cardinal O'Malley

BRAINTREE, Mass. (CNS) -- Journalists crowded into a room in the Archdiocese of Boston's Braintree headquarters Dec. 20 as Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley answered questions following the death of Cardinal Bernard F. Law, whose death was officially announced by the Vatican earlier that day. The former archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Law resigned in 2002 amid allegations of mishandling cases of sexual abuse of minors by priests in the archdiocese. In 2004, the cardinal was named archpriest of a basilica in Rome, where he died at age 86. "This is a very difficult day for survivors and all of us in the Archdiocese of Boston and for me," said Cardinal O'Malley at the news conference. "We have anticipated this day, recognizing that it would open a lot of old wounds and cause much pain and anger in those who have suffered so much already, and we share in their suffering," he continued. "As the church must always do, we seek forgiveness for the sins of the past and for all the things that were done or not done that have contributed to the suffering of so many," he said. The archdiocese has a continued commitment to "provide for the assistance and support for victim survivors and their families, and to strive to maintain safe environments in all of our churches, schools, institutions, and agencies," Cardinal O'Malley said.

Tax bill passes amid concerns about future effects on poor

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Republican lawmakers joined President Donald Trump in cheering passage of the most significant overhaul of the federal tax system in three decades even as the chairman of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee called on the president to work with Congress to fix "unacceptable problems" in the law. Republicans hailed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act as the stimulus needed to get the economy rolling into high gear as they expected corporations to reinvest in America with the middle class benefiting from lower taxes, higher wages and greater job opportunities. Critics contend the law will provide a windfall for people with the highest incomes and corporations that already are seeing record profits and that there will be limited benefit to low- and middle-income families, who will see their taxes rise beginning in 2025. Meanwhile, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, chairman of the bishop's Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said that while the law "achieves some laudable things," it also "contains a number of problematic provisions that will have dramatic negative consequences, particularly for those most in need." After final passage by the House and Senate Dec. 20, the bill went to President Donald Trump for his signature.

Pope puts founder of Rosary Crusade step closer to sainthood

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton and St. John Paul II's mentor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. The pope approved the decrees recognizing their heroic virtues Dec. 18. Father Peyton, known worldwide as "The Rosary Priest," was a Catholic media pioneer in the 1940s, using radio and later television to produce popular programs featuring Hollywood stars and other celebrities to promote family prayer. His ministry produced more than 600 radio and television programs and 10,000 broadcasts. The priest also conducted rosary crusades for millions of people in dozens of countries. He had two especially famous mottos: "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."

VATICAN LETTER

Pope's 2018 priorities: Refugees, youths, trips, more Curia reform

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Foreign trips, a focus on the rights and needs of migrants and refugees and a Synod of Bishops dedicated to young people all are on the 2018 calendar for Pope Francis.

His activities and the passions that drive them are familiar by now. In fact, March 13 will mark the fifth anniversary of his election as pope, succeeding retired Pope Benedict XVI.

Pope Francis, newly 81, will begin 2018 with a focus on Mary and on migrants and refugees.

As with all modern popes, Pope Francis' Marian devotion and his concern for people forced to flee their homes have been a constant in his ministry.

But Pope Francis is the first to dedicate a celebration of World Peace Day specifically to the theme of migrants and refugees.

On Jan. 1, for the 51st time, the Catholic Church began the new year praying for peace.

The day also is the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and while Pope Francis sent a message to heads of state in November reflecting on the peace day theme, his homily at the Mass is likely to focus on Mary.

The pope's focus on migrants and refugees will come to the fore again Jan. 14 when he adds to the normal papal liturgical calendar a special Mass for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

In both his message for the Jan. 14 celebration and his message for World Peace Day, Pope Francis urged

Catholic involvement in the drafting of the U.N. global compacts for migrants and for refugees.

Approving the development of the compacts in September 2016, "world leaders clearly expressed their desire to take decisive action in support of migrants and refugees to save their lives and protect their rights," the pope said in his message.

He urged Catholics to get involved by lobbying their governments to include in the compacts proposals that would ensure the welcome, protection, promotion and integration of migrants and refugees.

Although work on the compacts suffered a setback when the Trump administration announced in early December it was pulling out of the process and would not be a party to the accords, the United Nations hopes to have a draft of the documents ready by February. Late in 2018, the U.N. General Assembly will hold a conference to adopt the compacts.

On Jan. 15, Pope Francis will set off for a six-day visit to Chile and Peru. As is his style, the trip will include meetings with government authorities and large public Masses, but also a visit to a women's prison and to a home for children at risk.

