

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Four priests to transfer, one to retire | PAGE 3

Forum explores alternatives to fetal tissue research | PAGE 11

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 29

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

DEC. 5, 2018

## Pope: Idolatry empties lives and ruins hearts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Every heart enslaved by false idols and evil desires needs a "transplant" with a heart filled with love, joy, goodness, hope and generosity, Pope Francis said.

"How does this 'heart transplant' happen? From an old heart to a new heart? Through the gift of new desires," the pope said Nov. 28 during his weekly general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall.

The new desires are seeds planted by the Holy Spirit, growing into a thirst for a new life, like Christ's, that is hopeful, grateful, free, blessed, generous and sincere, he said.

The pope's catechesis before the start of Advent Dec. 2, was the last of his series of talks on the Ten Commandments.

The commandments, he said, should not be seen as a series of

rules, but rather as a process of "benediction and liberation" that leads to a true, authentic life, finding "rest" and salvation in God.

God, he said, "asks for nothing before he has given so much more" first.

"He invites us to be obedient in order to free us from the deception of idolatries that have so much power over us. In fact, seek-

ing self-fulfillment in the idols of this world empties us and enslaves us while what gives us stature and substance" is a relationship with God, the pope said.

God calls people to "the beauty of fidelity, generosity and authenticity," he said, but how does one get there?

"We need a new heart, in which the Holy Spirit dwells," the pope said.

## Religious Retirement Fund appeal

On December 8 and 9, the parishes in our Diocese will conduct the annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious, a collection that benefits some 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

The fact that these religious worked for little or no compensation in years past means that they are now struggling to meet the costs of caring for retired and infirmed members. The proceeds from this collection offer some financial support for their communities in caring for older members. In addition, it helps to ensure that younger members can continue to perform the good works of their elders.

FULL STORY, PAGES 7, 8, 9, 10

## RETREAT TEAM



WWW.SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

The team from NET Ministries presents to youth from the eastern part of the diocese in a recent confirmation retreat.

## ENCOUNTERING CHRIST



Madonna Champagne, sophomore at Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, plays music during a break at the annual Intercollegiate Fall Retreat.

FULL STORY, PAGE 4

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: \$30Matters for publication  
should be  
addressed toPO Box 326  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669  
and should be received byThursday 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

## That sister had a mean football tackle

It was the Ice Storm of 1998, and power had been out in Bombay for several days. I was a senior in high school.

My parents, then members of the local fire/rescue department and frequent campers, were more prepared than most, having several generators and a large house stocked with food. It wasn't long before my family started taking in neighbors who were struggling with the storm.

Among our house guests was a young Dominican sister, Sister Gabriel.

At that point, I knew Sister Gabriel well. I was a member of our parish youth group and youth choir, and it put me in frequent contact with the Dominican community. They taught us apologetics. They helped us find community in faith. They helped us want to be holy.

As the power outage wore on, and our house guests increased in numbers, my sisters and a couple friends and I decided it would be fun to play a little football in the ice-covered snow. Sister Gabriel wanted to play.

Donning a pair of sweatpants, hoodie, coat, gloves and a knit winter hat, Sister Gabriel trucked across the street with us to the lawn/parking lot of the town Post Office. There, the snow/ice combo was largely undisturbed. It was a perfect football field.

One thing was clear early on: No one wanted to tackle Sister Gabriel. But after she drove each of us into the ice-covered snow with hits that would make any NFL defensive tackle jealous, we got over it.

Sister Gabriel taught us that being holy doesn't mean being boring. She taught us that faith could be both

pious and fun; that we can be people of deep faith, but still lay someone out with a mean tackle.

While you may never have been tackled by a young sister, I bet a lot of us have been struck by the actions of a religious sister or brother in some way.

In this edition, we're highlighting the Retirement Fund for Religious. We're blessed in this diocese to have outstanding religious men and women who have given their lives in service of Christ. They serve our schools, our hospitals, our parishes and our communities. This is a good opportunity for us to help them in return.

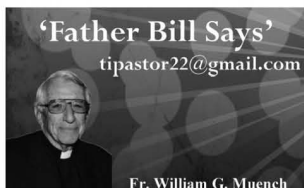
Darcy L.  
Fargo

## Find time for Advent this Christmas season

Advent can be a rather confusing spiritual season for us, Catholics, to navigate. Advent is these four weeks before Christmas. The church has made this a special time of prayer and fasting as a time of preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the celebration of Christmas.

At the same time, this is also a time filled with all sorts of Christmas stuff – Christmas trees to be decorated, lights to decorate the outside of the home. There are Christmas cards to write, shopping to be done. There are Christmas pageants and Christmas parties to attend. Personally, I love them all, especially the Christmas cards. I love to receive Christmas cards. It is so good to hear from friends all over the country, especially the ones I don't see often.

Our days are filled with Christmas stuff, but when we go to Church, it is Advent. No Christmas carols, no Christmas decorations. Purple is the color of the season. There is special



music for Advent. We all know, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." So, when we attend Mass or spend time in church for private prayer, we leave Christmas outside. Our time of prayer becomes that spiritual time of Advent, as we again open our hearts as a preparation for another celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

St. John the Baptist is our spiritual guide and patron saint for Advent. John the Baptist realized quickly what his vocation in life was to be. God make it very clear to John that he was the one who would transform this world by announcing the coming of Jesus as our Messiah. John became an enthusiastic preacher; his gift was to announce Jesus to people. The Gospel tells us that large crowds came to listen

to him, even the religious leaders came from Jerusalem to hear him.

John preached a forgiveness of sin, and he urged the people to be ready to admit their sinfulness. To remember their dedication to live a better life, John asked them to enter the River Jordan with him and be baptized – a baptism of repentance. They would not forget that moment, and they would realize that they were being led to Jesus.

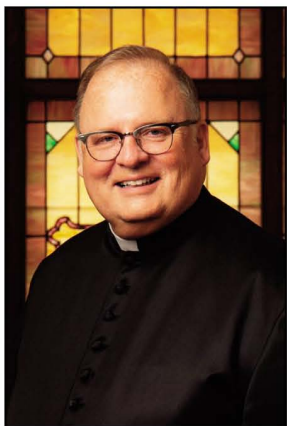
John baptized Jesus, designating him as the one who was to come. St. John the Baptist is the one who prepares us to be good disciples now by challenging us. St. John urges us to again make Jesus a true part of our lives. St. John challenges us to transform each day of our lives, and to reach out to those in need.

