

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bishops see steps to be taken despite lack of vote | PAGE 6

Immigration eclipsed, but not forgotten by bishops | PAGE 12

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 27

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

NOV. 21, 2018

## Where there are lies, there can be no love, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Lying or being inauthentic is seriously wrong because it hinders or harms human relationships, Pope Francis said.

"Where there are lies, there is no love, one cannot have love," he said Nov. 14 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

To live a life "of inauthentic communication is serious because it obstructs relationships and, therefore, it obstructs love," he said.

The pope continued his series of talks on the Ten Commandments, focusing on the command, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor," which, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, forbids misrepresenting the truth.

"We are always communicating," whether with words, gestures, one's behavior and even by being silent or absent, the pope said. People communicate by who they are and what they do as well as by

what they say, which means people are always at a crossroads, "perched" between telling the truth or lies.

"But what does the truth mean?" he asked.

It is not enough to be sincere, he said, because someone could be sincere about a mistaken belief, and it is not enough to be precise because someone could hide the full meaning of a situation behind a barrage of insignificant details.

Sometimes, he said, people

think that revealing other people's personal business and confidential information is fine also because, "I only told the truth."

Gossip, however, destroys communion by being indiscreet and inconsiderate, the pope said.

The tongue is like a knife, he said, and "gossip kills," destroying people and their reputation.

"What is the truth?" he asked.

The ultimate model of truth is Jesus, who came into the world "to testify to the truth."

## A year of prayer for thier priests

MALONE – A new prayer apostolate at St. André Bessette Parish is uniting a group of parishioners in prayer for their parish priests.

Organized by parishioner Kathleen Nichols, the apostolate participants have committed to offering one hour of prayer per week specifically for the intentions of their parish priests, Father Joseph W. Giroux and Father Michael J. Jablonski. Nichols said the inspiration for the project came when her sister, Joan, told her she had been asked to participate in a similar initiative, the Seven Sisters Apostolate at her parish in Western New York.

## AT THE CONFERENCE



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Arlington, Va., and Bishop Terry R. LaValley smile as they listen to a speaker Nov. 14 at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

## MINISTRY ON THE MOVE



Deacon Richard Burns is the new coordinator of Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Ogdensburg. Asked shortly after his ordination to take on the new position, Deacon Burns said he did not hesitate.

FULL STORY, PAGE 3

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLIC

Box 326

Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400

BISHOP TERRY

R. LAVALLEY

President

REV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN

Vice President

JAMES D. CROWLEY

Secretary-Treasurer

DARCY L. FARGO

Editor &amp;

Communications Director



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.

Telephone:

(315) 608-7556

E-mail:

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;

dateline is Wednesday.

Member, Catholic Press

Association.

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to

North Country Catholic,

PO Box 326

Ogdensburg, NY

13669-0326

## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Thankful I'm where I'm supposed to be

I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

I'm blessed with amazing family, both the one I was born into and the one God helped me build. I have possibly the best husband in the world and the most joyful, delightful child. I have outstanding parents who helped my crazy sisters and I form strong moral compasses, work ethic and sense of humor. I have sisters who I count

among my best friends. I have in-laws who have always treated me like a daughter.

When it comes to my family life, I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

I have fantastic friends. I'm blessed to have a handful of best friends, and an army of acquaintances. My friends share laughter and tears, we share our wins and our losses. We share love. While I don't get to spend as much time with many of them as I'd like, our bonds remain strong.

When it comes to my social life, I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

I have a job I love. As of last week, I've officially been working for the diocese for six months. For the most part, my job is fun. I get to meet nice people and hear about what they're doing for God. Other parts of

my job are challenging, but there has been profound joy in even the toughest days. I have outstanding colleagues who are kind, caring and Christ-like, and I love what I do.

Every work day, as I pull into the parking lot at the chancery, I'm awestruck by the fact that I get to work for the church; I get to work for Christ. While I sometimes struggle with feelings of unworthiness, I also feel like I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

As I've mentioned, I've had some health struggles lately. Recovery has been a slow process. I've felt frustration, sadness and anger, but I've also received far more gifts and graces than I deserve. I've

seen beauty in the kindness and assistance of others. I've become much more aware of my need to ask for and accept help, a lesson that applies in many aspects of my life.

Even struggling with health issues, I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be.

Why am I writing this the week we celebrate Thanksgiving?

Because I'm thankful God has a plan for me. I'm thankful He has a purpose for every struggle, every success, every gift, every moment of despair, and every moment of grace and love. I don't always see the purpose, but I know He has one.

I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be, and I thank God for that.

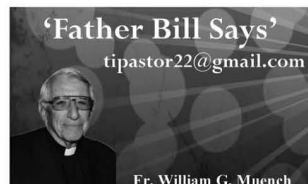
Darcy L.  
Fargo

## 'Tis the season to show gratitude

'Tis the season of gratitude. I like to describe this time of the year as a time to be grateful, a time to be thankful. First of all, I think of Thanksgiving Day. This is a special day, as families gathering in gratitude. We, Catholics, love to celebrate Thanksgiving with Mass and prayer as well as the traditional meal.

Then we will get into the Christmas season, another time for gratitude.

This year some may hesitate; they may say there is not much to be grateful for. Our Catholic church and our country are facing many difficulties and challenges these days. In fact, we could say the whole world faces problems that need solving. However, I believe that we have many reasons to be a people of gratitude. I like to follow the lead of Brother David Steindl-Rast. Brother David challenges us to make gratitude the important value in life. He writes if you want to find happiness, be



grateful.

I am well aware with great sadness of the many who have suffered because of the recent revelations in our Catholic Church. Yet, I still would encourage you to remember the many dedicated bishops and priests who continue to lead our Catholic Church and your parishes with faith, with trust and with love. I have been supported and guided in my life by many wonderful bishops and priests. I continue to trust in them to bring all of us closer to Our Lord, Jesus. I have complete confidence that they will unite and strengthen our Church.

For us, Catholics, our gratitude begins as we gather at the altar of the Lord for Eu-

charist. The very word Eucharist means thank you. Every Mass is a celebration of our gratitude to Our Lord for his life among us, his death on the cross and his resurrection. We bring our loved ones, our cares and concerns, and our hopes and dreams to the altar in gratitude for all that has been done for by so many and seeking the Lord's love and guidance for all every day.

'Tis the season! This is the time of year when we have multiple opportunities for expressing our gratitude for our families, for all who have made a difference in our lives. There is Thanksgiving dinner. As you pray Grace before the meal, be certain to fill your prayer with lots of gratitude. Thank God for the many gifts that have been given you by the Lord and for all the wonderful people around the table with you – there are so many reasons to be thankful.

