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The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 73, Number 33

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

JANUARY 9, 2019

## Legislation up for consideration

ALBANY – Officials at the New York State Catholic Conference and Catholics statewide are looking at “a new reality in New York State government” in 2019 now that a Democrat majority rules the State Senate, following last November’s elections, giving the party control of both chambers of the legislature as well as the governor’s office.

Here, we take a look at the critical issues currently up for discussion and votes, including the Reproductive Health Act, assisted suicide, the Child Victims Act and school choice.

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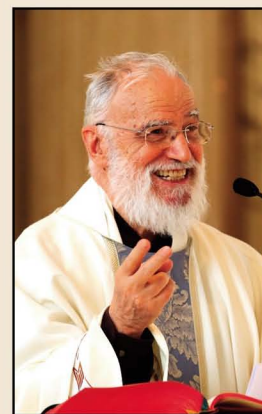
## FOR THE CHILDREN



JESSE SOVIE/THE NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Children attending Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg gather to listen to Bishop Terry R. LaValley.

## BISHOPS' RETREAT



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, the official preacher of the papal household, delivers the homily to U.S. bishops, who were on retreat Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Illinois.

FULL STORY, PAGE 6

## Seek Jesus, adore him, pope says on Epiphany

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— People find Jesus only through humble love, and once they find him, they are called to offer him the gifts of their prayer, their adoration and their care of others, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the feast of Epiphany Jan. 6, the pope said Christians are called to imitate the Magi: “They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center,

but bow down before the one who is the center. They do not remain glued to their plans, but are prepared to take other routes.”

And they each bring gifts, he said during his homily at Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. “In this Christmas season now drawing to its close, let us not miss the opportunity to offer a precious gift to our king,” especially by caring for those who cannot repay the gift.

In his Mass homily and in

his main Angelus address, Pope Francis contrasted the attitude and actions of the Three Kings with the attitude of Herod, who was “greatly troubled” at news of the Messiah's birth. While the Wise Men set out to meet Jesus, Herod stayed in his palace, plotting ways to keep all his power.

Herod and the scribes, he said at the Angelus, “had hard hearts, which stubbornly refused to visit that baby. That is a possibility:

closing oneself to the light. They represent those who, even in our day, are afraid of the coming of Jesus and close their hearts to their brothers and sisters in need.”

The glory of God born in a stable is “is symbolized by the light, which penetrates and illumines all things,” he said. But the surprising thing is that “God does not need the spotlights of the world to make himself known” or the assistance of the pow-

erful, like Herod.

“We might think that it would have been better had the star of Jesus appeared in Rome, on the Palatine Hill, where Augustus ruled over the world; then the whole empire would immediately have become Christian,” he said.

“But God's light does not shine on those who shine with their own light. God ‘proposes’ himself; he does not ‘impose’ himself,” the pope said. “He illumines; he does not blind.”

NORTH  
COUNTRY  
CATHOLICBox 326  
Ogdensburg, N.Y. 13669  
USPS 0039-3400BISHOP TERRY  
R. LAVALLEY  
PresidentREV. JOSEPH A. MORGAN  
Vice President  
JAMES D. CROWLEY  
Secretary-Treasurer  
DARCY L. FARGO  
Editor &  
Communications Director

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**Telephone:**  
(315) 608-7556

**E-mail:**  
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Why say it like everyone else?

If you're a regular reader of this column, you may have noticed I like to write descriptions in a way I can only refer to as "interesting." People who regularly interact with me know I also do this when I talk. I have my own unique vocabulary – words or descriptions I regularly use in place of other, more conventional terms. Here are a few examples:

*Grate My Cheese* – To get on my nerves or bother me. Common usage: "it takes a lot to grate my cheese."

*My Magic Stewpot* – My

electric pressure cooker. My husband and/or I cook in it at least two to three times a week.



Darcy L.  
Fargo

*Mom Talk* – My family's term for those moments when my brain can't come up with a common word, and I make up a ridiculous description. For example, "tongs" become "the metal grabby things."

*Smoking Porch of Shame* – One of two porches attached to my house; the portion of our property where smoking is allowed.

*Torture Sticks* – Crutches.  
*Practicing Catholic* – Most

people use this term to describe a person who believes in the teachings of the Catholic Church and tries to live them. I sometimes use it that way, but I'm just as likely to use the phrase in another context.

I'm a "practicing Catholic" because I'm not very good at it. We practice skills – sports, art techniques, playing instruments... – because we haven't mastered them, and we have room for improvement.

I sometimes use this version of "practicing Catholic" in response to individuals who – either in person or on social media – suggest a level of hypocrisy in people who

sit in pews on Sunday and commit sins on Monday. Maybe there is a level of hypocrisy, but I prefer to think most of us just struggle to meet the ideal; we struggle to be Christ-like in every moment.

Just because we're struggling doesn't mean we're not trying. We're practicing. We're trying to improve.

We're practicing Catholics, and we're working at being better Catholics and better people. We're working to be holier.

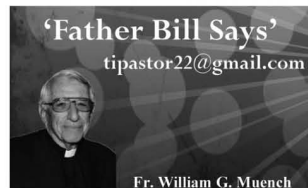
There are beauty and graces in the work, and I pray we keep practicing together and talking about it in fun ways.

## A letter to all as we begin the new year

To properly begin a new year, I have decided to ask each of you to develop your dream, your dream for yourself for the new year and your dream for the world for this new year. I recently heard a speaker say, "If you don't have a dream, you will never make this world a better place." The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to focus on developing your dream.

I am certain that your dream is important, both for you and for all of us. I believe that your hopes and dreams matter not only to you, but also to the rest of us. I hope that you believe that your dream does matter. Whether small or grand, your dream for this year is important and significant. Each person's dream gives us all a challenge to make our world a better place.

Today, I would like to share with you my dream – a dream that has always been a part of my life. For all of my time as a priest, I have dedicated my ministry



and my life to the dream of a world in which all people will live in peace. I dream of a world free from violence, a world alive with peace. My hope and prayer is that the people on this planet may soon learn how to live in peace with each other.

I preach this often. I have been told often to stop bothering. People tell me my dream is impossible. However, I believe that if I stop dreaming of peace for one moment, if I stop preaching of peace for one moment, if I stop hoping for peace for one moment, I know I would lose my very reason for doing what I do as a disciple of Jesus. I would lose my trust and confidence in people, the people of my community and the people of my world.

May you join me in this dream.

Because this is my dream, I must carefully recognize how I live each day. If I dream for peace, I must take the responsibility of living a life filled with peace. I must encourage and challenge others to live lives filled with peace. I must eliminate all of violence from my own life. I must encourage others to eliminate violence. I must learn to control anger completely. I must radiate peace, just as Jesus did during his life on this earth. The Gospels are filled with stories of how Jesus brought peace and forgiveness and love into his ministry, into all that he did.