There is a danger as we come again to another Advent. There are many who may say, "I've been here before; I've done many Advent programs. I must be well-prepared for Jesus." How-

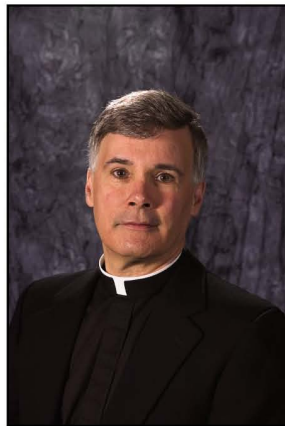
ever, this may not be true. There are many distractions and temptations that could take us away from Jesus. Our question must be: how good is my relationship with Jesus? Could it be possible that I need some time with St. John the Baptist to find the love and peace and presence of Jesus in my life, to make Jesus more alive in my heart.

So I urge you amidst the Christmas cards and decorations to find some precious time for Advent. Today, our guide, St. John the Baptist points us to the celebration of the Mass. The best opportunity for us to enliven our relationship with Jesus is the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Mass, both on Sunday and during the week.

I often write about the Mass, I know. I find each time I join with a congregation or with even one other person to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, I discover a new and better relationship with my God. Every Mass brings me closer to Jesus.



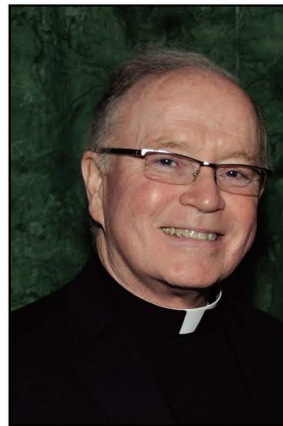
Father Timothy G. Canaan



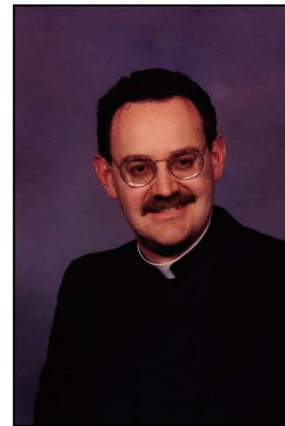
Father Garry B. Giroux



Father Kevin D. McEwan



Msgr. John R. Murphy



Father Howard J. Venette

## Four priests to transfer, one retires

Darcy Fargo  
Editor

**Ogdensburg**—After meeting last week with the Priest Personnel Board, Bishop Terry R. LaValley has announced the following changes to priest assignments, to be effective Jan. 23:

Father Kevin D. McEwan, currently pastor at St. Mary's in Ticonderoga and Our Lady of Lourdes in Schroon Lake, will become of St. John the Baptist and the St. John XXIII Newman Center in Plattsburgh. In his new assignment, Father McEwan will continue to work with Msgr. Dennis J. Duprey and Father Eduardo Pesigan III, the pastoral leadership of St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, to implement the Living Stones pastoral plan for the city parishes and related entities.

Father McEwan will replace Father Timothy G. Canaan, who is retiring due to health issues.

"I will be stepping down as pastor of St. John's and going on disability in January 2019," said Father Canaan, who has been diagnosed with acute tri coronary artery disease. "This move is happening at the recommendation of

my cardiologist at the Cleveland Clinic. After my last procedure in August he was very concerned about my health and strongly recommended to Bishop LaValley that I should retire or go on disability."

Father Howard J. Venette, currently pastor of St. Bartholomew's in Old Forge and St. Anthony of Padua in Inlet, will be assume the role previously held by Father McEwan in Ticonderoga and Schroon Lake, and Msgr. John R. Murphy, currently pastor of Parish of the Visitation in Norfolk, St. Raymond in Raymondville and St. Andrew's in Norfolk, will become pastor in Old Forge and Inlet.

In a move planned in the diocesan pastoral planning process, Father Garry B. Giroux, pastor of St. Patrick's in Brasher Falls and St. Lawrence's in North Lawrence, will also serve as pastor of Parish of the Visitation in Norfolk, St. Raymond in Raymondville and St. Andrew's in Norfolk.

A Watertown native, Father Canaan was ordained May 22, 1993. He has been assigned, in various capacities, in Ticon-

deroga, Crown Point, Plattsburgh and Canton. Father Canaan has also served as Vocations Director for the diocese, and director of admissions for Wadhams Hall Seminary.

Prior to serving in Ticonderoga and Schroon Lake, Father McEwan has served as pastor in Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette Lake. Previously, he was the administrator in Morristown, Hammond and Rossie, and parochial vicar in Saranac Lake, Bloomingdale, Massena and Louisville. A native of Yorktown Heights, New York, Father McEwan was ordained May 11, 2002 by Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito.

Father Venette has served Old Forge, Inlet and Raquette Lake since 2016. He has previously served as pastor in Potsdam and Colton and Harrisville, as administrator in Brushton, Constable, Westville and Trout River, and as parochial vicar in Massena, Potsdam, Plattsburgh and Malone. Father Venette was ordained July 21, 1984 by Bishop Brzana at St. Patrick's in Chateaugay.

Msgr. Murphy, a native of Saranac Lake, has served as pastor in Norwood, Norfolk and Raymondville since 2012, serving as an administrator in Norfolk and Raymondville for a year prior. He has served in Platts-

burgh, Canton, Morristown, Brier Hill, Potsdam, Madrid, Heuvelton and Lisbon. He has also served in diocesan roles, including moderator of the Curia, episcopal vicar for Pastoral Services and chancellor. He was ordained July 2, 1973 by Bishop James Hickey.

Ordained May 1, 1976 by Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana, Father Giroux served as an assistant pastor at Notre Dame in Malone and St. Alphonsus in Tupper Lake. He has served as pastor at Constable, Westville and Trout River, as Potsdam. He has also served in diocesan roles, including secretary to the bishop and associate chancellor.

### The North Country Catholic Makes A Great Gift!

Enter a one year subscription for a member of the family or for a friend as a gift from you. We'll send a special gift card to the recipient.

#### Gift Recipient Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### Gift Giver Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New  Subscription

Renewal

Inside Diocese \$27 enclosed

Outside Diocese \$30 enclosed

Clip and Mail Check to:  
North Country Catholic

PO Box 326, Ogdensburg, NY



# Students 'Encounter Beauty, Encounter Christ'

By Amanda Conklin  
Contributing Writer

SARANAC LAKE – Eleven college students from St. Lawrence University, Clarkson University, SUNY Potsdam, and SUNY Canton gathered on the weekend of Sept. 21 to 23 at Camp Guggenheim for the annual Fall Intercollegiate Retreat.

The theme of the retreat was "Encounter Beauty, Encounter Christ." Deacon Richard Burns, Coordinator of Campus Ministry led a workshop on Psalm 8 and shared about his star gazing hobby, the beauty of the heavens, and the power of God. Students were able to view the night sky off the point using Deacon Burns' telescope.