I am certain that I can say

the same things about the Christmas season. It is certainly a season of gratitude. At Mass, we celebrate our gratitude for the birth of Jesus, the coming of Our Savior among us. Christmas Masses are very special in all parishes and should inspire us all to be grateful Catholics. And, of course, this spirit of gratitude will carry over to all families as they exchange gifts, no matter how simple. The gratitude draws all families closer and more alive in gratitude.

I want to end with my own gratitude to the Bishops of this country and for the efforts in their meeting in Baltimore this month to confidently meet the challenges that face our Church in these days. They demonstrated a real dedication to working together in their efforts to make our Church in this country united in its effort to solve our recent problems and to support Catholics.

# Keeping Campus Ministry on the move

By Amanda Conklin  
Contributing Writer

CANTON – Only one year into his diaconate, Deacon Richard Burns has taken on a new role as coordinator of Campus Ministry.

Asked shortly after his ordination to take on the new position, Deacon Burns said he did not hesitate.

"I was ordained to serve," he said. "So, when the opportunity opened up - not only an opportunity, but, the opportunity - I said 'yes.' It felt like a comfortable fit. Students keep me young."

Deacon Burns balances his Campus Ministry duties with his role as husband to Kathy (married for 32 years), dad to Michael, and his "day job" as manager of Community and Customer for National Grid.

A bit different than the challenge of keeping our



Deacon Richard Burns is the new coordinator of Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

lights on during North Country ice and snow storms, Deacon Burns says the biggest challenge in campus ministry thus

far is understanding that, just like the North Country, every location is unique.

"It has been a challenge

understanding the diversity of ministry," he said. "One might tend to think it is monolithic, but we have four main locations with active campus ministries, and every one is different. We serve the needs of the students, and the students are different. It has been humbling. It is remarkable how much our campus ministers do."

While his job at National Grid has him serving four counties and frequently on the go, Deacon Burns also enjoys staying on the move by sailing, bicycling and canoeing.

He is an avid stargazer and often incorporates spirituality into this hobby.

Deacon Burns is also a "holy roller," as enjoys riding his motorcycle. Deacon Burns is applying his "just-keep-moving" mentality to campus ministry.

"I was sort of thrown off the end of the dock with

campus ministry," he said. "I've found the surface and now I need to find where to swim... On the campuses we currently serve, the ministries are doing well, but the ones we aren't serving need help."

Though it has its challenges, working with the young people of the diocese has been energizing for Deacon Burns.

"To see young people not only maintaining, but growing in faith, that's not what the world thinks is happening, and it challenges me to grow my own faith," he said.

Deacon Burns suggested young adults and adult continue to pursue opportunities to grow in faith.

"Don't feel like you've 'graduated', because you receive all the sacraments," he said. "Find opportunities to grow in faith even if it feels uncomfortable."



Members of the CCBC Youth Group Ashton Paine, Drew Crawford, Maggie Paine, Evan Paine, Carter Johnston, Luke Dalton, Ainsley Crawford and Anna Dalton present Marie Doria, director of the Chateaugay Food Pantry, with a \$400 donation, as well as donated food and personal care items.

## Youth raise funds for food pantry

CHATEAUGAY – Members of the Catholic Community of Burke and Chateaugay Youth Group recently held a dance at the Chateaugay American Legion to raise money and donations for the Chateaugay Food Pantry. The group raised \$400 and over 200 pounds of donated items, including food and personal hygiene items.

"This was our second year hosting this event, and we doubled what we made our first year," said Valerie Dalton, youth minister. "A special thank you to the Chateaugay American Legion for donating the space for the dance,

DJ Merrill McKee from M&M Entertainment who helped make this even such a success, and all the volunteers from the CCBC Youth Group."

Dalton said the youth responded to the pantries needs as it planned the event.

"We were able to work as a community to bring a fun event for the youth while teaching them about giving back," she said. "The food pantry expressed a special need this year for personal care items. Thanks to our social media advertising, we had a lot of them donated."

# Group commits to year of prayer for priests

By Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**MALONE** – A new prayer apostolate at St. André Bessette Parish is uniting a group of parishioners in prayer for their parish priests.

Organized by parishioner Kathleen Nichols, the apostolate participants have committed to offering one hour of prayer per week specifically for the intentions of their parish priests, Father Joseph W. Giroux and Father Michael J. Jablonski. Nichols said the inspiration for the project came when her sister, Joan, told her she had been asked to participate in a similar initiative, the Seven Sisters Apostolate at her parish in Western New York.

"The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a prayer apostolate that a mother of a priest established to pray specifically for parish priests," Nichols said.

With the Seven Sisters model, seven women

commit to pray on a schedule, ensuring one hour of prayer is offered for the specific priest or priests every day. Substitutes are also recruited to cover days the scheduled individuals cannot fulfill the commitment.

Nichols said she was inspired by the Seven Sisters Apostolate and felt called to bring something similar, though slightly different, to Malone. The planning began.

"It continued to be pressed upon my heart to move forward with forming a prayer apostolate by customizing it to our parish," she said. "The thought was to keep it simple and welcome men as well."

Nichols said she approached Father Giroux to seek his blessing for the endeavor, which she intended to begin on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June, the start date used by the Seven Sisters Apostolate.

"Father Joe's words –

'Why wait 8 months?' – spurred me on to organizing by reaching out to the St. André Bessette Brothers men's group and the St. Catherine Siena Scripture Sisters women's group that are established in the parish. In a matter of five days, all seven (prayer) days were covered, including a substitute for when members are unable to fulfill their commitment."

Nichols noted three men volunteered for scheduled prayer hours the same day she emailed the two groups.

"That was my confirmation that it was meant to be opened to men," she said.

The group intends to begin its prayer offering on The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe on Nov. 25. Nichols said one day will be covered by a family of four who has opted to split the hour into a 15-minute interval for each. Another shift will be filled

## Pray for your priest

Apostolate organizer Kathleen Nichols said she encourages others to consider whether they're called to a prayer apostolate for priests.

"My advice is to follow promptings of the Holy Spirit," she said. "If God is calling any male or female, young or old, to establish a parish priest prayer apostolate, don't be afraid to open your heart to the challenge. There are many prayer warriors in many parishes that are waiting to be asked, and there are so many faithful and holy priests that need our prayer support to fulfill their promise to God and the faithful."