One thing in this regard, I have decided to bring into my life, a challenge for each and every day. I challenge myself to make at least one person happier every day of my year. I certainly do not mean that I will somehow force another to be happy. This is not about telling a

joke each day. Rather, I believe the Lord places in my life a challenge every day, someone who needs me to touch their lives. It's always a surprise and always a challenge. I know only too well how often Jesus surprises me with the challenge to make a difference in someone's life, someone that Jesus wants to reach through me. My prayer in faith is that I will have enough faith and trust in my God that I be open to recognize the Lord's surprises and that I will be unselfish and loving enough to do something, that I will make an effort to bring some happiness into someone else's world.

So, another new year. Will this be the year that I will be able to do something good? Will it be the year that I will help my dream to come true by bring peace into my life and my world? Will this be the year that others will learn to live in peace? May we all develop a great dream for this new year.

## YEAR AHEAD

# A look at the upcoming legislative session

BY EMILY BENSON  
Staff Writer, The Evangelist

ALBANY – Officials at the New York State Catholic Conference and Catholics statewide are looking at “a new reality in New York State government” in 2019 now that a Democrat majority rules the State Senate, following last November’s elections, giving the party control of both chambers of the legislature as well as the governor’s office.

With the projected passing of the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) in January, “fast changes” are expected to take place for the Church, said Dennis Poust, director of communications for the New York State Catholic Conference, which works on public policy issues on behalf of the bishops of the state. Senate Republicans had blocked this abortion expansion proposal for more than a decade.

Also expected to be taken up is some version of the Child Victims Act, which reforms the state’s civil and criminal statutes of limitations in cases of child sexual abuse. The Catholic Conference and other organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, have concerns with a portion of the bill that would allow for new lawsuits for decades-old cases of abuse.

On the bright side for the bishops’ conference, a Democratic majority also gives hope to stalled legislation supported by the Church, such as the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act and the New York State DREAM Act.

“The Catholic Church is politically homeless; we’re not Democrat or Republi-

can,” said Mr. Poust. “We’ve always had a good relationship with both sides of the aisle, but now we’re in a new area” with single-party control.

Outside of a brief two-year period from 2008 to 2010, Republicans have consistently controlled the State Senate since 1960, which allowed for a more divided state government. Now, Democrat control in both houses and the governor’s office almost guarantees certain changes, some supported, some opposed by the Church, in the year ahead, Mr. Poust explained.

## Reproductive Health Act

One of the most challenging issues for the Church and the pro-life movement is the RHA, which is projected to pass on Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

“A single-party government is going to present problems for the Church in terms of the agenda for life issues,” said Mr. Poust. While the RHA has been proposed as simply codifying Roe vs. Wade, the bill “goes much further than Roe,” he said.

Some of the changes laid out in the RHA include:

- repealing the state requirement that only a licensed physician can perform an abortion

- repealing the crimes of coerced or unwanted abortions, and decriminalizing charges in cases where a perpetrator seeks to abort their partner’s child through drugs or physical violence

- repealing the state requirement to have a second physician present during an abortion performed after 20-weeks gestation to administer medical care should a live

birth occur

- repealing any legal protections for an infant accidentally born alive during an abortion

- repealing the current requirement that third-trimester abortions are allowed only in cases where a mother’s life is in danger. Instead, the bill states late-term abortions are allowed for reasons of “health,” which can include a broad range of conditions.

“You have to know at a certain point when you’ve lost, and at this point we’re not going to win it,” said Mr. Poust. “Forty of the 63 state senators will be Democrats, of those 40 there is maybe one no vote on the Reproductive Health Act...so there’s no mathematical chance” of stopping the bill.

With the certainty of the legislation passing, the Catholic Conference has started moving from advocacy to education with

regard to the bill: “We have to make people aware of what’s out there in terms of pro-life resources and strengthen those pro-life resources,” said Mr. Poust.

The Catholic Conference is planning a statewide bulletin announcement after turnover in the legislature begins Jan. 1, discussing the next steps to take in the midst of the RHA’s passage and urging Catholics to register their protest of the bill’s impending passage with their elected officials.

## Assisted Suicide

Physician-assisted suicide is another legislative life issue facing the Catholic Conference. The organization has made successful strides against assisted suicide, said Mr. Poust, and has been working in coordination with

disabilities rights groups, patients’ rights group and advocacy for the aging.

These groups “fear that insurance won’t cover experimental drug treatments [and] that people with disabilities or those who are aging will be encouraged or coerced to end it all because they will be perceived as a burden on society [or] on their family,” said Mr. Poust.

Because assisted suicide has often been viewed as a more bi-partisan issue, Mr. Poust said the Catholic Conference is “confident that we’ll have a chance to keep assisted suicide at bay” at least for the short term. How the issue plays out in the long term de-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

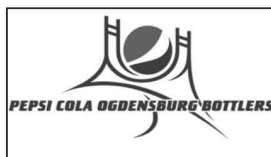


*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*

## The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this very special one. Take it Dear Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in our merciful eyes it will become your favor, not mine. Amen KM

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## JOB OPENING

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**Camp Guggenheim Director.**

who will supervise the day to day operation of Camp Guggenheim during the seven week Summer Camp season, to include staff orientation week and six weeks of Summer Camp. The Director is expected to uphold the Camp Guggenheim philosophy and ensure that all activities follow Camp policies and procedures, as well as Department of Health regulations. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. Bachelor’s degree preferred. Previous experience with youth ministry, camp administration or supervision including program planning, recreational leadership, training and directing staff counselors required. Excellent communication skills and proficiency in digital technology also required.

Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to Thomas Semeraro at [tsemeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org).

**Deadline for application is February 15, 2019.**

# Upcoming legislative session

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

depends on how the national conversation goes, he said.

"What we're calling for is more palliative care, more end-of-life care and hospice care to relieve their pain."

## Child Victims Act

While the Child Victims Act does not carry the same certainty of passing in the State Senate as the RHA, it is extremely likely that some version of the bill will pass, which will have a lasting impact on the Church.

"Historically, we've opposed the bill as it's been written, but we do feel that whatever's done needs to put victims first and that all victims, no matter where their abuse occurred, deserve to be heard and compensated," said Mr. Poust, noting that the current version of the CVA does not include victims of abuse in public schools and other public institutions in the retroactive window.

New York State's statute of limitations for child sexual abuse, both criminal and civil, are among the most restrictive in the nation, with survivors generally having to come forward by the age of 23 in order to bring charges against an abuser or to file a civil lawsuit.

The Catholic Conference supports complete elimination of the criminal statute of limitations for child sexual abuse, as is the case for murder and rape. This position actually goes further than the CVA, which raises, but does not eliminate the criminal statute.

The Conference also supports extending the civil statute of limitations to give survivors more time to sue. However, the

bishops have long opposed a key element in the bill, namely an unlimited retroactive window that would allow new lawsuits for decades-old cases of abuse in private – but not public – institutions.

In several states where a retroactive window has passed, Catholic dioceses have been forced into bankruptcy, including in California and Delaware. More recently, in Minnesota, four of the state's six Catholic dioceses' have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy due to lawsuits against the Church when that state temporarily lifted its statute of limitations, according to the National Catholic Reporter.