Tylor Starkey, campus minister for Potsdam, gave a workshop on the philosophy of beauty. SUNY Potsdam senior Conner Cummings led a personal witness workshop on how he finds beauty in the Catholic Church and shared about



Evan Schulz, senior at St. Lawrence University, Madonna Champagne, sophomore at Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and Jessica Sokol, junior at Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, enjoy some downtime playing music during the annual Fall Intercollegiate Retreat.

his own faith journey. Father Bryan D. Stitt presented a workshop on how to find God through beauty in meal, media and man.

The retreat included adoration, Mass and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance, as Father Patrick A. Ratigan of Saranac Lake joined Father Stitt to hear confessions Friday night. The students also had the opportunity to hike nearby Mount Baker led by Adirondack guide and Pro-Life director for the diocese, John Miner.

The young adults enjoyed a special candle-lit dinner together to share fellowship and a beautiful view of the fall leaves on Saturday night of the retreat. Colleen Miner and Ellen Miner generously served as the cooks for the weekend.

The retreat also included an opportunity for students to ask specific questions about the faith using a "question box," which lead to discussion. SLU senior Evan Schulz of Missouri said he enjoyed the interesting topics.

"I thought the question

box night went far beyond typical questions common in youth ministry," Schulz said. "The leaders did not just recite their locked and loaded answers on sex, birth control, homosexuality, abortion, gender, etc. Instead, they wrangled extremely diverse and complex economic, bimolecular, anthropological, medical, and cosmological issues and their fundamental and practical implications on Catholic theology and logic."

In addition to a time for learning, the retreat is a

time of cherished fellowship and rest for the students. For many freshmen, it is a time to get to know some new friends when the homesickness begins to set in.

"Before the retreat, I wasn't practicing my faith regularly," said SUNY Canton freshman Jon Monnat, a Watertown native. "But after the retreat, I was blown away by the amazing Catholic family I met, and it has encouraged me to get more involved in the community and pray every night!"

"There is something so wonderful about being able to share our faith with believers and non-believers alike," added Madonna Champagne, a sophomore at Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam and Malone native. "The Camp Guggenheim retreat allowed me to spend a weekend with likeminded college students praising God and learning more about our faith. Going on the retreat reminded me how much beauty is in everything; I am so grateful I was able to go. I will never forget how much fun it was, and how amazing our faith is."



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

For a New or Used Car

**Mort  
Backus &  
Sons**

On Canton-Ogdensburg Rd.  
315-393-5899



## MYSTERY PLAYERS SHOWS

Already two performances into their schedule, The IHC Mystery Players have the following dates remaining for their Advent show.

- Dec. 9 – St. Cecilia's, Adams at 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 16 – Holy Family, Watertown at 7:15 p.m.

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

 #Pontifex



## LEAVES DOWN, RAKES UP

Students in grades 5 to 7 work with their Christian Formation teacher on a service project raking the lawn at St. Paul's Church in Black River. Pictured are, from left, Ryan Jarrard, Thomas Fahrenbach, Ricky Naputi, Dr. Jim Newell, Jason Kubis, Chris Rumschlag and Nathaniel Fahrenbach.

SCENES FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE

# FACES OF FAITH



This fall, parishioners from St. Peter's, St. Mary's and St. Hedwig's Parishes in Lowville, including three students, took a bus trip to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Father Jay Seymour was invited to concelebrate Mass, and Deacons Ken Seymour, Ron Gingerich and Tom Yousey were also invited to serve at the Mass.

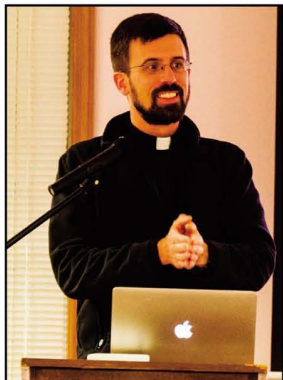


Leagon Carlin, seminarian for the Diocese of Ogdensburg, received the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders from Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.



JESSE SOVIE/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

(Above) The Commissioned Lay Ministry Association SLFA recently hosted its fifth annual dinner meeting at the Church of the Visitation/Fr. Amyot Parish Center in Norfolk. The event was attended by 57 participants, including priests, deacons, lay ministers, spouses and guests. The event began with Mass celebrated by Msgr. John Murphy. The guest presenter for the evening was Father Bryan Stitt, director of Worship for the Diocese of Ogdensburg and pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canton. (Right) Father Stitt presented on the four temperaments: "Understanding People's Temperaments as a Catholic in the 21st Century." Are you choleric (natural leader), sanguine (playful), melancholic (orderly) or phlegmatic (peacemaker)? As Commissioned Lay Ministers working together, this requires respect and consideration for all temperaments in a group or on a committee in order to be more efficient and effective in a ministry. If you are interested in learning more, go to [temperamentquiz.com](http://temperamentquiz.com) to take a five-minute quiz to ascertain your temperament makeup.



Immaculate Heart Central junior kindergarten student Carson Missert, son of Dave and Christine Missert, celebrated his fourth birthday with his classmates. In lieu of gifts, his friends were asked to bring a donation for the local SPCA and a new book to be donated to the IHC school library.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## To the editor,

Some thoughts of Saint Thomas Aquinas, (the greatest of Doctors) on the matter of immigration based on Biblical principles. It is clear that immigration must have two things in mind: the first is the nation's unity; and the second is the common good.

Immigration should have as its goal integration, not disintegration or segregation. The immigrant should not only desire to assume the benefits but the responsibilities of joining into the full fellowship of the nation.

Secondly, Saint Thomas

teaches that immigration must have in mind the common good; it cannot destroy or overwhelm a nation.

This explains why so many Americans experience uneasiness caused by massive and disproportional immigration. Such policy artificially introduces a situation that destroys common points of unity and overwhelms the ability of a society to absorb new elements organically into a unified culture. The common good is no longer considered.

A proportional immigration has always been a healthy development in a

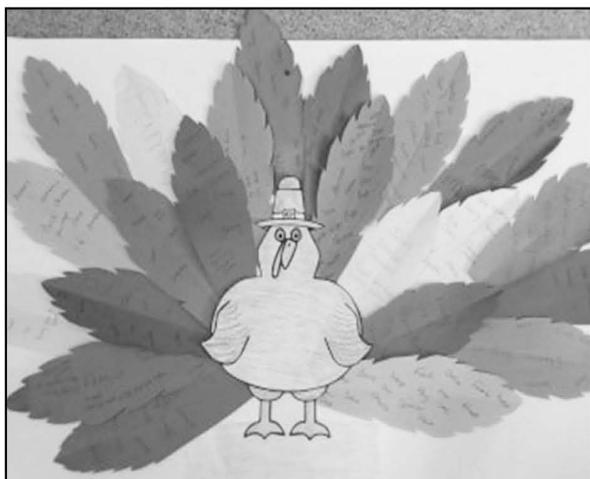
society since it inject new life and qualities into a social body. But when it loses the proportion and undermines the purpose of the State, it threatens the well-being of the nation.