To start an apostolate, Nichols said a coordinator is needed to maintain the schedule and recruit members.

"It's just a matter of reaching out to people," she said. "I had access to email addresses of our parish men's group and women's group, so it made it a bit easier than it may have been otherwise, but it's about reaching out to people and word of mouth. It's surprising in that you get to see who steps forward that you may not have anticipated."

She noted, though, to expect some challenges.

"It is a prayerful discernment process, as it sounds easy but can end up being quite a challenge at times," Nichols said. "Asking God if you are being called to this apostolate is essential. In any spiritual endeavor, the enemy, Satan, tries to sabotage through discouragement, doubt and distraction."

Resources, including prayers, can be found at [sevensistersapostolate.org](http://sevensistersapostolate.org).

by an individual who has committed to also fasting on his scheduled prayer day.

Participants may begin the apostolate with a commitment prayer.

Nichols said Malone area residents interested in serving with the apostolate are encouraged to contact her at [sisters@standres.org](mailto:sisters@standres.org).



A group of early morning risers who helped make St. Mary's Harvest Dinner in Constableville the success it was. Pictured are (front row, from left) Rebecca Howanietz, Madison Howanietz, Kristin VanAlstine, Jaime Howanietz, (back row) Branton Carpenter, Stefan Howanitz, Sam Howanietz and Catie Howanietz.

## Teens pitch in at harvest dinner

**CONSTABLEVILLE** – There were no complaints on Sunday, October 7, at St. Mary's Constableville's Harvest Dinner, only praise and full bellies.

The extensive menu was all-you-can-eat and served family style, and it included all homemade/cooked items. Offerings included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, dressing, brown breads, rolls, cranberries, cole slaw, a large selection of beverages, and a selection of pies for dessert.

The annual meal, sponsored by St. Mary's Altar & Rosary Society, is coordinated by Janette Carpenter, with kitchen chef Bonnie Easton assisted by volunteer cooks.

This year, the kitchen was also helped by a number of students from South Lewis, who arrived at 6:30 a.m. to work and didn't leave till it was over. These young people, all relatives of those associated with getting the dinner put together, were given high praise for "getting it done."

## Environmental Stewardship

## A new diet

Have you ever come from a doctor's office with a prescribed new diet? If so, did this require refraining from some of your favorite foods or beverage? If the answer is 'yes,' how did you engage in this new challenge? Most likely not without a struggle to keep focused on the benefits to your overall health as you made changes in your eating habits.

Several decades ago, John Robbins, son of the Baskin Robbins Ice Cream Company, wrote a book titled "A New Diet for America." He explored the connection between diet, physical health, animal cruelty and the environment. He saw the connection between how we treat the earth and how we treat our bodies. His studies reflect the words of Native American Chief Seattle, who saw that "All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life, He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, He does to himself."

This reality is revealed to us as Christians in the Book of Genesis 1 & 2; namely, that we come from the earth, and we are called to be stewards of it.

In recent studies by the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future and Ohio State University, it was determined we, Americans, waste more than a third of our food annually because, in general, we don't pursue alternatives and because we can afford to waste.

"Americans waste food because we're confused- and because we can," said Jennifer McClellan in a May 2017 article in USA Today, 5/30/17.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us not only give thanks for all the fruits of the harvest but also consider one change in our present diets that could enhance our health and the well-being of the planet.

# New York's Reproductive Health Act does more than codify Roe vs. Wade

The New York State Catholic Conference has pointed out that the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) is not merely codifying Roe vs. Wade and must be examined not only for what it would newly enact into law, but also for what it would repeal from current law.

Please contact your representative soon, as the state Senate plans to pass this legislation quickly in 2019.

The following are facts about the RHA compiled by the New York State Catholic Conference.

Here are four ways the RHA goes way beyond Roe

vs. Wade in its extremism: **Roe vs. Wade never gave permission for non-doctors to perform abortions.**

- RHA repeals the current state requirement that only a licensed physician may perform an abortion.

- In its place, the bill would allow health care practitioners (some licensed, some simply certified or authorized) to perform both chemical and surgical abortions, both early and late-term abortions.

- RHA repeals NY's doctor-only law. (Subdivision 3 of Section 125.05 of NYS Penal Law)

**Roe vs. Wade never condoned**

**coerced or involuntary abortions.**

- RHA repeals the crimes of coerced, unwanted abortions.

- This disallows additional criminal charges and penalties in cases where a perpetrator seeks to make his partner "unpregnant" using a drug cocktail or physical violence.

- RHA proposes no penalties for violations of the new abortion law.

- RHA repeals accountability for illegal abortions. (Sections 125.05, 125.40 and 125.45 of NYS Penal Law)

**Roe vs. Wade said nothing about denying care to live-born infants.**

- The RHA repeals the current state requirement that a second physician must be present for abortions performed after 20 weeks gestation to provide immediate medical care to any live birth that may result.

- The bill also removes all legal protections for any infant accidentally born alive during an abortion and repeals protections for accidental live births. (Section 4164 of NYS Public Health Law)

**Roe vs. Wade said states have the right to prohibit abortion in the third trimester to promote their interest in the potential life of the fetus.**

- RHA repeals the current law which allows third-trimester abortions only in cases where a mother's life is in danger.

- In its place, the bill would allow third-trimester abortions for reasons of "health," which has been defined by the courts as age or economics.

The bill therefore allows late-term abortions for virtually any reason, repealing New York's current ban on most late-term abortions. (Subdivision 3 of Section 125.05 of NYS Penal Law)

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Nov. 21** – 10:50 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's Home

**Nov. 22** – 9 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 23** – 12 p.m. Visit and lunch with the Sisters of the Cross Chavand in Cadyville

**Nov. 24** – 4 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 25** – 8 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 27** – 12 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Nov. 28** – 11 a.m. Priest Personnel Board Meeting at Bishop's Residence

## Protecting God's Children

**The Diocese of Ogdensburg** has scheduled sessions for Protecting God's Children for Adults. Pre-registration online is required. Participants may preregister at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org) by selecting the registration button and following the directions. Upcoming sessions: **Nov. 28** – 6 p.m., Church of the Visitation, Norfolk  
**Dec. 9** – 2 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

## Rest in Peace

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

**Nov. 21** – Msgr. Joseph L. Tierney, 1968

**Nov. 22** – Rev. Bernard Caraher, 1893; Rev. James F. Lamitie, 2010

**Nov. 23** – Rev. Louis Brisson, 1963

**Nov. 24** – Rev. Bernard McCabe, 1857; Rev. G.P. Berneche, 1950; Rev. Norman E. Poupore, 2014

**Nov. 25** – Rev. M. C. Dubreuil, O.M.I., 1912

**Nov. 27** – Rev. Joseph Cole, 1929; Rev. Maurice O'Neil, 1999

## 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, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; [terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianeyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Pastoral Personnel at 315-393-2920


For a New or Used Car

## Mort Backus & Sons

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
**315-393-5899**



CHEVROLET



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*



Catholic news from around the world and the Diocese of Ogdensburg delivered to your home.