Despite the potential catastrophic financial impact for New York State dioceses, Mr. Poust said the Church believes the legislation must put all victims first, regardless of where the abuse occurred.

"Whatever financial pain we feel from this, it pales in comparison to the pain of those who have been harmed," said Mr. Poust. "So we always have to keep that in mind and keep our focus on the victims and their healing because that's what's most important."

However, Mr. Poust stressed that any bill that passes must help all victims. Currently, the "window" in the Child Victims act does not include victims abused in public schools or other public institutions: "There's a big swath of victims who are left out," said Mr. Poust.

"We'd like to see something that benefits everyone, and what that looks like is really up to the governor and legislators to discuss. You can't call something a Child Victims

Act if it doesn't help all child victims, and right now it doesn't."

## School Choice

The Catholic Conference is pushing for legislators to enact "some sort of state policy of school choice" to ensure the long-term strength of Catholic schooling.

Assistance could come in many forms, said Mr. Poust, such as tax credits for paying tuition or tax credits for donating to scholarship-making organizations. Thirty states have already enacted some measure of tax credits or tax incentives to help offset tuition payment for parents.

"If Catholic schools are going to remain strong, parents are going to need more help," he said.

Historically, diocesan Catholic schools have had a good relationship with the state on funding issues, and currently receive reimbursement for standardized testing, health and safety measures, library materials, computer hardware and textbooks.

In recent years, public school teachers unions

have strongly opposed any alternative to public schooling. Mr. Poust said that school choice is an opportunity that could benefit everyone.

"It's not in the state's interest for our schools to close," said Mr. Poust. "The more schools that close, the more students go to an overcrowded public school system."

## DREAM Act and Farmworkers

Other bills on deck, which have long been supported by the Catholic Conference, now have more of a fighting chance of passing.

"One place we always worked well with Democrats on is criminal justice reform, immigration reform, [and] health care issues," said Mr. Poust.

The DREAM Act would provide many undocumented immigrant children and teenagers with tuition assistance for their college education. Otherwise, undocumented students, many of whom have known no other home but the United States, are often shut out from attending a university due to its financial burden: "We think that has

a real chance this year," said Mr. Poust.

Additionally, the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act is a bill the Catholic Conference has "been advocating on for many years," and would guarantee farmworkers in the state the same worker protections as other professions offered by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, such as receiving minimum wage, paid overtime, or disability. Farmworkers are exempt from these protections in law currently.

Today, a majority of farmworkers across the state hail from either Central America or Mexico.

"It's a policy that really was rooted in racism," said Mr. Poust. "The argument is, 'it costs more money,' but you could make that argument to deny anyone in any area of just treatment, but we don't. So there's no reason to deny this group."

*Editor's note: This story was originally published in the Jan. 3 edition of The Evangelist, newspaper of the Diocese of Albany. It is reprinted here with permission.*



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# Mass of Christian Burial held for Thomas Hanley on Jan. 3

**WATERTOWN** – A Mass of Christian Burial for Thomas F. Hanley, 69, formerly of Watertown, was held Jan. 3, at St. Patrick's Church in Watertown. Mr. Hanley passed away on Tuesday, December 26 at Westchester Gardens, Palm Harbor, Florida, where he was in Hospice care.

Born June 1, 1949 in Syracuse, he was the son of William J. and Catherine Cahill Hanley. A life-long learner, Mr. Hanley was inspired to serve others through his Catholic education beginning at St. Margaret's Catholic School and then Christian Brothers Academy where he graduated in 1967. He studied Jesuit values in business administration at Le Moyne College, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. He later completed graduate studies at Dartmouth University's Graduate School of Credit and Financial Management.

On April 17, 1971, he married Mary Anne LaPlante at St. Margaret's Church in Mattydale, NY with Reverend John Ahern officiating.

In 1972, Mr. Hanley began his 23-year banking career at the Bank of New York, Syracuse.

In 1986, Mr. Hanley and his family moved to Watertown, where he was Vice President of Norstar, later named Fleet Bank, until 1995.

He supported numerous nonprofit boards with his fiscal management expertise and leadership skills. This included Rotary, PBS, the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Jefferson County, North Country Affordable Development Inc., North Country Affordable Housing

Inc., Mercy Center for Health Services and other area organizations and task forces.

In 2007, he completed the Catholic Formation of Ministry and was commissioned a lay minister by the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Mr. Hanley lived his faith to the fullest and contributed in many ways to his parish, St. Patrick's Church, as well as Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg where he served as a Trustee and President. He and his wife, Mary Anne, received the 2013 Presidential Award from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 259 Watertown and St. Frances Cabrini, 3rd Degree, as well as Knights of Columbus, #699 Bishop Conroy, 4th Degree Assembly and St. Frances Cabrini, Parrish, FL. He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Watertown.

Above all else, Tom was devoted to his family. He is survived by his wife Mary Anne, three daughters and their husbands, Christine and Brian Cisco, Watertown, Mary Pat and Eric King, Palm Harbor, and Elizabeth and Joseph Maurer, Watertown. They have seven grandchildren, Benjamin T., Andrew A., Daniel J., Molly E., Charles T., Mason L., and Jenna B. Also surviving are: four brothers, John "Jack" (Patricia) Hanley, Clay, NY, William (Eileen) Hanley, Fairfax, VA, Edward (Rose) Hanley, Rochester, NY, Daniel (Jeanne) Hanley, Syracuse, NY; two sisters, Mury Kay Scarson and her companion William Wood, Phoenix, NY, and Karen May and her companion

Ronald Kingsbury, Phoenix, NY; his beloved brother- and sister-in-law, Oscar and Gayle Fleury, Palmetto, FL; and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Mr. Hanley is pre-deceased by his father- and mother-in-law, George and Beatrice LaPlante, and his nephew, Michael Fleury.

Contributions may be made in his name to: WPBS Foundation, Watertown; Catholic Charities, Ogdensburg; or to Empath Health at the Suncoast Hospice Foundation, Clearwater, Florida.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Jan. 9** – 11:30 a.m. – D.O.V.S. Little Christmas Party at the Church of the Visitation Parish Center in Norfolk

**Jan. 10** – Noon – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral followed by a luncheon with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod in Watertown at Bishop's Residence

**Jan. 12** – 4 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Jan. 13** – 8:30 a.m. – Mass in celebration of Juliette (Judy) Amyot Ferguson's 100th Birthday at St. Francis Xavier Church in Redwood