When this happens, the nation would do well to follow the advice of Saint Thomas Aquinas and biblical principles. The nation must practice justice and charity toward all, including foreigners, but it must above all safeguard the common good and its unity, without which no country can long endure.

Thanks to Saint Thomas Aquinas Summa Theological Crusade commentary.

Joan C Boulio  
Dexter

## TURKEY OF THANKS




St. Stephen's Church in Croghan hosts an annual family gathering to give thanks to all, especially our catechists for giving of their time and talents. This year, while cookies were being decorated and consumed, children helped to create a Turkey of Thanks. Students were asked to share what they were grateful for, and each class wrote their answers on feathers. When the turkey was assembled, participants shared their thoughts. Responses ranged from turkeys, gravy, shelter, families, friends, teachers, Jesus, God, and Eternal Happiness, Gathering in Joy and giving thanks to God for all we are given.

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!



## Letters to the Editor

We welcome letters from North Country Catholic readers!

- We ask that the number of words be limited to 300.
- We cannot accept letters which support ideas 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)

## To Report Abuse

If you have a complaint of suspected misconduct involving diocesan clergy, religious, employees or volunteers, contact **Victims Assistance Coordinator**, Terrianne Yanulavich, Adult & Youth Counseling Services of Northern New York, 618 Lake Rd, Chateaugay, NY 12920; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@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



## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Dec. 5** – 9:30 a.m. – Diocesan Department Head Meeting at Wadhams Hall followed by Lunch

**Dec. 6** – 12 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by lunch at Bishop's residence with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod

**Dec. 7** – 1 p.m. – Visit and Mass at Bare Hill Correctional Facility in Malone

**Dec. 8** – 12 p.m. – Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Dec. 9** – 11 a.m. – Operation Miriam Gathering at the Sisters of St. Joseph's Motherhouse in Watertown

**Dec. 10** – 1 p.m. – Advent Afternoon of Reflection for Clergy at St. Peter's Church in Plattsburgh

**Dec. 11** – 9:15am – Advent Reception with students from the Catholic Schools at Bishop's Residence

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

## Rest in Peace

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

**Dec. 5** – Rev. Michael Hallahan, 1891; Most Rev. Edgar P. Wadhams, D.D, 1891

**Dec. 6** – Rev. Edward F. O'Brien, 1936

**Dec. 8** – Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, 1931; Msgr. Cornelius J. Crowley, 1946; Rev. John Leo Hammill, 1949; Rev. John Harvey, 1961

**Dec. 9** – Rev. George Marion, O.M.I., 1927; Rev. Edwin Hanlon McCarthy, 1950; Rev. Arthur LaVigne, 1956

**Dec. 10** – Rev. James Hogan, 1882

**Dec. 11** – George Montreuil, 1914; Rev. Edward Tetrault, 1952; Msgr. George Henry Brisson, P.A., 1969

## 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). Upcoming sessions: **Dec. 9** – 2 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

## Environmental Stewardship

## Resisting the 'gospel of consumerism'

Have you ever walked out of a store with more things than you intended to purchase? Did the special – buy one get the second one for 50 percent off – ever tempt you to buy more than you needed? If so, you may have experienced the power of the "gospel of consumption."

The concept of a "gospel of consumption" was conceived as far back as the middle 1920s. As this concept grew, intentionally or not, the free marketplace canonized grasping, consumption and desire as the essential human impulses that would drive the machine of civilization. When people spend money on things they do not need, this is good for the economy.

Wayne Muller, in his book, "Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives," notes: "Americans now consume twice as many goods and services per person than we did in 1945. We buy houses almost three times larger than the families who moved into the suburb in the mid-1940s, and we fill them with twice as many home furnishings. We work more hours, we buy more things, and the economy prospers." (p. 131)

Pope Francis states in Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home: "Christian spirituality, by contrast, offers a growth marked by 'moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. . . (It) proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption.' (#222). The ancient teachings found in our Biblical roots and life of Jesus reveal to us that 'less is more.' It is a way of living life to the full." (#223)

As we enter into this Season of Advent, may we find ways to resist the "gospel of consumerism" and replace it by the Gospel of love this Christmas. Be creative in your gift giving; buy less and waste less.

# Retirement Fund for Religious



**Collection Weekend  
Dec. 8th and 9th**

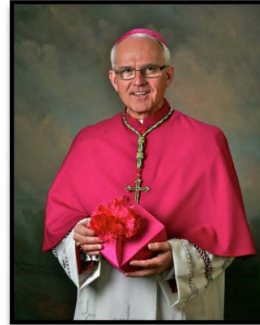
*Please give to those who have given  
and are giving a lifetime*

*“Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God on a*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

On December 8 and 9, the parishes in our Diocese will conduct the annual appeal for the *Retirement Fund for Religious*, a collection that benefits some 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.



Recently, Pope Francis referred to consecrated religious as the “Church’s perennial dawn.” They are witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! We are so blessed to have these women and men serving the faithful of our Diocese. They provide such life-giving roles in our Diocesan family.

Many fine religious men and women have served and continue to serve the people of God here in the North Country as teachers, health care providers, pastoral associates, administrators, pastors and assistant priests. We are richly blessed to have a community of contemplatives, the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, supporting us through their ministry of prayer. We are also grateful to those missionaries (Sisters of the Cross, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Heralds of the Good News) who have left their home countries to minister here.

We are so indebted to these consecrated religious. I hope you will be able to show your appreciation by supporting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The fact that these religious worked for little or no compensation in years past means that they are now struggling to meet the costs of caring for retired and infirmed members. The proceeds from this collection offer some financial support for their communities in caring for older members. In addition, it helps to ensure that younger members can continue to perform the good works of their elders.

Thank you for your generous support for this year’s Appeal!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg

*What a gift and blessing for the entire church!  
(Pope Francis)*



*"Every consecrated person is a gift for the People of God on a Journey" (Pope Francis)*

### Orders Serving in the Diocese

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



Bishop Terry R. LaValley celebrated the anniversaries of the Consecrated Religious of the Diocese of Ogdensburg at St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg. Left to Right: Sister Jennifer Votraw, SSJ; Sister Mary Louise Fielder, SSJ; Bishop Terry R. LaValley, and Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVN

- ◆ Religious communities are financially responsible for the support and care of all members. Income, earnings, and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ By 2027, retired religious are projected to outnumber wage-earners by more than three to one.
- ◆ The funding shortage is compounded by rising healthcare costs and decreased income. And, as more religious reach retirement age and leave compensated ministry, income will further decline while care needs increase.
- ◆ There are 31,000 religious past age 70 living in the United States. In 2017, the average annual cost for their care was almost \$44,000 per person.
- ◆ Many elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests worked for little to no pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough money for their care. Please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection at Mass.