**Send payment to:**  
**North Country Catholic,**  
PO Box 106, Canajoharie, NY 13317

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Inside Diocese \$27  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  Outside Diocese \$30  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  \$35  \$50  
 Parish \_\_\_\_\_  \$100  \$250

# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Caravan receives rough reception in Tijuana

**MEXICO CITY (CNS)** – The first participants in the caravan of Central Americans arriving in Tijuana, Mexico, were met with hostility as residents of an affluent neighborhood confronted migrants wanting to camp on a beach near the border fence separating the United States and Mexico. The residents demanded the migrants leave Tijuana, sang the Mexican national anthem and shouted, "Mexico!" as caravan participants were taken to shelters, according to press reports and videos on social media. Father Andres Ramirez, director of Caritas Mexico in the Archdiocese of Tijuana, said such rough receptions were not the rule in Tijuana as the border city has a history of welcoming migrants and incorporating them into the community. "Tijuana is a city of migrants," he said. Father Ramirez attributed the hostility to Tijuana being the final stop prior to caravan participants hoping to cross into the U.S. to seek asylum. Some may have decided to stay in Tijuana, where factory work is abundant. How long the migrants stay in Tijuana remains uncertain as 3,140 people already are waiting to file asylum claims. U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has been processing only 90 requests per day, according to press reports.

## Young adults want 'genuine leadership,' bishop says

**BALTIMORE (CNS)** – Near the close of the U.S. bishops' Baltimore meeting, the church leaders turned their attention to the concerns of Catholic youths and young adults. Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who was one of the delegates at the October Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment at the Vatican, spoke to the bishops Nov. 14 about his experience but also what needs to be done now at the diocesan and parish levels to continue the synod's momentum. The challenge, he said, is for church leaders to sustain and further develop what began in Rome and what they heard from synod participants. For starters, dioceses could provide assemblies or synods and on a parish level, priests and other leaders should identify mentors for young people, bring youth into church leadership roles and help them to embrace their vocation. "They do not seek to be given token involvement. They want to exercise genuine leadership in our church," the bishop said.

## Sex abuse survivors announce lawsuit against U.S. bishops

**BALTIMORE (CNS)** – As the U.S. bishops entered the last public part of their 2018 fall general assembly, centered largely on the clergy sex abuse crisis, six clergy sex abuse survivors announced Nov. 14 a lawsuit against the prelates' main organization, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In a news conference near the hotel where the bishops were holding their annual fall meeting in Baltimore, Minnesota lawyer Jeff Anderson gathered three survivors from California, Minnesota and Pennsylvania to talk about the suit filed in federal district court in Minnesota late Nov. 13. The firm said in a news release that the lawsuit seeks "court ordered disclosure of identities of all offenders and their histories known only to the bishops who continue to keep this information secret." The lawsuit, filed on behalf of six men, alleges that the USCCB concealed "the known histories and identities from the public, parishioners and law enforcement of clergy accused of sexually abusing children across the country."

# Bishops see much they can do despite no vote on steps to address abuse

**BALTIMORE (CNS)** – The U.S. bishops arriving in Baltimore expected to make a statement with a series of steps meant to address a new clerical sexual abuse scandal in the church, among them a collection of standards of episcopal accountability, the creation of a lay-dominated commission to investigate allegations of bishop misconduct and a third-party reporting system to field such complaints.

They left Baltimore with no action on those steps. Even a hastily written, seemingly innocuous statement asking the Vatican to release "soon" its documentation on an investigation into retired Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick went down to a lopsided defeat Nov. 14.

So what is left for the bishops to do? Perhaps not much as a group right now, but individually they still can do much within their own dioceses, according to bishops at a Nov. 14 news conference following the public portion of the bishops' annual fall meeting.

"All of those touched-upon things we were looking at as a conference, individual bishops can do that. We can do that already," said Bishop W. Sean McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri.

"The bishops, individually, already have a certain amount of power and authority," Bishop McKnight added. "I have recently told the religious communities serving in my diocese that they have to release the names

of those credibly accused to remain serving in my diocese."

"There was consensus in the anger that was expressed by the bishops. I think we've all heard the anger of our laypeople back home," said Coadjutor Bishop Oscar Cantu of San Jose, California. "We listened for many hours over the past couple of days to those concerns ... and to specific recommendations, though we could not act on them."

The Vatican asked the bishops to delay voting on the abuse-related agenda items until after a February meeting for the heads of all bishops' conferences worldwide and so the proposed measures could be checked for their conformity to canon law.

"This conference has to be a leader globally," Bishop Cantu added. "In many ways in what we've done with the Dallas charter, the good things that have been accomplished for the past 16 years (since the charter was adopted) have to be replicated across the world," such as sharing them with other bishops' conferences "and for Pope Francis himself to hear."

"Here in this meeting, there were many, many things that we could do that we don't have to wait," said Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. "The tragedy of this is the victims and their own pain and their own hurt," he said, noting they listened

to abuse victims during the meeting who want the bishops "to prevent this from happening again."

Bishop McKnight, who used to work at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as a priest, said he spotted a growing consensus among bishops for greater lay involvement in dealing with abuse-related matters. As an ex-staffer, he added, "I noticed certain members of the (bishops') conference that can generally be found on the right, and they were strongly advocating for the involvement of the laity."

"This crisis might be drawing us together," at least in regard to "the utilization of the lay charisms of the church," Bishop McKnight said. "I think there was recognition from the left and the right ... to incorporate the lay genius."

At the USCCB, then-Father McKnight was executive director of the Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations from 2010 to 2015.

There are "positive things they can do without having consensus or a document," Bishop Christopher J. Coyne of Burlington, Vermont, said of his fellow bishops. "I am committed to transparency and accountability. My personnel files in Boston and Indianapolis are open to anyone who wants to see them where I was a priest. I absolutely support the lay board I put into place."

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Feast of Christ the King brings words of hope

Today marks the last Sunday of the Church year. It is the Feast of Christ the King, celebrating the coming of the Son of Man on the clouds of heaven at the end of time.