**Jan. 14** – 7:15 p.m. – Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

## To Report Abuse

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

## Rest in Peace

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

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

**Jan. 10** – Rev. Christopher C. Poulin, 1904; Msgr. James O'Driscoll, 1913; Msgr. Frederick P. Diviney, 1961

**Jan. 11** – Msgr. John Andrew Cotter, 1964; Msgr. Anthime D. Charbonneau, 1976; Most Rev. Walter P. Kellenberg, 1986

**Jan. 12** – Msgr. Francis Joseph Maguire, 1978

**Jan. 14** – Rev. John M. Neenan, M.S.C., 1879; Rev. Benedict Scharff, O.F.M. Conv., 1964; Deacon Francis Bradley, 2000

**Jan. 15** – Msgr. James Joseph Lacey, 1942

## 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:

**Jan. 10** – 6 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Massena

**Jan. 11** – 5 p.m., Kateri Hall, Akwesasne

**Jan. 16** – 3:30 p.m., St. James School, Gouverneur

**Jan. 24** – 7:30 p.m., Wakefield Recital Hall at SUNY Potsdam

## 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!

## Environmental Stewardship

### Be a light in darkness

As we tune in to the daily news these days, we often witness desperate people fleeing for their lives from their own countries. Millions of these refugees, over 50 million – half of them are children – are travelling alone or in groups. We may find ourselves asking "WHY?" One reason is documented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. They note that in the coming years, millions of people will be forced to relocate due to effects of climate change, including shoreline erosion, coastal flooding or disruption of farming practices. Analysts predict that this crisis in the making will affect 150-200 million men, women and children by 2050, or roughly one in every 45 persons on earth. What makes this situation even worse from a moral perspective is that it is the poorest countries, those least responsible for causing climate change, that are bearing the greatest burden.

When an environmental disaster occurs, people are forced to flee without legal authorization or documents. Desperate to survive and unfamiliar with the culture of the refugee community, these people are extremely vulnerable to human trafficking. Data suggests human trafficking increases by around 20 to 30 percent during disasters (UNEP), especially among women and children.

January has been designated National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month in the U.S., and Jan. 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Human trafficking, which includes sexual exploitation and forced labor, is at epidemic proportions in the U.S. and across the world.

What might I do to be a "light in the darkness," as Jesus calls us to be? (Matt. 5:13) A few suggestions: pray for victims and those who work to end trafficking, learn to recognize the signs and advocate for just legislation.

See: USCCB's web page, Catholic Relief Services, etc. See CALENDER in this edition. Sources: "Environment and Human Trafficking," Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking; and Catholic Update, January 2019

# U.S. bishops take part in weeklong retreat

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The U.S. Catholic bishops are taking part in a closed-door retreat Jan. 2-8 at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago to prayerfully consider ways to rebuild trust over the clergy sex abuse crisis.

"We are honored to welcome the bishops of the United States to Mundelein as they prayerfully unite to reflect on the urgent issues facing the Catholic Church today," said Father John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary in a statement.

He said it was fitting that the bishops were gathered where "seminarians come from around the nation to be formed into the next generation of parish priests and hundreds of lay men and women are trained for parish service." He added: "The people of God deserve servant-leaders who are holy, joyful and competent in their ministry."

Mundelein Seminary is the major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago and is the largest Catholic seminary in the United States. It currently has more than 200 seminarians from 34 dioceses across the country and around the world.

The structure of the retreat will emphasize quiet reflection, including silent meal times, and will offer daily Mass, time for personal and communal prayer before the Eucharist, vespers and an op-



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

**Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, N.M., and Bishop Terry R. LaValley of Ogdensburg, N.Y., listen to the homily during Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Mundelein Seminary Jan. 3 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Illinois, near Chicago. The U.S. bishops are on retreat Jan. 2-8 at the seminary, suggested by Pope Francis in September, which comes as the bishops work to rebuild trust among the faithful as questions continue to revolve around their handling of clergy sex abuse.**

portunity for confession. No ordinary business will be conducted.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, is leading the retreat with the theme, "the mission of the apostles and their successors." This time of prayer came at the suggestion of Pope Francis and was planned largely in response to last summer's revelations of sex abuse that reached the highest levels of the U.S. church.

In a letter distributed to the bishops at the start of the gathering, Pope Francis said he was convinced their response to the "sins and crimes" of abuse and

"the efforts made to deny or conceal them" must be found through "heartfelt, prayerful and collective listening to the word of God and to the pain of our people."

"As we know," he said, "the mentality that would cover things up, far from helping to resolve conflicts, enabled them to fester and cause even greater harm to the network of relationships that today we are called to heal and restore."

Prior to the retreat's start, Msgr. Jeffrey D. Burrell, associate general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told CNS that more than 200 bishops were expected to attend. Active U.S. bishops number 271 and there are 185 retired bishops.

A few bishops have tweeted about the retreat and asked for prayers. Portland Archbishop Alexander K. Sample,

tweeted en route to the retreat: "Pray for us that our response to the call to holiness will be renewed and that we will be faithful shepherds according to the mind and heart of Christ and his apostolic Church."

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan asked for prayers in his tweet, which described the retreat as means to "respond to important matters facing the Church. Our first reliance is upon the Lord's grace (and) mercy. Without intense prayers for healing, guidance, in reparation, we will not be successful."

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Connecticut, tweeted praise for the opening remarks of Father Cantalamessa, which he said focused on the "need to choose the right priorities around which we can live our daily lives. Of course, a central priority is daily prayer."

During the retreat, many

Catholics were joining in prayer for its success.

The website of Mundelein Seminary encouraged people to "join our seminary community in an online prayer chain for the healing of the Catholic Church," suggesting that Catholics pray the rosary, attend daily Mass, engage in an act of penitential sacrifice or simply offer the prayer posted on their website – <https://bit.ly/2VrAIST> – called "Prayer for the Healing of Our Church."

St. Maximilian Kolbe Shrine, adjacent to the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Libertyville, Illinois, was conducting its usual 24-hour adoration during the bishops' retreat with specific emphasis on praying for the bishops.

Its website urged Catholics who could not pray at the shrine to pray at their own parish adoration chapel that the bishops' retreat would be "truly guided by the Holy Spirit."

Conventual Franciscan Father Benedict La Volpe, the shrine's rector, told Catholic News Service that the shrine, where perpetual adoration "has been nonstop since 1928" has had more participants since the bishops' retreat began Jan. 2.


He stressed that abuse victims are always in the church's prayers but during this time of retreat, there is an urgency to pray for the bishops, specifically, that they "understand what happened and what needs to happen."

The priest, who was going to hear confessions during the retreat, said he hoped the bishops would take away from this gathering the importance of taking time to "pause, pray, reflect and convert."

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# CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Vatican: Investigation underway of bishop accused of abuse

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** – A bishop from Argentina who had been working in the Vatican's real estate administration office is the object of a preliminary diocesan investigation after accusations came to light of sexual abuse, abuse of power and mismanagement in his former Diocese of Oran. The interim director of the Vatican press office, Alessandro Gisotti, told reporters in a note Jan. 4 that accusations of sexual abuse against Bishop Gustavo Zanchetta, 54, emerged in the "autumn" of 2018. "On the basis of these accusations and from news appearing recently in the media," Bishop Luis Antonio Scozzina of Oran "has already begun to collect some testimony which still needs to get to the Congregation for Bishops" at the Vatican, Gisotti wrote. The case will be handed over to a special commission for bishops if credible evidence is found, he added. "During the preliminary investigation, (Bishop) Zanchetta will abstain from working" at the Vatican office, Gisotti wrote. Born in the province of Santa Fe, Argentina, in 1964, Bishop Zanchetta was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Quilmes, near Buenos Aires, in 1991.