*What a gift and blessing for the entire church! (Pope Francis)*

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



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



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

*Religious of  
the Diocese of Ogdensburg*



Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

You can express your gratitude for all the religious have done and will continue to do by giving to your parish's annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious  
- OR -

send your donation directly to:

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**  
P.O. Box 106  
Canajoharie, NY 13317

**COMFORTING · NURTURING · TEACHING · NURSING · SHARING · LOVING · CARING**

# Forum explores alternatives to fetal tissue in research

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Alternatives to the use of fetal tissue from abortions are already plentiful, asserted one speaker at a Nov. 27 forum on the issue hosted by the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington.

"There are alternatives that exist that we can use," said Tara Sander Lee, an associate scholar at the Charlotte Lozier Institute -- the research arm of the Susan B. Anthony List -- at the forum. What's more, Lee added, "there are so many ethical alternatives."

The acquisition of fetal tissue has become a \$100 million industry, according to one 2017 estimate. Lee, who has a doctorate in biochemistry, cited the case of Advanced Bioscience Resources, which she said has been referred to the federal Department of Justice for profiteering.

Advanced Bioscience Resources, according to Lee, obtained 20-week-old fetus from an abortion clinic in June 2014 and paid \$60. It then sold the fetus' brain, eyes, liver, thymus and lungs to five different customers, charging \$2,275 in all for the specimens, plus added charges for shipping, disease screening, cleaning and freezing.

"Service fee, or profit?" Lee asked.

"The human body is amazing and has a lot of tissues and organs that are available right now from the adult and pediatric population," Lee said. "They can come from living individuals as well as post-mortem" rather than from aborted fetuses, she added.

"When a woman goes in and delivers a baby, the placenta, the umbilical cord, the umbilical-cord blood and the amniotic fluid are precious resources," Lee said at the forum. "They contain precious resources ... that can be used to treat patients and save their lives."

"Just from skin, an individual can donate a small, little biopsy of skin and you can use that skin to go back and go back to an embryonic phenotype," she said. "They will actually resemble stem cells."

Pluripotent stem cells, Lee added, can be purified even further to make "organoids" that resemble the brain, lungs, kidney and liver.

Adult stem cells, according to Lee, are "the only stem cell proven successful in treating well over 1.5 million patients worldwide. They are used to treat numerous diseases and conditions such as cancer, stroke and spinal cord injury."

Umbilical-cord blood is a "very rich source" of adult stem cells, Lee said. "You can either donate the blood or you can also store because it withstands long-term cryopreservation," noting there have been more than 35,000 such blood transplants worldwide.

"They're not only treating people after they're born, but they're also treating patients in the womb before they're born," Lee said at the forum. She cited one case in which the mother donated bone marrow, which was collected and processed, then injected through the umbilical vein to be circulated

through the child to treat the disease that was discovered in utero.

Lee also described trans-amniotic stem-cell therapy as "a reverse amniocentesis" in which, rather than going back through the umbilical vein, "you can go through the amniotic fluid to treat this baby."

She said medical professionals are developing strategies to treat congenital heart defects in the womb. "You can tissue-engineer a graft," she said. "You can go in and perform surgery early on and ... correct the congenital defect."

While there are advantages to using fetal tissue and cell culture, there are also shortcomings, according to David Prentice, Charlotte Lozier Institute vice president and an adjunct professor of molecular genetics at The Catholic University of America's Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family.

Those drawbacks include expertise, quantity, instability and economy.

"You can't get a lot of cells. They tend to become unstable after a while," said Prentice, who also has a doctorate in biochemistry. "To get to a cell culture, you need that chunk of tissue." There also is the ethical issue of using "fresh fetal tissue" rather than historical fetal cell lines, which he noted grow "for years, for decades."

Prentice did admit to the "ethical taint" of using a fetal cell line. "It did come from an abortion," he said, "but it's not an ongoing type of act."

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Catholics have 'unshakable faith' in Boko Haram territory

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Bishop Oliver D. Doeme of Maiduguri, Nigeria, has seen his share of death, violence and destruction in the past nine years, but he keeps his focus on his firm belief that the local church will be restored. The 58-year-old bishop was appointed to the diocese in 2009, the same year the insurgency group Boko Haram, headquartered in Maiduguri, began its onslaught of bombings, assassinations and abductions in an attempt to overthrow the Nigerian government and create an Islamic state. The group's name, loosely translated, means "Western education is forbidden." There has been one form of attack or another, on Catholics in the diocese since 2009, said the bishop, who was in Washington to attend a Nov. 28 prayer service – sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need-USA – honoring today's Christian martyrs at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

### Archdiocese of Santa Fe to file for bankruptcy protection

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (CNS) – Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, said the archdiocese planned to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection following the recommendation of several consultative groups. He announced the plan Nov. 29 at a news conference at the Catholic Center in Albuquerque after a mandatory meeting with archdiocesan priests. The archbishop explained that he had considered filing for bankruptcy protection in recent years and decided to take the action because the archdiocese faces up to 40 active claims from alleged victims of clergy sex abuse. "We could see where this was all heading and the trajectory wasn't changing," he told reporters. "We just don't have any money. If we're not here, we can't help anybody." The archdiocese planned to file the case during early December, Archbishop Wester said. The announcement was the second major occurrence related to clergy sex abuse within the archdiocese in two days. Agents from the office of New Mexico's attorney general executed a search warrant Nov. 28 to obtain records from the archdiocese regarding at least two former priests credibly accused of child sexual abuse.

### U.N. migration pact seeks to promote dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – A Vatican official said an intergovernmental pact can help countries address the current migration crisis through dialogue and concrete solutions rather than confrontation and fear. Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugee Section of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said the Catholic Church is doing all that it can to help welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants in countries where the U.N. Global Compact on Migration is formally adopted. "The compact has a new style, a new spirit based on what we have brought," Father Czerny told journalists Nov. 28. "It is our desire to promote dialogue and not confrontation and isolation; to promote a culture of encounter and not let fear decide. This is the problem. If fear is in charge, that is a problem." Father Czerny was among several experts who spoke about the global compact, which will be formally adopted at an international conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, Dec. 10-11. Also present were Anne T. Gallagher, president of the International Catholic Migration Commission, and Stephane Jaquemet, policy director for the commission.

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

**'Prepare the way of the Lord' this Advent**

Advent is a joyous time for hope and renewal. Fear and uncertainty distract us from the joy of waiting for a small child to come again with His love. So let's not waste these precious days.

The prophet Baruch in the first reading challenges us: "Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights – look to the east and see your children gathered from the East and from the West at the word of the Holy One..." As those



**Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore**

in exile prepare to return to Jerusalem, Baruch urges them to (figuratively) level the desert road for a speedy journey.