As of Dec. 20, no other papal trips for 2018 had been confirmed, although Vatican officials have said it is almost certain Pope Francis will travel to Dublin in late August for the World Meeting of Families; on the same trip, he is likely to be the first pope to visit Northern Ireland.

Vatican officials also have

confirmed that a September trip to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia is under consideration. And they do not rule out a spring trip, perhaps to Africa.

One month of the pope's calendar already is booked solid. The Synod of Bishops focusing on young people and their vocations will be held at the Vatican Oct. 3-28. In preparation for the bishops' gathering, the Vatican has asked bishops' conferences around the world to nominate young people to attend a pre-synod gathering March 19-24 in Rome.

Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, secretary-general of the synod, said Pope Francis hopes about 300 young people - mostly, but not all, Catholics - would attend the gathering. Many of them will speak to the whole group about the hopes and concerns of young people, what they can offer the church and what they need from it. They will discuss the presentations in small groups and will be asked to prepare a summary document for the bishops attending the synod.

The fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' papacy also means 2018 is the fifth anniversary of his international Council of Cardinals and the effort to reform the Roman Curia.

Changes have been made, new laws have been passed, offices have been combined to cut down on duplication. But 2017 ended without a clear indication of when a document presenting a global vision of the Curia and each of its offices would be ready.

Perhaps that is what Pope Francis wants for Christmas 2018.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

We are all called to be 'epiphanies'

Our feast today celebrates God's intentions of opening up the minds and hearts of the chosen people to the universal mission of God's Son on earth. An "epiphany" means a sudden burst of understanding, a showing forth of light and truth.

Isaiah had foretold that "all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God." And the Gospel for that Mass had promised that all people would eventually be the chosen ones: "...to those who did accept Him, he gave power to become children of God."

And now, on the

Epiphany, the light from the skies is intensified a thousand fold, and the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that "nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance."

To the wonder of all in Palestine, there come foreign camels bearing foreign scholars.

Ever since King Cyrus of Persia had been God's instrument in freeing Israel from slavery, there had been warm relations between the Jewish people and Persia. Many believe that Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, were really Persian astrologers.

What courage and perseverance those strangers have shown, to brave the dangers of travel, skepticism, and political intrigue. But they found what they were looking for. That star gave trustworthy guidance and now triumphantly shines as guard over the lowly dwelling wherein rests the child who possesses all meaning.

They fall to their knees in homage, for their learning has made them humble, and their wisdom leads them to recognize the Divine in the fragile flesh of a child.

But for all their simple faith, their wisdom is sharp enough to detect the sham delight and murderous intentions of the wily Herod. And so they pay their re-

JAN. 7

The Feast of the Epiphany

READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

spects, leave their gifts, and modestly depart for their homeland, sorrowfully aware of the terrible price justice must pay for Peace.

Their role in history has been accomplished - to teach us all to follow the guidance of the Almighty, to accept our own role as Bearers of the Light, and to follow this Christ into His Mission, to partake of His Passion, and to join the millions through the ages who will preach His Gospel of

universal salvation. The Son of God is the one Judge and Arbiter of Truth and the one Source of Light, but we are all called to be "epiphanies," providing glimpses of that Truth, showing the way in our own small spots of time and circumstance to a larger plan and destiny.

Princely Child, make of us all wise men and courageous women, obedient children who will follow wherever you lead us. That means being faithful to meditation on the truth, sharing what we learn with others, taking part when possible in prayer and study groups. This is the way for us to be light-bearers, lighting up the darkness and confusion in the world in which we live.



Monsignor
Paul E.
Whitmore

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Swallowing the bitter pill of false liberation

A major study published Dec. 7 in the New England Journal of Medicine concludes that hormonal contraception increases the risk of breast cancer for women.

The research used all of Denmark as its sample, following nearly 1.8 million Danish women of childbearing age for over a decade.

The study, as described by the New York Times, "updates widely held assumptions about modern contraceptives for younger generations of women," especially the view that "newer hormonal contraceptives are much safer than those taken by their mothers or grandmothers." It also establishes that the risk to women increases with longer periods of use.

Major media outlets have done their best to minimize the implications of the study and "soften the blow" for the millions who, for decades, have faithfully em-

braced a "contraceptive mentality."

This mentality has promoted contraception, especially the Pill, as a path for women to move toward equality with men by enabling them to reap the "benefits" of the sexual revolution.