## Jesuit to remain House Chaplain in new Congress

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – A Jesuit former Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan sought to oust in 2018 will remain in his post as chaplain of the legislative body as the 116th session of Congress begins. Lawmakers voted late Jan. 3 to keep Jesuit Father Patrick J. Conroy, the 60th chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, in the post for the next two years. He began his term May 25, 2011. As the House chaplain, Father Conroy, 68, is responsible for offering a prayer at the beginning of each day when Congress is in session. The nondenominational prayer in the House chamber is broadcast live on HouseLive.gov and on C-Span. It's also archived in the Congressional Record and is part of the official rules of the House to get the day started.

## Irish bishops urge Catholics to 'resist' new abortion law

**DUBLIN (CNS)** – The primate of All-Ireland insisted that the country's new abortion law that took effect Jan. 1 has "no moral force" and it "must be resisted" by Catholics. Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh, Northern Ireland, who also is president of the Irish bishops' conference, said in a message to mark the legislation that the new law "in good conscience cannot be supported. In a May 22 referendum, voters opted by a margin of 2-1 to lift the country's constitutional protection of the right to life of unborn children. The new law will permit abortion on demand up to 12 weeks' gestation. It also will permit abortion up to 24 weeks on unspecified grounds for the health of the mother, and up to birth where the child is diagnosed with a life-limiting condition that means he or she may not live long after birth," he said. Archbishop Martin urged Catholics to "continue to call and work diligently for its limitation, amendment and repeal." A small group of demonstrators gathered for a symbolic protest outside the Irish parliament in Dublin Jan. 2. Ruth Cullen, spokeswoman for the Pro-Life Campaign, said that the protest stressed that the campaign to overturn the law continues.

# Knights' leader expresses ire at Senate questioning

**WASHINGTON (CNS)** – The supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, calling the organization "an American Catholic cultural icon," said senators have no business questioning a federal judicial nominee's membership in the Knights over its support for church teaching on abortion and same-sex marriage.

"What we have to do is defend this fundamental principle of the free exercise of religion," Carl Anderson said in a Jan. 4 telephone interview with Catholic News Service. "It's something every Catholic should be concerned about."

Anderson was referring to statements made by Sen. Kamala Harris, D-California, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, during a Nov. 28 confirmation hearing for Brian Buescher, nominated for a judgeship for the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska. Buescher, who lost the Republican nomination for Nebraska attorney general in 2014 while saying during the campaign he was "avidly pro-life," is a member of Knights, joining when he was 18 years old.

Harris expressed concern during the hearing about the positions on abortion and same-sex marriage taken by the Knights, which she called "an all-male society comprised primarily of Catholic men."

Another Judiciary Committee member, Sen. Marie Hirono, D-Hawaii, asked Buescher, "If confirmed, do you intend to end your membership with this organization to avoid any appearance of bias?" Hirono was referring to the

Knights' support of California's Proposition 8 to ban same-sex marriage. The proposition passed in 2008, but was overturned by the courts before it took effect.

Hirono also asked Buescher if he would recuse himself "from all cases in which the Knights of Columbus has taken a position," adding the organization "has taken a number of extreme positions."

Anderson, in a Jan. 1 statement to all members of the Knights, said, "We must remember that Article VI of the U.S. Constitution forbids a religious test for public office, and the First Amendment guarantees our free exercise of religion, freedom of association and freedom of speech. Any suggestion that the order's adherence to the beliefs of the Catholic Church makes a brother Knight unfit for public office blatantly violates those constitutional guarantees."

Asked why it took more than a month after the hearing to issue a statement, Anderson replied, "Really, we received just a flood of inquiries as this began to catch more news attention from our members wanting some guidance, wanting a clear statement. Washington has become so partisan and caught up with personalities, I didn't want this to be a partisan thing or a personality thing."

Still, "the way the political winds shift in Washington," Anderson told CNS, "it's a very dangerous road these senators have started on."

Anderson also took

issue with remarks posed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, at a 2017 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing for Amy Coney Barrett, in which Sen. Feinstein told her, "The dogma lives loudly within you, and that's of concern." Barrett, who had been a professor at the University of Notre Dame's law school, was ultimately confirmed for a seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

A vote on Buescher, who was nominated in October, remains in limbo, as other judicial nominees nominated before Buescher were also awaiting votes, and then-Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Arizona, had vowed to withhold support for any judicial nominee until the Senate voted on a bill to protect special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

"The Knights of Columbus is really an American Catholic cultural icon," Anderson said. "The teaching of the church on marriage and abortion is clear and long-standing. The question can become: If belonging to a mainstream Catholic organization like the Knights of Columbus, or accepting the established teaching of the church is dangerous, then what teaching is safe?"

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 #Pontifex

## CLINTON

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

Plattsburgh – March for Life to be held.

**Date:** Jan. 13

**Time:** 12:30 p.m.

**Place:** Begin at St. John's Newman Center and end at St. John the Baptist Church

**Features:** For those unable to march you may attend the prayer service and Benediction at 1 p.m. at St. John's Church. A reception will follow in the parish center.

**Contact:** Deacon Jack at 518-562-1175 for more information.

**BREAKFAST**

Altona – All you can eat breakfast to be held.

**Date:** Jan. 13

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

**Place:** Holy Angels Church

**Cost:** Adults, \$9.50; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs available

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

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

**Date:** Feb. 3

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

**Place:** St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Children 6-12, \$4; under 5, Free

**FISHERS CLUB**

Plattsburgh – The Lakesides Fishers Club will meet.

**Date:** Feb. 3 & 17, March 3 & 17, April 7 & 21, May 5

**Time:** 3 p.m.

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

**Features:** Join for discernment, evening prayer & dinner.

**Contact:** Father Douglas Lucia, dlucia@rcdony.org, or Father Howard Venette, hvenette@gmail.com, or just drop in.

**SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER**

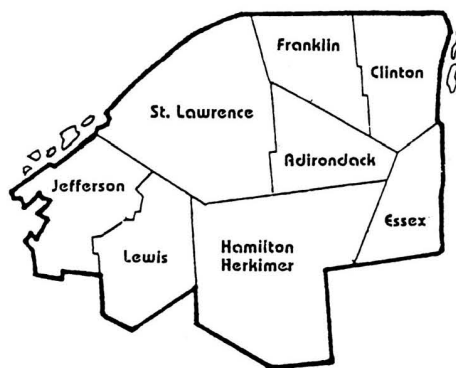
Plattsburgh – The Sacred Heart Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order meets the second Sunday of the each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** St. John's Church (Holy Family Chapel)

**MONTHLY PRAYER GROUP**

Moers – Monthly prayer group held to pray for all of the sick in our parishes.



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.