"For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the aged depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God."

The theme is repeated in John the Baptist's preaching of the need for repentance. He uses the

**December 9**

**Second Sunday  
of Advent**

READINGS

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

words of Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low."

How can we apply this ancient message to our lives? We have our work cut out for us. We need to

reflect on every obstacle in our lives that would prevent us from growing daily in Jesus' saving grace.

The grace we await on Christmas is very much bound up with the saving work of the Cross and the Resurrection. Jesus was born into a life of sacrifice and suffering for sin. In order that His life not be in vain, we must respond in loving gratitude by cleansing our souls through fasting, almsgiving and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Look to your parish

bulletin and your diocesan Catholic paper for times and places.

Pay special attention to the words of St. Paul in his advice to the Philippians: "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." He also prays that their love will increase "ever more and more in knowledge...to discern what is of value."

We must not let the forces of evil that threaten our world spoil the coming days of our Christmas.

**Abortion funding: Cutting off the blood supply**

Americans have long been disturbed by the fraud and waste that often surrounds the federal government's use of their tax dollars. They now have further reason to be up in arms because of the way those tax dollars support the practice of abortion, even though such support, technically speaking, remains illegal.

The 1976 Hyde Amendment, a rider attached by Congress to federal spending bills each year, states that federal tax dollars – particularly for Medicaid – cannot be used to pay for abortions. Yet, approximately half a billion dollars of taxpayer money is received annually by Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of "pregnancy terminations" in the United States.

Although Planned Parenthood does not directly receive Medicaid reimbursements for the abortion procedures it performs, the inherent fungibility of funds means that any money provided

to Planned Parenthood ends up supporting and indirectly financing the their primary business, which is elective abortion. Taxpayer funding props up the nation's largest abortion chain, with more than 300,000 abortions carried out under the auspices of Planned Parenthood each year.

Many Americans object to taxpayer subsidies for this organization, seeking to avoid any cooperation or involvement in the serious evils it promotes. This is why pro-life Americans and individuals of conscience are urging that the organization be defunded, to put a stop to the de facto circumventing of the Hyde Amendment that happens every time Planned Parenthood takes advantage of some form of government funding.

Yet Planned Parenthood continues to expand like a cancer not only in the U.S., but also globally. As cancer tumors need blood and oxygen for their con-

tinued growth, Planned Parenthood requires a lifeline of government aid to support its killing activities. As cancer tumors release special chemicals to make new blood vessels sprout nearby to nourish themselves, so Planned Parenthood continues to tap into a number of federal and state governmental funding sources, including Medicaid and grants from Title X of the Public Health Services Act. Eliminating this financial lifeline would significantly decrease the availability of direct abortion and diminish its promotion, much as using selective pharmaceuticals to shut down the growth of new blood vessels in tumors can starve them of their lifeline so they wither away.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute, which functions as a research arm of Planned Parenthood, has plainly

acknowledged the importance of governmental subsidies: "Because Title X grants offer up-front funding to providers (rather than payment after-the-fact, as with Medicaid or private insurance), the program provides essential infrastructure support that allows health centers providing family planning services to keep their doors open for clients. Up-front funding helps supply a cash-flow cushion for providers..."

Despite their "health care provider" veneer, Planned Parenthood is much more of a menace than a benefit to the health and well-being of Americans. The organization has faced a string of scandals ranging from the sale of baby body parts to overbilling and unsanitary clinic conditions, from cover ups of sexual abuse

of minors to botched abortions, from falsified medical information to LGBT activism, to the promotion of offensive forms of sex education to impressionable children. As House of Representatives member Diane Black notes, "Planned Parenthood is both the largest abortion provider in America and the largest recipient of Title X dollars. While Title X grants are intended to fund critical women's health services for low income Americans, Planned Parenthood misuses taxpayer dollars to [subsidize] its abortion services. ... Abortion is not healthcare. It destroys one life and damages another."

The United States needs to eliminate the financial lifeline of Planned Parenthood by defunding the organization of taxpayer dollars. Planned Parenthood supporters, however, argue that if this were to happen, low-income women would not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



**Father Tadeusz  
Pacholczyk  
Ph.D.**

AT THE MOVIES

# RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – The burly demolition specialist who lent his name to 2012's "Wreck-It Ralph" returns to the big screen in the sweet animated follow-up "Ralph Breaks the Internet" (Disney). So too does the best friend he acquired in the first outing, diminutive race car driver Vanellope von Schweetz.

As they did six years ago, John C. Reilly and Sarah Silverman provide the voices for the physically and temperamentally diverse duo – both of whom, as fans of the original will recall, are arcade game characters in an establishment owned by, and named after, Stan Litwak (voice of Ed O'Neill).

As the sequel opens, routine-averse Vanellope is bored by the predictability of her game, "Sugar Rush." So Ralph blazes a new detour from the course she constantly follows – with unexpected consequences.

As Vanellope and the human operating "Sugar Rush" compete for control, the game's real-life steering wheel breaks. This turns out to be a potentially dire event for



CNS PHOTO/DISNEY

Animated characters Ralph and Vanellope star in a scene from the movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet."

Vanellope since replacing the outdated, hard to find and expensive broken part would not make financial sense. Instead, Litwak decides to trash "Sugar Rush."

To avert this calamity, Ralph and Vanellope take to the internet (Litwak has recently installed Wi-Fi) and head for the movie's version of eBay.

What follows is a picturesque and often funny adventure that satirizes everything from search engines – Alan Tudyk voices a nerdy anthropomorphized version of

Google called KnowsMore – to the princesses featured in other Disney movies.

Vanellope loves the new and challenging environment of the internet, especially after she's befriended by Shank (Gal Gadot), a glamorous driver on the mean streets of a gritty game called "Slaughter Race." But Ralph just wants to return as quickly as possible to the safe confines of Litwak's.

Tensions develop and their unexpected excursion winds up putting not

only their resourcefulness but their relationship to the test.

Directors Phil Johnston and Rich Moore's picture (Johnson penned the script with Pamela Ribon) eventually delivers reassuring lessons about loyalty and forgiveness. It also sends the message that people with different personalities and outlooks can still be close pals.

Easily frightened kids might find the difficulties through which Ralph and Vanellope pass too much for them. And some par-

ents may consider Vanellope's fondness for childish potty-themed puns tiresome, though she only indulges this taste, or lack of it, occasionally. The charms of "Ralph Breaks the Internet," though, far outweigh such minor glitches, and it can be recommended for most age groups.

The film contains cartoonish mayhem, some peril and fleeting scatological wordplay.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-II – adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG – parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.



## Abortion funding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

be able to get needed healthcare. Yet federally qualified health centers (community health centers) could be encouraged to take up the slack. They receive broad government funding and offer care regardless of the patient's ability to pay, making available an even broader array of primary care services than Planned Parenthood does, so women

would actually have more health care choices and options. Also, there are many more community health centers than Planned Parenthood clinics nationwide.