But Mary Rice Hasson, J.D., director of the Catholic Women's Forum at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. notes that the reality for women is very different, and "our lived experience has shown that this is a false promise."

Countless women, she emphasizes, have ended up being vulnerable to, and harmed by, the sexual revolution and its promotion of contraception as "the solution." They have been given a "bitter pill" in the form of the Pill.

In a remarkably prescient passage dating back to July,

1968, Pope Paul VI already foresaw this in his encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, the momentous and beautiful document explaining not only the moral problems with contraception, but also its devastating effects on men, families and women in particular.

Contraception, he writes, opens a wide and easy road "towards conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality. Not much experience is needed in order to know human weakness, and to understand that men-especially the young, who are so vulnerable on this point - have need of encouragement to be faithful to the moral law, so that they must not be offered some easy means of eluding its observance.

It is also to be feared that the man, growing used to the employment of anti-conceptive practices, may finally lose respect for the woman and, no longer caring for her physical and psychological equilibrium, may come to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment, and no longer as his respected and beloved companion."

Paul VI offers a profound, but unpopular, observation - that contraception is harmful to women, and is, in fact, anti-woman.

The widespread adoption of the "contraceptive mentality" has led inexorably to a new perspective on women, namely, that they should be more like men, and therefore they should,

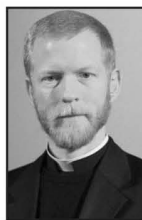
like men, become impregnable, through the ongoing practice of contraception.

Very young women, sometimes just entering puberty, are now placed onto regimens of hormonal contraception that can continue for years or even decades. From this perspective, their ability to conceive life becomes tantamount to a malady needing to be remedied, a "defect" that renders them "unequal" to men.

Strikingly, though, ever greater numbers of women are discovering an authentic and liberating form of feminism as they come to the awareness that, in the words of Hasson, "we don't have a design flaw. Being a woman is good... and it's a wonderful thing."

Wonderful, too, is that confident feminism and liberating sense of self-control that enables a woman to choose abstinence before

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Father Tadeusz
Pacholczyk
Ph.D.

AT THE MOVIES

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

The life of pop entertainment pioneer P.T. Barnum provides the subject matter for the big, brash musical "The Greatest Showman" (Fox). Ironically, the film arrives in theaters almost seven months to the day after the demise of the 19th-century impresario's most lasting legacy, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Though unlikely to engage the youngest viewers, an emphasis on marital fidelity and family values in general, together with the virtual absence of objectionable material, makes this screen biography appropriate for most others. Moviegoers' appreciation of it, however, will likely depend on their taste for the Lloyd-Webber style of Broadway and West End theater, whose approach it imitates.

Hugh Jackman leads with his chin in playing Barnum with bring-on-the-lions enthusiasm. Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon's script, meanwhile, traces its protagonist's rise from impoverished beginnings to worldwide fame with the

kind of occasionally challenged, but ultimately unquenchable, optimism that might have appealed to novelist Horatio Alger.

Barnum gains support in his ascent from his childhood sweetheart, Charity (Michelle Williams), who eventually turns her back on her wealthy and well-bred parents to marry him. Also shunning a genteel background to bolster Barnum's career is his unlikely business partner, New York socialite Phillip Carlyle (Zac Efron).

Assembling an ensemble of such unusual figures as Lettie Lutz, aka the Bearded Lady (Keala Settle) and dwarf "General," Tom Thumb (Sam Humphrey), Barnum turns a large profit by exciting the curiosity of the masses. Tensions arise, though, when he shifts his focus away from these loyal performers and friends to concentrate on backing the American premiere of Swedish diva Jenny Lind (Rebecca Ferguson).

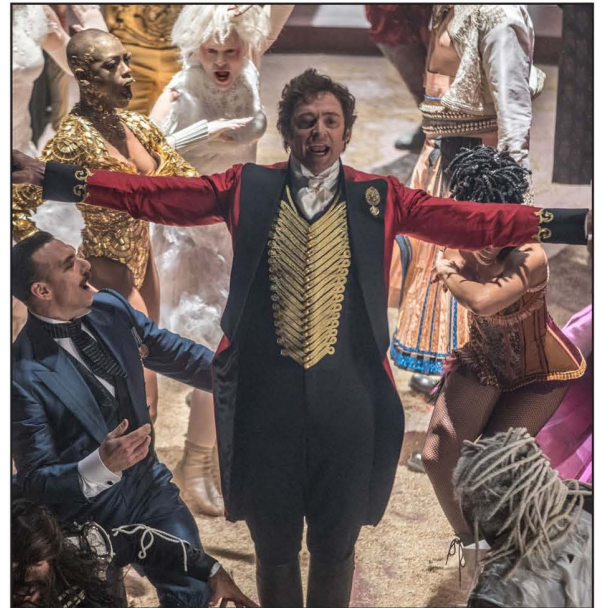
Barnum risks his fortune in the effort to promote Lind, hoping thereby to gain the elite standing that has previously eluded him. The fact that this breakthrough

may require him to shun those on whom he has built his success fails, initially at least, to deter him.