**Date:** Meets every second Friday

**Time:** 1 p.m.

**Place:** Senior Housing

**Features:** Prayer for all the people added to our list each month. The Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited within the prayer service. Prayer and snack lasts about an hour.

**Contact:** Nancy Monette at nmonette@charter.net

**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 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

## JEFFERSON

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING: PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN**

Watertown – Special presentation to be held about Human Trafficking.

**Date:** Jan. 27

**Time:** 1:30 p.m. to 3:30

**Place:** Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Hearthside Hospitality Center

**Speakers:** Salka Valerio, Case Worker at Crime Victim Assistance Center, Binghamton and a Victim of

Trafficking; Victoria Recore, Parent of a Trafficked Victim, Watertown

**Features:** For all who are concerned with the safety of our youth. Event is free and open to the public.

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER**

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

**Date:** Jan. 31

**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 & MEATBALL DINNER**

Evans Mills – Indian River Knights of Columbus to have a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner.

**Date:** Feb. 2

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$7; Senior Citizens, \$6; Children under 12, \$5; under 5, Free  
**Contact:** For more information call 315-629-4678

**EUCCHARIST PRAYER GROUP**

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

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

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

**Contact:** Kathi Buskey 315-783-2230; Lourdes Hough 315-408-4492

## ST. LAWRENCE

**CATHOLICISM: THE PIVOTAL PLAYERS**

Massena – 13 Week Study program to be held about Catholicism: The Pivotal Players.

**Date:** Stats Jan. 13

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 4 or 6:30 p.m. to 8:30

**Place:** St. Mary's Social Hall

**Features:** Facilitated by Father Scott Belina, St. Peter's Parish will offer a beautifully produced 13-week series presented by Bishop Robert Barron exploring the lives of saints, scholars, artists and mystics.

**Contact:** Parish Office at 315-769-2469

**GALA**

Gouverneur – Save the date for the St. James Gala.

**Date:** Feb. 9

**Features:** Join us for a taste of "The Sweet Life" in rich Tuscan style. The Italian themed dinner will be presented by chef Joe Pistolesi and family.

**Contact:** Tickets will be available Jan. 1 from any Gala Gal or by calling 315-287-0130

**LATIN MASS**

Potsdam – A Tridentine (Latin) Mass is celebrated each Sunday.

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

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

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

Massena – The Church of Sacred Heart/St. Lawrence holds a Bereavement Support Group the last Tuesday of each month.

**Time:** 2 p.m.

**Place:** Sacred Heart Convent

**Features:** A gathering of those who have had a recent loss of a loved one.

**Contact:** 315-769-3137

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

**DAY OF PRAYER**

Day of prayer and fasting to be held for legal protection of unborn children.

**Date:** Jan. 22

**Features:** In all the Dioceses of the United States, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. "As individuals, we are called to observe this day

through the penitential practices of prayer and fasting.

**Contact:** Resources are available here: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer-leaderresources.cfm>

**SURVIVING DIVORCE**

Surviving Divorce groups to be held for 12 weeks.

**Schedule:** Jan. 22 at St. Anthony's Church, Watertown and Jan. 24 at St. Peter's Parish in Massena

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

**Features:** The Surviving Divorce Program offers support and healing for people who are separated or divorced.

**Contact:** Contact Stephen Tartaglia at 315-393-2920 or starttaglia@rcdony.org. To register go to:

<https://www.rcdony.org/family-life/surviving-divorce-support-group.html>

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Norfolk – Save the date for a day long women's retreat.

**Date:** Nov. 4

**Time:** 9 a.m.

**Place:** Father Amyot Parish Center

**Cost:** \$20, includes lunch

**Features:** Presenter will be Edwina Gateley on the topic of "Soul Sisters: Women called to connect, bond and heal in a broken world"

## 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 officially open until February 2019, but Office of the New Evangelization would like to reserve a block of seats for participants from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. In a change from previous years, this year the New Evangelization Summit will be a one-day event.

**Contact:** If you are at all 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.



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# We're connected to Jesus through Baptism

Today marks the end of the Christmas season, and the official beginning of Jesus' public ministry. As Jesus approaches the Jordan river, his cousin, John the Baptizer, is performing the immersion of hundreds of people heeding his fiery call to repent of their sins.

Jesus asks John for baptism, but John is re-



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

lucant. He has just preached to the people that, while he baptizes with water, one worthier than himself is coming who will baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. However, he baptizes Jesus, and then, as the sky is torn asunder, the Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father is heard say-

January 13

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM  
OF THE LORD

READINGS

Isaiah 24:1-4, 6-7

Acts 10:34-38

Luke 3:15-16

ing, "You are my Beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Jesus is launched on a life of teaching, compassionate healing, and working amazing miracles. How is it possible that the religious author-

ities will reject him, and condemn Him to a vicious death?

Not even His glorious resurrection will convince the religious leaders that He is the Son of God.

This feast, along with Easter, are the two most ancient feasts in the church.

Jesus' Baptism is the symbol of our salvation. It connects us closely with Jesus' baptism of blood on the cross. The baptism of Jesus today

symbolizes the salvation of all the world.

When we are baptized, we are connected to Jesus, and are invited to a life of nourishment and growth in the Sacraments.

As Pope Benedict XVI has taught, we are clothed with Him, committed to listening to Him, believe in Him, and gently follow Him, doing His will.

The baptism of Jesus gives powerful and joyful meaning to our own!

## MAKING SENSE OUT OF BIOETHICS

# Gene-edited babies and the runaway train of IVF

In November 2018, a Chinese scientist named He Jankui (known to his associates as "JK") claimed that he had successfully produced the world's first gene-edited human babies using "gene surgery." The twin girls, he said, were born somewhere in China with a modified gene that makes them immune to infection from HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. A special DNA splicing technique called CRISPR/Cas 9 was used when they were embryos to make the edits. In a series of short videos posted on YouTube, JK offers an explanation of, and justification for, what he did.

He reminds his viewers that when scientists first began doing in vitro fertilization (IVF) in 1978, a number of ethical concerns were raised, but those mostly subsided over time: "The media hyped panic about Louise Brown's birth as the first IVF baby. But for forty years, regulations and

morals have developed together with IVF, ensuring only therapeutic applications to help more than 8 million children come into this world. Gene surgery is another IVF advancement."

In another video, he puts it this way: "Look back to the 1970s with Louise Brown. The same fears and criticisms then are repeated now. Yet, IVF unquestionably has benefited families. There will be no question about the morality of gene surgery in 20 to 30 years."

JK's strong conclusion leads us to ask whether the general sense of revulsion that has arisen towards his gene-editing work is merely alarmist and shortsighted. Are people failing to grasp the importance and propriety of what he is doing? Is he a pioneer ushering in a new age of enlightenment where

mankind will be able to make use of the powers of science to achieve good ends? Or should his

gene editing work be condemned and JK branded as a rogue scientist violating significant moral boundaries?

The answer to these questions will, in fact, be linked to whether we understand IVF to be ethical or not — JK is right to draw the parallel.