Jamie Hall and Roger Severino of the Heritage Foundation sum it up this way: "To ensure that taxpayers are not forced to subsidize America's number one abortion provider, Congress should make

Planned Parenthood affiliates ineligible to receive either Medicaid reimbursements or Title X grants if they continue to perform abortions. Taxpayer money from these programs should instead be redirected to the more than 9,000 federally qualified health center sites throughout the country that provide comprehensive primary health care for those in need without

entanglement in abortion."

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

The Diocese of Ogdensburg  
**NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC**  
is on  
**FACEBOOK**

- Find Us
- Like Us
- Follow Us

Like

## ADIRONDACK

## CATHOLIC MEN'S GROUP

Saranac Lake – A Catholic Men's Group meets on the first Saturdays of the month for a time of fellowship, prayer, and discussion.

**Time:** 8 a.m. to 10

**Place:** St. Bernard's Chapel

**Features:** Mass followed by coffee and refreshment, some discussion and prayer.

**Contact:** Father Mark Reilly (518-891-4616)

## CLINTON

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

Morrisonville – 7th Annual North Country Christmas Craft Show to be held.

**Date:** Dec. 8

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

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

**Features:** Works of local vendors, a fabulous Bake Shop with all your favorite Christmas Treats, Basket Raffle and more.

## BOARS HEAD FEAST &amp; FESTIVAL

Altona – St. Ann's & Holy Angels will host a Boars Head feast and festival.

**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 is \$25; Festival only is \$20; attend both for \$40; children are \$10; children 5 and under are 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. Feast to include an appetizer course of meat, cheese and fruit platter, maple fruit sansa medieval salad with choice of maple mountain vinaigrettes; a main course of mango beef stew, egg noodles and rolls; and rice and bread puddings, and yule log cake for dessert.

**Contact:** For more information or to purchase tickets, call 518-236-5632

## ADORATION

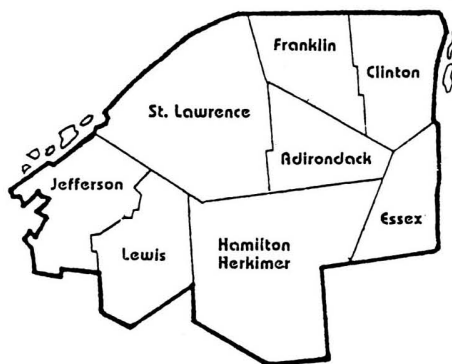
Keeseville – There is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday.

**Time:** 1 p.m. to 4

**Place:** Immaculate Conception Church

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Plattsburgh – Eucharistic Adoration is held throughout the year every



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.

## 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 students to join us.

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

## 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:** SSS 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 Nominates is Dec. 10.

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

Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

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

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

**Contact:** call 518-561-5083 or email Sjohnsadoration@aol.com

## ESSEX

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

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

**Date:** Started Nov. 7th; runs 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

## SILENT AUCTION GALA

Malone – Holy Family 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

## HEARTS ON FIRE

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

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

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

## FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAY

Clayton – "The Birth of Jesus," A Franciscan Christmas play to be performed.

**Date:** Dec. 16

**Time:** 6 p.m.

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

**Features:** Through special lighting, inspirational music, and narration, this presentation is a prayerful and moving meditation on the Birth of Jesus. There is no admission cost, but a free-will offering is appreciated to support the Mystery Players ministry.

**Contact:** For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at 315-686-3398.

## LEWIS

## 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 the Advent Season. You can also sign up for weekly video reflections.

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

## ST. LAWRENCE

## FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS

Ogdensburg – Franciscan Mystery Players to perform "The Birth of Jesus."

**Date:** Dec. 9

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** Notre Dame Church

**Features:** Through special lighting, inspirational music, and narration, this presentation is a prayerful and moving meditation on the Birth of Jesus. There is no admission cost, but a free-will offering is appreciated to support the Mystery Players ministry.

## 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 jmorriso@rcdony.org

## YOUTH BUSES FOR LIFE

High school pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

**Date:** Jan. 17 – 19, 2019

**Cost:** \$150 (includes transportation, hotel, meals and shirt).

**Features:** Pick up locations across the diocese.

**Contact:** Register at [rcdony.org/prolife](http://rcdony.org/prolife). For more info please contact the Respect Life Office 518-524-0774.

## DOVS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

D.O.V.S (Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society) is dedicated to promoting and fostering vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our diocese. The annual campaign provides a major source of revenue for our organization and its success is vital to our Diocese. Funds that we raise through our membership campaign helps us to raise awareness for vocations in our Diocese.

**Cost:** Annual dues are \$50 per year or \$75 per married couple.

**Contact:** Any questions please call Connie Randall at 315-265-2762 or Anne Miller at 315-353- 2950 or email Connie at [connierandall47@yahoo.com](mailto:connierandall47@yahoo.com)

## NEIGHBORING DIOCESES

## NEW EVANGELIZATION SUMMIT

Ottawa - The Annual New Evangelization Summit will take place in Ottawa.

**Date:** May 4, 2019.

**Cost:** Free

**Features:** The speakers for this year will be Father James Mallon, Cardinal Gerald C. Lacroix, Michael Dopp, Father John Bielawski, Michelle Thompson and Michelle Moran. Registration will not open until February, but Office of the New Evangelization would like to reserve a block of seats for participants from our diocese.

**Contact:** If you are interested in attending this one-day summit, please contact Marika Donders, Director of the New Evangelization at [mdonders@rcdony.org](mailto:mdonders@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920 so we can keep you updated.



## 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

# Christmas art contest for kids

Twenty-two winners will be selected in this national competition; their artwork will be displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent and Christmas 2019 and be featured on the MISSIO USA Messenger ChatBot.

Two grand-prize winners will also be selected, and their artwork will appear as the official Christmas card of the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, Reverend Andrew Small, OMI.

Contest winners will be notified in late spring 2019 and announced to Catholic media in fall 2019. All winners receive a commemorative plaque. Past winners may not enter this year's contest. Please note, artwork cannot be returned. Artwork that does not conform to the guidelines will be disqualified. Please, no vertical designs.

The national office suggests the following subjects for the artwork from our little artists:

- The Nativity Scene to include a manger scene, Jesus, Mary, Joseph and animals
- Three Wise Men -presentation of gifts or following the star
- Shepherds with sheep, in fields, seeing the angel, or visiting the manger
- Mother and Child
- Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem
- Newborn Jesus in manger
- The Angel Gabriel

To enter, please go to [www.missio.org/resources](http://www.missio.org/resources) and click on the link to Missionary Childhood Association Artwork online contest entry form 2018-2019. At the link, you will find the guidelines and information on where/how to upload your entry.