He is equally blind to the danger his absence on the road with Lind poses to his bond with Charity and their children - not to mention the foreseeable temptation arising from the beautiful soprano's prolonged company.

There is an implicitly pro-life message underlying director Michael Gracey's feature debut since its treatment of the social outsiders with whom Barnum surrounded himself strongly vindicates their inherent dignity and entitlement to respect. The picture's portrayal of Carlyle's convention-defying romance with African-American trapeze artist Anne Wheeler (Zendaya) is equally in line with Christian morals.

Both these aspects of the plot, however, betray historical naivete in projecting a contemporary outlook backward onto Victorian-era America. The audience is left with the impression that all the gaping inequalities of Barnum's day might easily have been effaced by a few brassy songs delivered with



CNS PHOTO/FOX

Hugh Jackman stars in a scene from the movie "The Greatest Showman."

the requisite zest.

Still, parents on the lookout for wholesome holiday fare will probably refrain from such nitpicking as, perhaps with teens in tow, they take in a love and success story that's old-fashioned in the best sense.

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



Swallowing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

marriage, rather than contraception, and, once married, to choose periodic abstinence in agreement with her husband if their circumstances indicate they ought to avoid a pregnancy.

Hormonal contraceptives, meanwhile, throw a wrench into the works on a number of different levels. Beyond setting up a woman to be "used" by men, the Pill (and hormone-releasing IUDs) cause significant alterations in her delicately-balanced physiology.

These include restricting her ability to ovulate, altering her cycles and secretions, and modifying her uterine lining — in effect, forcing her body into a pseudo-pregnant state to exclude the possibility of a real pregnancy.

Whenever a woman takes these kinds of steps to disrupt her natural fertility, it should come as little surprise that her body rebels in one fashion or another, including possible weight gain, headaches, depres-

sion, and the heightened and well-documented risk of thrombotic stroke, myocardial infarction (heart attack), and — as confirmed by the recent study — breast cancer. A woman's body doesn't stand in need of being "fixed" by these powerful drugs that wreak havoc on her biology.

The Church's ageless but countercultural teaching on contraception respects and uplifts women. It supports them in an authentic feminism that affirms their

uniquely important maternal role in family and society, and esteems their fruitfulness in marriage not as a defect, but as a real gift.

—
Father 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.ncb-center.org

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ADIRONDACK

FRIENDSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

Date: Jan. 11 and 18

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

Features: Volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake help elder neighbors stay connected to their communities

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

CLINTON

MARCH FOR LIFE

Plattsburgh – Annual Plattsburgh March for life to be held.

Date: Jan. 14

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Place: St. John XXIII Newman Center, to St. John the Baptist Church.

Features: Presentation at 1 p.m. Reception follows in parish center.

BUS TO MARCH FOR LIFE IN DC

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

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

Cost: \$30

Contact: Deacon Randy Smith at 518-566-6229. Please leave a message with your name and phone number

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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

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

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

Place: St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

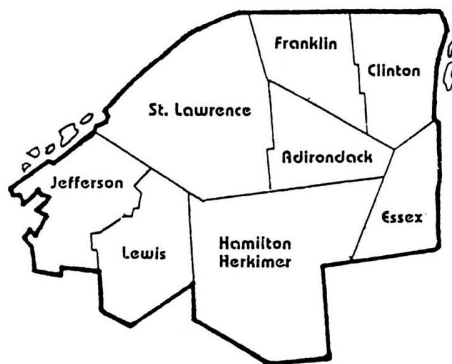
Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

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

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

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

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



The North Country Catholic welcomes contributions to "Around the Diocese."

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 1-866-314-7296;
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Time: 2 p.m.

Place: St. John's Holy Family Chapel.

FRANKLIN

HEARTS ON FIRE

Malone – Hearts on Fire to be held the first Friday of the month.