If we conclude that IVF is something good and ethically acceptable, we end up granting the principle that it is OK to engage in very harmful and damaging actions as long as we have a good end or purpose in mind. Although IVF involves a litany of grave harms, like the engendering of human beings in laboratories and the freezing or destruction of embryos, if our intention is to help others fulfill their desire to have a baby, it must be OK. By

this same logic, gene editing of our children will also be considered acceptable as long as our intentions are good and we're trying to help others, even if we're actually causing serious harms along the way.

Adding up the grave harms from IVF gives us a long list: IVF turns production into "production." It dehumanizes embryonic children, treating them as objects to be frozen, manipulated, abandoned or destroyed. Since the practice began in 1978, millions of embryos have become warehoused in liquid nitrogen, abandoned in frozen "orphanages." Millions more have been outright discarded as biomedical waste. Instead of "loving our children into being" through the one-flesh union of husband and wife, IVF mass produces children in clinics, assembly-line style, under the impetus of market capitalism. Children born by IVF, moreover, experience

roughly double the rate of birth defects of regularly conceived children.

Over the years, these kinds of concerns have been mostly glossed over or ignored — we've grown accustomed to frozen orphanages, and to the high toll involved in the process of assuring that a few of our embryonic children survive and successfully implant. We downplay the risk of birth defects. Our insensitivity and desires have trumped a clear sense of ethics.

As we face the daunting question of editing human embryos, we run up against the same temptation. Editing our embryonic children to be free of a particular disease requires numerous embryos to be simultaneously created (or thawed out), treated as "products" and subjected to genetic "treatments," with many of them perishing during the experiment, in order that a few of them might survive and de-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## AT THE MOVIES

## BUMBLEBEE

NEWYORK (CNS)—Does "Bumblebee" (Paramount) deserve a lot of buzz? While it shares the slightly preposterous premise of all the "Transformers" movies – being concerned, as they are, with alien robots who can shapeshift into cars – this installment of the sci-fi action franchise ranks above average thanks to an emotionally appealing story line.

Set in 1987, the film charts the friendship between the Autobot of the title, a yellow Volkswagen Beetle when in car form, and vulnerable but plucky teen Charlie Watson (Hailee Steinfeld). Still mourning her deceased father, whose mechanical skills she inherited, Charlie finds solace in her bond with her newfound amigo, though their communication is limited because his speech has been disabled in a fight with one of the Autobots' sworn

enemies, the Decepticons.

In exile from his home world, Cybertron, Bumblebee faces threats both human and extraterrestrial. Two Decepticons have followed him to Earth and they manage to convince the U.S. government to help them find the fugitive.

Leading the hunt is an officer of the military's top-secret Sector 7, suspicious, narrow-minded Agent Jack Burns (John Cena).

Aided by her love-smiten next-door neighbor Guillermo "Memo" Gutierrez (Jorge Lendeborg Jr.), Charlie does her best to protect Bumblebee from Burns and his minions. But she can't, of course, shield him once the Decepticons arrive on the scene, spoiling for a fight.

That's just as well for the filmmakers since gadgetry and the brawling of outsized mechani-



CNS PHOTO/PARAMOUNT

Hailee Steinfeld stars in a scene from the movie "Bumblebee."

cal beings from outer space continue to be the hallmarks of the series – the overlay of Eighties nostalgia and soft sentiments notwithstanding.

Working from a script by Christina Hodson, director Travis Knight revisits familiar themes. Charlie's mom, Sally (Pamela Adlon), has moved on from widowhood and is happily married to Ron (Stephen

Schneider), a situation that leaves Charlie resentful and alienated. Together with Charlie's younger brother, Otis (Jason Drucker), Sally and Ron form a family unit from which Charlie often feels isolated.

For his part, Agent Burns embodies the longstanding Hollywood trope that people tend to fear what they fail to understand. He eventually

undergoes something of a conversion on that score, thus becoming an example of that paramount Tinseltown virtue, tolerance.

Given that the show-cased mayhem is mostly restrained and bloodless and that the central romance reaches its moment of greatest intensity with a kiss on the cheek, "Bumblebee" is possibly acceptable for older teens.

The film contains much stylized violence with slight gore, at least one use of profanity, about a half-dozen milder oaths, a sexual reference as well as a couple of crude and a few crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is A-III – adults.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 – parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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## Gene-edited babies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

velop without the disease. Editing our embryonic children may also involve risks to them that we will only understand later when they grow up. Is it ever proper to experiment on our own offspring? Moreover, gene editing in embryos intro-

duces changes that will be passed into the human gene pool, establishing permanent and irrevocable changes to our own humanity. How does one adequately evaluate the risks of such changes?

The fact remains that we've been willing to tolerate an abundance of human carnage up to this point with IVF, and one of the great tragedies of our age has been our tone deafness to the evils of IVF. JK argues that we are similarly poised to accept the production of gene-edited babies as yet an-

other variation on the theme.

Will his brazen instrumentalization of human beings call forth gasps of disbelief, serious reflection and action, or only a few more passing yawns?

*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*





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

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

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

# Missions see increased return in summer 2018

Last Summer's Mission Cooperation plan included 15 different mission aid societies from around the world. Mission Aid speakers last summer represent places like India, Djibouti, Nicaragua, Syria and Ecuador. The Coop plan participants visit our diocese during the summer months and enjoy a weekend of hospitality in our beautiful diocese. The Mission Office is pleased to announce that last summer's collections exceeded the summer of 2016 by about 5 percent. The last time this side (the Eastern side Deaneries) hosted was 2016, so the increased interest and results are noteworthy and wonderful.

The beneficiaries of this generosity are the real-life missionaries that visit and the people they represent. Their abilities to convey the needs of their people effectively while seeking prayers and sacrifice is always well received by our Diocese. And as usual, this past summer did not disappoint.

Kind words of gratitude are coming in from different mission aid societies this time of year. The Congregation of the Holy Spirit, USA Province, also known as the Spiritans, reached out to us say how very thankful they are.... And that the Father Locky really enjoy his stay in our Diocese. They send their best to the generous people of our Diocese.

The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers write to say thank you and note that is such a joy to visit the Diocese of Ogdensburg. They send gratitude for the continued interest and support of their mission work.

The North Country Mission of Hope sends their gratitude for being able to participate in our Mission COOP program every year. They were delighted to received our generous donation.

The Salesian missions noted that their missionaries are keeping us too in their prayers. They expressed their deep gratitude and sent their Christmas blessings.

The Mission Office joins our counterparts overseas and here in the US by acknowledging our gratitude for all the Diocese of Ogdensburg puts forth each year to the people of the Mission Lands. Happy New Year. May it be blessed and safe for everyone.

Please remember "The Society for the Propagation of the Faith" when writing or changing your will.  
<http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office.html>

## OBITUARIES

**Au Sable Forks** – Joan Louise Nelson, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 26, 2018 at Holy Name Church.

**Cadyville** – Elizabeth J. (LaMountain) Bousquet, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 11, 2019 at St. James Church.