How we welcome these readings this year! They give us hope that, despite the violence, wars and crimes against humanity of our times, God's justice will prevail at the end. Just when we seem to be heading for cosmic, social, economic and political disaster, we are reminded that God is still in charge and that we belong to a kingdom that

will never fail us, an eternal kingdom of justice, peace and love.

God speaks to us today through the writings of two great visionaries – the Old Testament prophet, Daniel, and the New Covenant writer, John. Although they are "dream visions," we can confidently believe they carry God's inspired truth.

Daniel wrote at a time of great distress for the Jews under the Greek ruler, Antiochus Epiphanes II. Such visions gave the people courage to endure, just as today's second reading about



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

November 25

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus  
Christ, King of the Universe

READINGS

Daniel 12:1-3

Hebrews 10:11-14

Mark 13:24-32

Jesus "coming on the clouds of heaven" encourages us.

In John's time, Christians were already suffering persecution under the Emperor Domitian. As Jesus was with the Father at the creation of the world, so will He be the one to judge all nations at the end of time. He says of Himself in John's vision, "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (the first and last letters of the

Greek alphabet). He is our past, our present and our future King.

In the Gospel, Jesus boldly affirms to Pilate that He is that Son of Man. When Jesus affirms that His whole purpose is to testify to the truth, Pilate cynically asks, "What is truth?"

If Pilate had waited for an answer, would he have believed it? Would he have dared to act on it? We can ask the same questions about today's world leaders. More to the point, how do we ourselves react to the truth? Truth is not a what but a who. "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" Jesus said. The truth is: God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten

Son. He continues to pour the Holy Spirit into our hearts. God reigns forever and for always.

Witnessing to that truth means we must open our hearts and listen to His words. Then our actions will be authentic.

This, too, is the constant message of our present spokesman for Christ our King, Pope Francis. He urges every nation on this earth to strive for justice for every one of its subjects, and to work always to end war and violence. We are assured that, at the end of time, Christ's kingdom will rule, and evil will be overcome. *CHRISTUS VINCIT, CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT!*

## Change your mindset and always trust in God

*The following editorial, provided by Catholic News Services, was originally published by The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. It was written by Patti Lamb, one of the newspaper's regular columnists.*

Have you ever found yourself in a "faith valley?"

By that, I mean a place where your spiritual life would really benefit from an answered prayer or an unexpected blessing or something in the "win" column?

Recently, I took a walk with a girlfriend on a brisk fall Saturday morning.

She shared that she feels there's been some interference between God and her.

"It's like the heavenly cell towers are down, and my prayers aren't quite

reaching his ears," she said.

My friend explained that she sensed some sort of disconnect, like communication means were broken and it felt like God couldn't hear her prayers – or even her praise.

I could relate with her feelings and told her that I was in need of a faith infusion, too.

We both expressed that we know God is good – all the time – but there are points in our spiritual journeys when he feels far away. Our conversation turned to a few of our friends, who were also encountering some "faith testers" in various forms.

One friend was nervously awaiting the outcome of her mother's medical tests; another friend's marriage was undergoing turbulence. These friends of ours, close to God and faithful

to him in every way, also struggle and encounter faith valleys. No one seems to be exempt from the stings of this earthly life.

I called my girlfriend later that weekend to share an entry I read from a devotional book called "Jesus Always" by Sarah Young.

"Trust in my unfailing love – thanking me for the good you do not see. When evil seems to be flourishing in the world around you, it can look as if things are spinning out of control. But rest assured: I'm not wringing my hands helplessly, wondering what to do next. I am still in control, and there is behind-the-scenes goodness in the midst of the turmoil. So I urge you to thank me not only for the blessings you can see, but for the ones you cannot see. ... You

must not let confusing circumstances shake your faith in me. When your world feels unsteady, the disciplines of trusting and thanking me serve to stabilize you."

The writer referenced St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!" (Rom 11:33)

God's ways are so far above anything our finite human minds can comprehend.

I circled back to the last line of the passage, and suggested to my friend that we "use the disciplines of trusting and thanking to stabilize us."

We came up with a new prayer mantra to cling to when life's circumstances present challenges to our faith: "I trust you. I thank

you. I love you. Amen."

My friend and I realize that heaven's cell towers aren't down and we're still getting service, but we need to change our mindsets and step out in faith.

She texted me with a quote from author John Ortberg: "Peace does not lie in getting God to give me other circumstances. Peace lies in finding God in these circumstances."

And that's what I think we all truly struggle with – acceptance of God's will. I keep finding myself praying for resolution A, B or C to this or that petition, but my prayer should be to acknowledge that God, creator of heaven and Earth, has a firmer grasp on what's best for me than my tiny human brain can conceive.

Gracious God, wherever we are today, please help us find you there.

## AT THE MOVIES

## FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

NEW YORK (CNS) – For a film about magic, 2016's "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" was strangely lacking in enchantment. So it's welcome news that the follow-up, "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald" (Warner Bros.) is sharper and more engaging, though defects remain.

The sequel is suitable for a wide audience since the mayhem is free of gore and the basic values congruent with scriptural ones. At least for those paying careful attention, however, a single line of dialogue may raise parental concerns.

What has returning screenwriter and "Harry Potter" scribe J.K. Rowling, conjured up this time? Essentially a whole lot of trouble for the main character of the first movie, awkward critter-collecting introvert Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne). Newt finds himself caught up in a multisided struggle among powerful forces within the world of wizardry.

Having escaped the well-deserved captivity into which he was delivered at the end of the original outing, villainous Gellert Grindelwald (Johnny Depp) has a scheme for world domination that doesn't bode well for non-magical humans. Though he mysteriously refuses a direct confrontation with Grindelwald, future Hogwarts



CNS PHOTO/WARNER BROS.

Johnny Depp stars in a scene from the movie "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald."

headmaster Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law), the only opponent capable of defeating the malefactor, asks Newt to keep an eye on him.

Even as he tracks Grindelwald, Newt shyly pursues romance with his true love, Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston). He also tries to maintain his fraught relationship with his bureaucrat brother, Theseus (Callum Turner), despite the broad differences in their personalities.

Director David Yates works up more energy

than marked the last outing, which he also helmed. But the plot is overly complicated. Grindelwald's plan, for instance, somehow involves the troubled family history of melancholy Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller) as well as the childhood experiences of Theseus' passionate fiancée, Leta LeStrange (Zoe Kravitz). A heavy reliance on special effects and cuddly animals further weakens the proceedings.