There have been winners from the Diocese of Ogdensburg before, but it has been some time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at 315-393-2920.

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

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Louis M. Nieves, Sr., 94; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 26, 2018 at Holy Angels Church; burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Mooers

**Brownville** – Doris E. (Bennett) Ditrach, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church; burial in Evans Mills Cemetery.

**Canton** – Nelson J. Bessette, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Canton** – Thomas O. McManus, 84; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2018 at O'Leary Funeral Home; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery, Potsdam.

**Carthage** – Helen P. Fetterly, 95; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2018 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Carthage** – Mary M. (Ellis) Storms, 73; Funeral Services Nov. 27, 2018 at the Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home.

**Chateaugay** – Lavina Patenaude Boyea, 101; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Constable** – Michiele A. Slocum, 74; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. Francis of Assisi Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Croghan** – Betty D. (Hoppe) Kohler, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2018 at St. Stephen's Church; burial in Brookside Cemetery, Watertown.

**Louisville** – Jack E. Jarrett, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. Lawrence Church; Burial in parish cemetery.

**Malone** – Connie F. Jeror, 58; Funeral Services Nov. 26, 2018 at the Brus-

Desnoyers Funeral Home.

**Massena** – Ellen Kelly (Veitch) Kirkey, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 24, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Arthur Lee Neal, 87; Funeral Services Nov. 30, 2018 at Philips Memorial Home; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Massena** – Cheryl A. (Dishaw) Poe, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Morrisonville** – Louis M. Burl, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 27, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Norfolk** – Goldie V. "Cookie" (Darabon) Zappia, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2018 at Church of the Visitation; burial in Visitation Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Brian P. Barcomb, 58; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2018 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Alexander's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Arnold G. Pavone, Sr., 92; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in

Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Benjamin Russell Ransom, 96; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. John's Church; burial in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Donald E. Rothermel, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 1, 2018 at St. Peter's Church.

**Port Henry** – Jean H. (Guyette) Mazzotte, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 30, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Ticonderoga** – Katherine Mina (Ida) Karkoski, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Grace (Giordanelli) Flynn, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 29, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Josephine (Misteraro) Grieco, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Nov. 28, 2019 at St. Anthony's Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Michele (Renzi) Scanlin, 68; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 2, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church.



## D.L. CALARCO Funeral Home, Inc.

135 Keyes Avenue  
Watertown • 782-4910

Service Available

### 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)

**BARSTOW**

IN AMERICA  
REVOLUTION GMC SUBARU  
For More Information, Visit Our Web Page  
at: [www.barstowmotors.com](http://www.barstowmotors.com)  
MARKET ST., POTSDAM, NY # (315) 265-8800  
Your NNY Regional GM & Subaru SuperCenter

## FROM WHOM THE BELLS TOLL



St. Mary's students led by Mr. Vaughn Watson, played hand bells at the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service held at the Methodist Church in Ticonderoga.

## ON RETREAT



WWW.SEMERAROPHOTOGRAPHY.COM/FOR THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Youth from around the eastern portion of the diocese participate in a confirmation retreat put on by NET Ministries.

## Canadians use new translation of Our Father

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) – French-speaking Canadians started using a new translation of the Our Father Dec. 2.

The passage "lead us not into temptation" – that formerly read "do not subject us to temptation" in French – is changed for "do not let us enter into temptation." The change brings the phrasing closer to its Greek origins and also bears witness to a theological evolution.

"With 'do not subject us to temptation,' we had complaints that it's as if God is the one submitting us to temptation. By saying 'do not let us enter,' we are closer to what Jesus says," explained Bishop Serge Poitras of Timmons, Ontario, a member of the Episcopal Commission of Liturgy and Sacraments, French Sector, of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Several experts believe that the French wording, in use since 1966, was confusing to the faithful.

"Many people didn't understand. It is God who tempts us?" Bishop Poitras said.

The bishop represents Canada on the international Francophone Episcopal Commission for Liturgical Translations, the same body that was mandated to respond to the Vatican's request in the early 2000s to rework the French liturgical translation. The work, which saw the adoption of a new official translation of the Bible in 2013, could lead in 2019 to the adoption of a new translation of the Roman Missal.

In Canada, the bishops' conference decided to follow other French-speaking countries, including Benin, France and Switzerland, which already use the new translation without waiting for the new missal.

Father Gaetan Bailargeon, former director of the Canadian bishops' National Liturgy Office, agreed that the translation used for more than 50 years had caused dissatisfaction.

"This was the so-called ecumenical translation. But some Francophone Orthodox communities did not even use it, for ex-

ample," he said, stressing that ecumenical relations had to be considered before endorsing the new translation.

Canadian dioceses where French is in use have been explaining the change in recent weeks. In a message addressed to parishioners in early November, Bishop Andre Gazeille of Nicolet, Quebec, wrote that the new version "better reflects the spirit of the prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples."

Greek Gospels in hand, Alain Gignac, director of the University of Montreal's Institute of Religious Studies, explained that the phrase, found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, can be translated literally by "let us not go in the direction of temptation."

He said the Our Father was constructed borrowing from both Gospels.

"Originally, it's an oral tradition that is neither from Luke nor Matthew ... First in Aramaic, then translated into Greek, then into Latin, the Our Father that we pray today draws from these two

evangelists," he said. The prayer attributed to Jesus has several differences of one Gospel to another, he added.

Gignac welcomed the new translation while recalling its limits.

"We must give up on retracing the exact Our Father that came out of the mouth of Jesus," he said.

Liturgy, Bishop Poitras explained, borrows from Hebrew, Greek and Latin, which remains the official language of the church. In translating the Bible, liturgists consider the original language as well as how it sounds when spoken aloud.

"We are at some distance from the Gospel phrasing. We are indeed in a theological construction," he said.

The modification of the Lord's Prayer is therefore more than a purely linguistic matter; it directly concerns the participation of the faithful during celebrations. In this regard, liturgist Marie-Josée Poire said two of the great objectives of any liturgy remain the active participation of the faithful and its spiritual good.

"Today's liturgy, let's admit it, no longer speaks the language of the majority," Poire said. "So you have to be concerned about liturgical participation in a way that people are not just attendees, but participants."

Poire, who is responsible for a liturgical and sacramental formation program for Canadian dioceses, believes the adoption of the new wording of the Lord's Prayer can be an opportunity to reflect on the status of the prayer for Christians.

"The Our Father builds an image of God. A passage like this ('do not let us enter into temptation') can be an opportunity for reflection for communities or families on its underlying image of God," she said.

"Does the image of a God who wants to tempt his children match what the Gospel proclaims? The (translation) issue may seem trivial, but ... it shapes our image of God. The ritual builds the person. The Our Father builds our faith, and our way of living our faith."