Schedule: 7 p.m., Praise & Worship Holy Hour; 8 p.m., Bonfire, snacks

Place: Notre Dame Church

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

St. Regis Falls – First Saturday Devotion and Holy Hour to be held

Time: after 4:30 p.m. anticipated Mass

Place: St. Ann's Church

JEFFERSON

ADDICTION RECOVERY

Watertown – A panel discussion "Pathways to Addiction Recovery and Resources has been planned

Date: Jan. 14

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 4

Place: Flower Memorial Library

Speakers: Dr. Charles Moehs; Dr. Ryan Tyler Representative, Credo Community Center; Betsy Rogers, Person in Recovery; Moderator: Anita Seefried-Brown, Alliance for Better Communities

Features: Free and open to the public, refreshments will be served.

Contact: Sr. Bethany at 315-212-6592 or Alliance at 315-788-4660

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Watertown – St. Anthony's Altar Rosary Society to have spaghetti dinner.

Date: Jan. 25

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall

Cost: Adults, \$8, Children, \$4; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75

Features: Take-out available at 4 p.m., please bring your own containers

SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held to benefit the Indian River Knights of Columbus.

Date: Jan. 6

Time: 4 p.m. to 7

Place: St. Mary's Parish Center

LIFERIGHT MEETING

Watertown – Liferight meets the first Wednesday of the month.

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: 870 Arsenal Street.

Features: pro-life videos, books and educational materials for borrowing.

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: For Cursillistas and all those interested in deepening a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Contact: Anne Seegebarth
ams2962@gmail.com, 315-783-4596

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

Watertown – Holy Hour for vocations

Date: Monday-Friday

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30

Place: Holy Family Church

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER GROUP

Watertown – Our Mother of the Eucharist Prayer Group to meet the 2nd Thursday of every month.

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8

Place: Msgr. Sechi Hall, St. Anthony's

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

Watertown – The St. Joseph Cupertino fraternity of the Secular Franciscans will have their monthly meeting.

Date: Aug. 27

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: Holy Family Parish

WEEKLY ADORATION

Sackets Harbor – St. Andrew's has scheduled exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on every Friday.

Time: 5 p.m. to 6

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

LEWIS

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Eucharistic Adoration set

Date: Jan. 5

Time: 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: morning prayer, Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations and world peace

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

Houseville – Divine Mercy for the month of January to be held.

Date: Jan. 7

Time: 3 p.m.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church

Features: Vespers, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. All welcome.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Lowville – Lewis Eucharistic Adoration to be held.

Date: Jan. 18

Time: 4 p.m. to 5

Place: St. Peter's Church

Features: one hour of Exposition, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Silent Adoration, and Benediction.

INTERNATIONAL CRECHES

Houseville – An exhibit of International Creches-Nativities is set

Dates: Jan. 7

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

during the week.

Place: St. Hedwig's Church,

ST. LAWRENCE

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Massena – Friday Devotions are set featuring Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour for Vocations.

Date: First Friday of every month

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30

Place: St. Mary's Church.

ST. RAPHAEL'S FOOD PANTRY

Heuvelton – St. Raphael's Food Pantry will be open every Friday.

Time: 9 a.m. to 11

Place: Parish Center

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

Massena – The Massena Catholic Community Book Club meets once a month

Date: Third Thursday of each month

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Sacred Heart Rectory

Features: Copies of book are often available on Kindle through our parish's Formed.org subscription

Contact: www.massencatholics.com or: smarium@massencatholics.com

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Massena – St. Mary's & St. Joseph's hold Benediction, Adoration on Fridays

Time: 9 a.m. to 10

Place: St. Mary's Family Room

DIOCESAN EVENTS

SURVIVING DIVORCE

Canton – The Diocesan Family Life Office has announced a new ministry for divorced Catholics

Date: 12 week program begins Jan. 25

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

Place: St. Mary's Church

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

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

FISHERS CLUB

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

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

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



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

A new year: still much work to do

A new year has arrived. The Christmas memories from recent days are still on our minds. Decorations are starting to come down. Children get back to school. Vacations come to an end.

But life in the Mission Lands, despite all our best efforts, continues to be a challenge for those who call it home. Our work has only begun. There is much prayer and sacrifice still to be made. Much love to be shared by our Missionaries around the world.

A few years ago, we started off our year by sharing a prayer by an anonymous author. This prayer was a favorite of late Father George Maroun's, who was a giant to the Mission Office.

It has been about fifteen years since he too used this in his New Year's column for the North Country Catholic. Let us once again revisit these beautiful words as we look forward together to a new year filled with hope.