Moral issues aren't touched on much. Dumbledore does express admiration for Newt's

consistent resolve to do the right thing in any given situation and the script promotes tolerance and a preference for peace over force.

As for the sorcery on display, it's pretty standard stuff and unlikely to draw even impressionable youngsters toward the dark side. If there are any red flags to be raised, they will be hoisted by allusion to an entirely different subject.

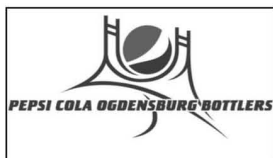
We eventually learn, both through discussion

and silent flashbacks, that in youth Dumbledore and Grindelwald, far from being enemies, were the best of friends. When another character observes that the two were as close as brothers, Dumbledore answers that they were even closer.

Given that Rowling has publicly identified Dumbledore as gay, viewers steeped in Potter lore may wonder if Dumbledore is hinting that the lads had a sexual relationship. All the more so given the way their hands intertwine at the end of a ceremony in which they become blood brothers. But there the matter is dropped. So those seeking either confirmation or contradiction of all this will have to await the next installment.

The film contains much stylized bloodless violence, occult themes, some gruesome images and a possible reference to homosexuality.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



Visit our website  
[www.northcountrycatholic.org](http://www.northcountrycatholic.org)

- Read local stories and commentaries
- Search archived papers
- View diocesan events and much more

Find us on Facebook!



### Plattsburgh Wholesale Homes

Building the North Country  
for over 45 Years!



Smart. Stylish. Functional.  
Everything you want in your New Era modular home.

**We process all VA loans**

New or Used Manufactured and Modular Homes

Located on 7109 State Route 9

Exit 39 of the Northway, across from the city beach of Plattsburgh

518-563-1100 • [www.pwmh.com](http://www.pwmh.com)



## ADIRONDACK

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Lake Placid – Christmas Bazaar to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 1

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. Agnes School

**Features:** Trees, wreaths, crafts, toys, baked goods and donuts, gifts, raffles and auctions. A great way to kick off the holiday season. Lunch will be served and Santa will be visiting. Vendor space is available.

**Contact:** For more information call 518-523-3771 or info@stagneslp.org

## CLINTON

## HEALING MASS

Redford – Healing Mass to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 20

**Time:** 5 p.m. at Reconciliation; 6 p.m. at Mass

**Place:** Assumption of March Church

**Features:** Sacraments available, anointing of the sick and holy eucharist during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

## CRAFT FAIR

Peru – St. Augustine's to have their Annual Winter Craft Fair.

**Date:** Dec. 1

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Augustine's Parish Center

**Features:** Come and meet new and old vendors who have a world of talent and they bring their treasures for all to see and purchase. There will be basket raffles and food in the concession area with our famous Bake Sale!

## FISHERS CLUB

Plattsburgh – The Lakesiders Fishers Club to have their fall discernment meeting.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 3 p.m.

**Place:** St. Peter's Upper Room

**Features:** Discernment, Evening Prayer and Dinner for high school juniors and older.

**Contact:** Father Venette (hvenette@gmail.com) or Father Lucia (dlucia@rcdony.org)

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

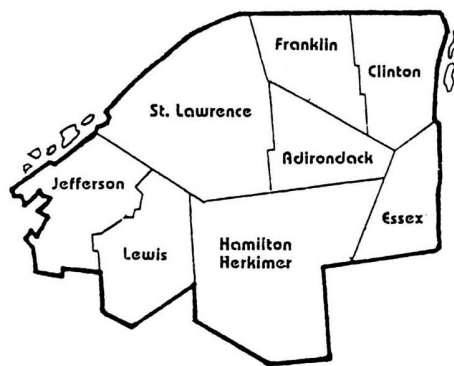
Plattsburgh – Seton Catholic to have a Christmas Dinner.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 12 p.m. to 5

**Cost:** \$10; under 5, Free

**Features:** Serving turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert.



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, 315-394-0670;  
e-mail news@northcountrycatholic.org.

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

Raffles, Bake Sale and Christmas Wreaths to be sold.

## BOARS HEAD FEAST &amp; FESTIVAL

Altona – Boars Head feast and festival to be held.

**Schedule:** Jan. 5 at 5 p.m. and Jan. 6 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Angels Hall and Church

**Cost:** Feast Only, \$25; Festival Only, \$20; Both, \$40; Children, \$10; under, Free

**Features:** Two evenings that celebrate the End of the Christmas Season and the Feast of the Epiphany. A medieval jubilation of Light from Darkness.

**Contact:** For more information call 518-236-5632

## ESSEX

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Olmstedville – Advent Bible Study to be held on Bible Basics.

**Date:** Starts Nov. 7th for 6 weeks.

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Place:** St. Joseph's Parish House

**Features:** Topics will include where and how it came about, how it developed, how to get the most out of it, and how to interpret it in the light of the church's teachings. A meal of soup and bread will be served.

## FRANKLIN

## CHRISTMAS TEA

North Bangor – The St. Augustine Parish will hold their annual Christmas

Tea.

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Hall

**Features:** There will be crafts, baked goods, The Cake Walk, a Chinese auction and raffles plus Tea, Coffee, Punch and Cookies. In addition, there will be a luncheon with homemade soups, sandwiches, and beverages available. Please come and enjoy the festivities! Santa will make a surprise visit for the children in the afternoon around 2 p.m.

## SILENT AUCTION GALA

Malone – Holy Family School to have a Silent Auction Gala.

**Date:** Dec. 8

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Family School

**Contact:** Anne Marie Wiseman at 518-483-4443 or advancement@hfs-malone.org for more information

## JEFFERSON

## BIBLE STUDY

Evans Mills – Four-week Bible course on Wisdom Literature to be held.

**Date:** Beginning Nov. 28

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

**Features:** The presenter (via DVD) is Jeff Cavins, with homework review and discussion led by K of C Council 7471. This course will cover the final four sessions in the eight-week program begun in Lent. Each session is self-contained, however, enabling new stu-

dents to join us.

**Contact:** call 315-767-1065 to register.

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER

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

**Date:** Nov. 29

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

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8, Children, \$4.50; Children under 3, Free; Sauce, \$5 per quart; Meatballs, \$.75 each

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

## SPAGHETTI &amp; MEATBALL DINNER

Evans Mills – Spaghetti and Meatball dinner to be held by the K of C.

**Date:** Dec. 1

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

**Place:** St. Mary's Parish Center

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

**Contact:** 315-629-4678

## MINI RETREAT

Watertown – St. Anthony's Church will be sponsoring a Women of Grace Mini Retreat.