**Cape Vincent** – Vera E. (Constance) Fitzgerald, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2018 at St. Vincent of Paul Church.

**Cape Vincent** – Eleanor Marie "Ellie" (Leiper) Sullivan, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 19, 2019 at St. Vincent of Paul.

**Carthage** – Bessie R. (Cook) Trembley, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 22, 2018 at St. James Church; burial in St. James Cemetery.

**Champlain** – Donald S. Tetreault, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Chateaugay** – Raymond J. Dwyer, 81; A Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2018 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Elizabeth S. "Bette" (Sanford) Ingerson, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Clayton** – Kathleen O. (Clark) Turturro, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2018 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Fort Covington** – Elton W. "Cappy" Cappiello, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Old St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Harrisville** – Clifford W. Davison, 83; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 21, 2018 at St. Francis Solanus Church; burial in Fairview Cemetery.

**Hogansburg** – Colleen T. Bero, 57; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 29, 2018 at St. Regis Church.

**Keeseville** – Margaret F. "Robin" (Bowe) Harnish, 76; Mass of Christian Burial May 11, 2019 at Immaculate Conception Church.

**Louisville** – Wayne C. Kellogg, 66; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2018 at St.

Lawrence Church.

**Lowville** – Wayne Charles Davis, 71; Memorial Services Dec. 31, 2018 at the Sundquist Funeral Home.

**Malone** – Kathleen Dumas; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2018 at Notre Dame Church.

**Malone** – Mary Jane (Russell) Raville, 84; Mass of Christian Burial in the Spring 2019.

**Malone** – Gloria R. (Shova) Van Ess, 81; Mass of Christian Burial in Summer 2019 at Notre Dame.

**Massena** – Marie A. Page, 70; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Moosers** – Zander Shawn LaDuke, 17; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2018 at Hamilton Funeral Home.

**Morrisonville** – Pauline (Schweikert) Premore, 71; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2018 at St. Alexander's Church.

**North Bangor** – Irene F. (Johnsen) Schork, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 3, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in Stevens Cemetery, Brandon.

**Ogdensburg** – Marion Smith Houmieu, 97; Funeral Services Dec. 28, 2018 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Ella "Peggy" Margaret (LaVenture) Lovely, 78; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 24, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Pine Hill Cemetery,

**Ogdensburg** – Janet S. (Rogers) Lupia, 90; Mass of Christian Burial June 29, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – David Smith, 64; Funeral Services Dec. 24, 2018 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Ogdensburg Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Mary E. (Woods) Sovie, 97; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2018 at Notre Dame Church; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Peru** – Joseph W. Kelley, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish ceme-

tery.

**Peru** – Patrick W. Edward LaCroix, 78; Funeral Services Dec. 31, 2018 at the Hamilton Funeral Home; burial in Schuyler Falls Cemetery.

**Peru** – Glen Pearce, 76; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2018 at St. Augustine's Church.

**Peru** – Carolyn Jean (McGee) Shipman, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 2, 2019 at St. Augustine's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Jane D. Allen, 89; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 28, 2018 at St. Peter's Church

**Plattsburgh** – Marie (Jabaut) McGrath, 98; Funeral Services Jan. 3, 2019 at St. John's Newman Center.

**Plattsburgh** – Nora M. (Bedard) Pinkman, 91; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 4, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in St. Peter's Cemetery.

**Potsdam** – Geraldine (Ranger) Casey, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 4, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Redford** – Donald D. Miner, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2018 at Church of the Assumption; burial parish cemetery.

**Saint Regis Falls** – Irene J. "Renie" (Susice) Marsh, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 31, 2018 at St. Ann's Church; burial Sand Hill Cemetery, Dickinson.

**Ticonderoga** – Laura Mae (Hull) Hurburt, 73; Funeral Services Jan. 4, 2019 at Wilcox & Regan Funeral Home; burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Garna M. (Stumpf) Morgan, 92; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in Glenwood Mausoleum.

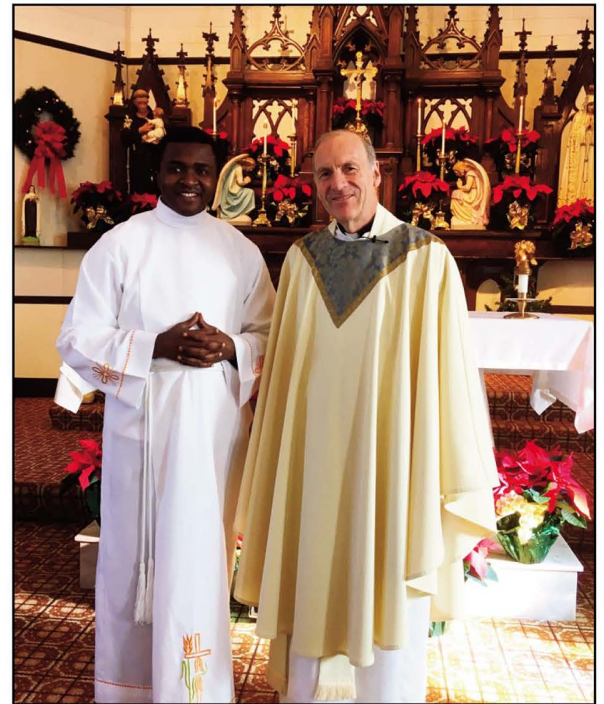
**West Chazy** – Joseph L. Marcil, 84; Mass of Christian Burial Dec. 27, 2018 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Willsboro** – Richard Patrick Sukel, 80; Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 5, 2019 at St. Philip of Jesus Church; burial in Whalons Bay Cemetery.

# SCENES OF THE SEASON



Members of the Madrid Altar Rosary Society recently gathered for the organization's holiday luncheon. Pictured are, back row, from left, Father Doug Lucia, Laurie McGrath, Anne Griffin, Mary Lucey, Anne Lindley, Mary Jo Rocker, front row, Linda Newtown, Anne Rabideau, Jean Barkley and Barb Sherry.



Seminarian Jude Nnadi and Father James W. Seymour prepare to celebrate Christmas Mass at St. Hedwig's in Houseville.



Recently, the Canton Knights of Columbus held a work bee to put up its "Keep Christ in Christmas Display." The nativity scene was made by brother Edd White and put up by brother Knights. Among the volunteers were, from left, Deputy Grand Knight Corey Swinwood, Grand Knight John Taillon, members Bill O'Horo, Tom Finnerty and Al Locy Sr.



Every year at Christmas time the officers of the Canton Knights of Columbus deliver a rose and chocolates to each widow of the council. This tradition was started by Cameron Gauthier over 40 years ago. After he passed away, the council, on a motion by Mark McKenna, formally made this tradition part of their bylaws in perpetuity. Before delivery, the chocolates are wrapped in the comics section of old newspapers and a special invitation to the annual council and family dinner held each January is attached. Grand Knight John Taillon said 'our order was founded on the premise of taking care of families and our widows will always be part of our family and never forgotten.' Deputy Grand Knight Corey Swinwood presented the gift to Sheila Harrington.