*God of the years that lie behind us,
Lord of the years that stretch before,
Weaver of all the ties that bind us,
Keeper and King of the open door:*

*Grant us hope and courage glowing
White and pure as the stars above;
Grant us faith in a full stream flowing,
From the heights of Your eternal love.*

*Out of the ruins of doubt and sorrow
Out of the aches and pain and tears,
Help us to fashion a new tomorrow,
Free from the anguish of blighting fears.*

*All through the seasons of sowing and reaping
All through the harvest of song and tears.
Hold us close in your tender keeping,
O, Maker of all New Years!*

.....Anonymous

God Bless you all. Happy New Year!

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your Will.
www.rcdony.org/mission



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OBITUARIES

AuSable Forks – Mark J. Devlin, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 at Holy Name Church.

Brushton – Annabelle Ruth (Trumble) Bilow, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Champlain – Marie Lucienne (Pinsonneault) LaFontaine, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 18, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Chateaugay – Marilyn Kathleen Meagher, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church.

Clayton – H. Gordon Bailey, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial parish cemetery.

Clayton – John J. Bazinet, 74; Mass of Christian Burial in Spring 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial parish cemetery.

Clayton – Ralph J. Hayes, 84; Memorial Mass Dec. 28, 2017 at St. Mary's Church.

Coopersville – Edward "Eddie" A. Bechard, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 20, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church.

Croghan – Grayson Zehr, infant; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2017 at Scanlon Funeral Home.

Dannemora – Gregory Buckley, 64; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 St. Joseph's Church.

Elizabethtown – Leona F. "Peggy" (Poland) Cross, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2017 at St. Elizabeth's Church; burial in Lewis Cemetery.

Elizabethtown – Jeanne C. (Clark) Luppy, 90; Memorial Services in Spring at St. Elizabeth's Church.

Hogansburg – Laura C. "Molay" (Sunday) McDonald, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2017 at St. Regis Church.

Keeseville – Deanne E. (Relation) Dwyer, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2017 at St. John's Church; burial in Port Kent Cemetery.

Lowville – Ira I. Cobb, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2017 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Brantingham Cemetery.

Lowville – Margaret N. (Roggie) Hanno, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 at St. Peter's Church; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Rose Eileen Kourouf-sky, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Lyon Mountain – Theresa M. Siskavich, 49; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2017 at St. Bernard's Church.

Massena – Frank N. Catanzarite, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Alfred F. Derouchie, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – Ahlene C. Pellegrino, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Massena – William K. Richey, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church.

Mooers Forks – Cecile L. (Rabideau) LaPierre, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 at St. Anne's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mooers.

Mooers Forks – Jeannette (Bosley) Per-ras, 79; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2017 at St. Anne's Church; burial in parish Cemetery.

Morrisonville – Betty M. (Gowett) Amell, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

Morrisonville – Raymond E. Dixon, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 23, 2017 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, West Chazy.

Norwood – Virginal D. McGregor, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery, Massena.

Ogdensburg – Heather L. Bouchard, 44; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2017 at Notre Dame Church.

Ogdensburg – Winifred L. (Graveline) Spaman, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2017 at Notre Dame Church; burial in

Foxwood Memorial Park.

Plattsburgh – Nathalie V. (Mooso) Golden, 93; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 18, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

Plattsburgh – Major David J. Vivian, 74; Mass of Christian Burial in Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Peter's Church.

Port Henry – Carmen (Gallegos) De-Paoli, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2017 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Potsdam – Joan C. (Brunet) LaPoint, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Rosiere – Joseph M. Reff, 87; Mass of Christian Burial June 9, 2017 at St. Vincent de Paul Church; burial in parish cemetery.

St. Regis Falls – Colleen M. (Reardon) Russell, 55; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2017 at St. Ann's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Brushton.

Ticonderoga – John Edward Peterson, Sr., 79; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 3, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Ticonderoga – Roy Thomas Tucker III, 43; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Waddington – Mary Alice (Fobare) Carr, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2017 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery.

Watertown – Norman C. Egeberg, 89; Funeral Services Dec. 26, 2017 at the Cummings Funeral Service, Inc.; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

Watertown – Dante R. Morgia, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 30, 2017 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

West Chazy – Claude Lussier, 54; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 18, 2017 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

Willsboro – Morris E. Reynolds, Sr., 78; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 26, 2017 at St. Philip of Jesus Church

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*The Religious of the Diocese Wish to Thank All
of the Generous People Who Contributed to the
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You Will Be Remembered in Our Prayers.*

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