**Date:** Dec. 1

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

**Place:** Msgr. Sechi Hall

**Features:** Learn more about Our Blessed Mother from Father Ted Crosby. This free mini-retreat includes the rosary, a "Father Ted Talk," adoration, lunch, and social time. Women ages 15 and up are welcome to attend.

**Contact:** Please RSVP by calling Scarlett at 859-583-0564.

## OPERATION MIRIAM LUNCH

Watertown – Operation Miriam Lunch to be held for all women and middle school age and up.

**Date:** Dec. 9

**Time:** 11 a.m.

**Place:** SSJ Motherhouse

**Contact:** Shayne e-mail: slippincott@rcdony.org or call 315-782-3620

## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Watertown – IHC is currently accepting nominations for their Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Features:** Please visit ihcschool.org for nomination form or to submit online. The Deadline to Nominate is Dec. 10.

**Contact:** mike.delaney@ihcschool.org

## LEWIS

## DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

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

**Date:** Dec. 2

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** Vespers (Evening Prayer), Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. Come and pray for mercy for ourselves and the whole world. All are welcome.

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

## ADVENT MEDITATIONS

Croghan – Advent Meditations with Mary to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 5

**Time:** 7 p.m.

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

**Features:** A Advent Prayer Journal can be purchased at <https://shop.ascensionpress.com/collections/rejoice> that has daily Scripture, Prayer & Reflections for Advent. You can also sign up for weekly video reflections.

**Contact:** 315-346-6958 for more information

## ST. LAWRENCE

## CRAFT FAIR

Gouverneur – St. James to have their annual craft fair.

**Date:** Dec. 1

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Cost:** is a donation to the school.

**Features:** We fill the gym and most classrooms with local crafters. Concession will be available. Santa arrives at 1:30 p.m.

**Contact:** For more information contact St James Parish at 315-287-0114

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## VIRTUS FACILITATOR TRAINING

Ogdensburg – The Diocese Safe Environment Office will be coordinating training for individuals interested in becoming Virtus Facilitators.

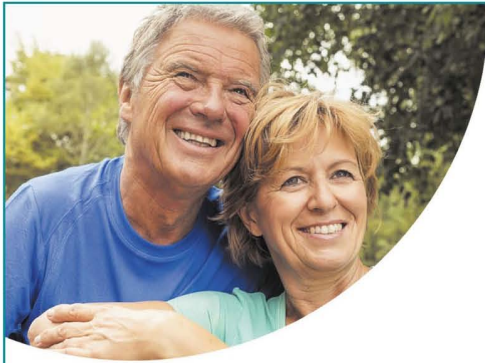
**Date:** Dec. 11

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Place:** Brzana Building Conference Room at the Diocesan offices in Ogdensburg.

**Features:** A working lunch will be provided.

**Contact:** For more information, please contact John Morrison, Director of Safe Environment Office at (315) 393-2920 Ext 1440 or jmorrison@rcdony.org.



**FIDELIS**  
LEGACY PLAN



## Medicare Advantage and Dual Advantage Plans for 2019

We'll meet with you in the comfort of your home, answer all your questions, and help you choose the plan that's right for you.

### Depending on the plan, key benefits include:

- \$100 prepaid, over-the-counter card for non-prescription, health-related items
- \$400 flexible spending benefit
- \$0 monthly plan premium
- \$0 deductible for prescription drugs
- \$0 copay for preferred generic drugs
- \$0 or low copay for doctor visits
- \$0 copay for annual dental checkup
- Discounts for hearing devices\*
- Transportation...and much more!

**Cost-saving Benefits**

**Help from Our Experts**

**Doctors You Know and Trust**

For a complete listing of plans in your service area, contact the plan. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. Out-of-network services may require more out-of-pocket expense than in-network services. Benefit restrictions apply. Fidelis Legacy Plan is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Fidelis Legacy Plan depends on contract renewal. \*Fidelis Legacy Plan partners with TruHearing for discounted purchases of hearing devices.

**Call us today! 1-800-860-8707 TTY: 711**

Monday–Sunday, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. from October 1–March 31

Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. from April 1–September 30

| @fideliscare

[www.fideliscare.org](http://www.fideliscare.org)

H3328\_FC 18155\_M



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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith  
 Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ, Director  
 622 Washington St., Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
 (315) 393-2920; fax 1-866-314-7296  
 mbrett@rcdony.org

# Thanksgiving prayers for the faithful in honor of the Missions

It is that time of year again. Snow is in the air. The rush of the holidays is upon us. As we sit down to Thanksgiving with family and friends this Thursday, would you please take a moment to remember those who live in the mission lands and those who dedicate their lives to spreading the word of Jesus to those not as fortunate.

Let us pray for the people in the Missions and show gratitude to those who work there tirelessly.

For all who suffer: the diseased, the poor, those denied dignity, and those who live without hope, grant them the peace of knowing that Christ the King will never abandon them nor tire of tending to their needs;

For this great country, where our voices do make a difference, where we have the freedom to live our lives in accordance with our beliefs, where our potential is not limited by our parentage, and where we have the opportunity to raise our families in comfort and abundance, we thank you Lord;

For the children of the world, may they be protected from hunger, abuse, illiteracy, disease, neglect, and violence, and allowed to enjoy lighthearted and carefree childhoods, gently molded by God's laws and loving discipline,

For those tormented by disease, depression, addiction, abuse, and hopelessness, and for those who love and suffer with them, may they be comforted by God's love and God's promise of deliverance,

For all Christians, may we be humble stewards of the gifts given to us by God, and may we set an example of mercy and generosity by becoming involved in efforts to distribute the world's wealth among all of those in need.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Canton** – Irene (LaPree) Krenceski, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Michael Thomas Ashcroft, 73; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in New St. James Church.

**Carthage** – Joanne (Higman) Rycraft, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Chazy** – Donald C. Favreau, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Coopersville** – Aline M. (Bechard) Terry, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Joseph's Oratory; burial in Parish Cemetery.

**Dannemora** – Irvin Rodney Gero, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church.

**Ellenburg** – Marie Evelyn (Smith) DeCoste, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2018 at St. Edmund's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

**Gabriels** – Edward Mark Tucker, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2018 at Church of the Assumption; burial in Mountain View Cemetery.

**Heuvelton** – Mary Ann (Sabol) Caswell, 69; Memorial Mass Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Raphael's Church; burial in Beech Plains Cemetery, Pierrepont.

**Lisbon** – Rita D. (Phelps) Scott, 82; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2018 at Ss. Philips and James Church.

**Lowville** – Paul E. Getman, 69; Funeral Services Nov. 16, 2018 at Iseneker Funeral Home Inc.; burial in Lowville Rural Cemetery.

**Lowville** – Stephen J. Pleskach, 92; Funeral Services Nov. 17 at the Sundquist Funeral Home; burial in Old Glendale Cemetery.

**Massena** – Jason P. Cole, 46; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Norwood** – Theresa M. (LaFountain) Vice, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2018 at St. Andrew's Church; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Beulah V. (Richards) Kiah, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Peru** – Norine C. (Lamoy) Lee, 85; Funeral Services Nov. 14, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Fairview Cemetery, AuSable Forks.

**Plattsburgh** – Edna E. (Nephew) Clark, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2018 at Our Lady of Victory Church; burial in Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

**Plattsburgh** – Deborah A. (White) Coryer, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Ralph Senecal Jr., 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Peter's Church.

**Redford** – Randy H. Guimet, 61; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2018 at Church of the Assumption; burial in

parish cemetery.

**Star Lake** – Rosemary Rice-Warner, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 17, 2018 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Hubert's Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Albert Amin Abbass, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, Cape Vincent.

**Watertown** – Marcia A. Barrett, 81; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 14, 2018 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Michael F. Griffin, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 15, 2018 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Mary R. (Marra) Parker, 95; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 13, 2018 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**West Chazy** – Cecile L. (Snide) Brothers, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 12, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Ellenburg Depot.

### Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from readers of the *North Country Catholic*.

- Due to space limitations, we ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas which are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Send letters to North Country Catholic, PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or e-mail to [news@northcountrycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountrycatholic.org)
- Join the conversation!

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

 #Pontifex

The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**

is on  
**FACEBOOK**

- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

 Like

## Chapel in the woods available for prayer, peace

CANTON—Are you in search of peace?

Along the town line of Canton and Potsdam on the Pollock Road, there's a little log chapel, hidden from the road and nestled on the highest point in the area of Bucks Bridge.

The location, run by a group called The Evangelizers, includes outdoor Stations of the Cross along the path to the chapel, starting at a Crucifix visible from the road. Pilgrims may find shrines devoted to their favorite saints along the trail.

Originating and blessed back in 1991, the retreat has never been advertised, except by word of mouth. Now, recognizing the increasing need for peace and prayer in a fast-paced world, the Evange-

lizers have decided to share this gift God has given to those seeking peace.

"It is a private meeting with God, in a special way in His nature," the Evangelizers wrote in a release. "Blessed with a bounty of apple trees, coaxing the deer and wildlife to the sanctuary for man and animal. The Chapel was built from the abundance of cedar on the property. The straw floor gives the warmth feeling of the stable the Lord was born."

Adequate for small prayer groups, the pews allow one to spend as much time as they wish in dialogue with the Lord, sharing their needs and giving their thanksgiving. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed daily at 3 p.m.

when anyone is on the property, welcoming any and all faiths to prayer. While the retreat is always available for walk-in daytime use, overnight accommodations can sometimes be arranged with advance notice.

In addition to the Pollock Road location, the organization has a retreat site close to the Blessed Sacrament Shrine in Hanceville, Alabama, and another in rural Old Town, Florida.

Volunteer caretakers are needed to help maintain all three places.

Anyone seeking more information may contact The Evangelizers at [evangel@evangelizers.org](mailto:evangel@evangelizers.org) or Evangelizers, 323 Pollock Rd, Canton, NY 13617



A secluded chapel in the woods on Pollock Road in Canton is available for prayer free of charge.

## Immigration eclipsed, not forgotten by bishops

BALTIMORE (CNS)—A small button that said "defend migrants" pinned on the jacket of El Paso Bishop Mark J. Seitz of Texas was one of the few reminders of a topic that dominated much of the 2017 fall meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, but one hardly mentioned just a year later.

While thanking the leadership of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a July visit to detention centers where migrant children were being held and to shelters helping recently arrived migrant families in southern Texas, Bishop Daniel E. Flores of the Diocese of Brownsville reminded bishops gathered for the Nov. 12-14 meeting that the plight of migrants remains a great concern for the church.

"At our last meeting, which seemed like a long

time ago, we were very concerned, and rightly so, at the separation of mothers and children," said Bishop Flores, publicly addressing the fall meeting of the USCCB Nov. 13.

"And there was even a delegation from the conference that came to my diocese, which the cardinal (USCCB president Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo) led, and for which I'm very grateful," Bishop Flores said, "because they saw these young people on the periphery, or in detention centers and who are in very difficult situations. This is to remind us that this continues to be part of the mission of the church."

As policy decisions from Washington brought about the detention of children at the border and the separation of families that caused great outrage in the summer, the U.S. bishops moved into high

gear to denounce the practices and drew the public's attention to their plight during a highly publicized visit to the border.

They also have been fierce advocates of youth who came to the United States illegally as children and have called on Congress to find a way to make them legal residents of the country. They have been vocal opponents of a proposed wall along the border with Mexico and called on Congress to help recipients of Temporary Protected Status stay in the country.

But after the current sex abuse crisis began in earnest this past summer with the publication of a grand jury report detailing decades of claims of sex abuse by clergy and other church workers in Pennsylvania and accusations that an American cardinal may have abused minors

and sexually harassed seminarians, immigration seemed to take a back seat.

The sex abuse crisis dominated much of what the bishops discussed in their fall meeting, even as border bishops such as Bishops Flores and Seitz, along with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio, daily contend with humanitarian responses to welcome migrants running from violence and poverty in Central America and who face a wave of hostility and policy decisions directed at keeping them out of the land where they're seeking shelter.

The "rhetoric" directed at immigrants is what worries Archbishop Garcia-Siller, who says it's important that Christians understand that helping people in need is an important part of following in Jesus' footsteps and

that's not a message some Christians are embracing.

The task may only become more urgent as conditions in Central America fail to improve and migrants travel in greater numbers headed for U.S. border cities as the Trump administration keeps firing back with threats for immigrants inside the country and those attempting to enter it.

"Young people and their mothers and fathers are still coming through the entire border, from California through Brownsville," said Bishop Flores in a Nov. 12 interview with Catholic News Service.

Hardly discussing immigration during the bishops' meeting was "unfortunate," said Bishop Seitz, because it's important "to have a voice (on the topic) on a national stage" given the current tide against immigrants."