

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Deacon aspirants accepted as candidates | PAGE 13

Seven to be honored at annual Caritas Dinner | PAGE 15

The Diocese of Ogdensburg Volume 74, Number 21

# NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

OCT. 16, 2019

## EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH



Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary Missionary Month would be celebrated in October 2019 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pope Benedict XV's Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud*. As part of the celebration in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, this week's North Country Catholic features stories of how groups and individuals from the diocese are living the call to mission. Read Bishop Terry R. LaValley's reflections on Page 3; how Immaculate Heart Central students are helping girls in a residential school in Tanzania on Page 3; how Sister Cindy Sullivan went from golf courses to mission work in Ecuador on Page 4; of Father Andrew J. Amyot's service at the diocesan mission in Mollendo, Peru on Page 5; of the efforts of North Country Mission of Hope to help residents of Nicaragua and other parts of the world in need on Page 7; and learn of the efforts of the Pontifical Mission Societies to support mission efforts around the world on Pages 10-12.

## There will be no NCC next week

Due to circumstances beyond our control, there will be no *North Country Catholic* the week of Oct. 23. We will resume our normal print schedule on Oct. 30.

## ON PILGRIMAGE



Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Diocese of Ogdensburg Vocation Society (DOVS) led a pilgrimage to Ottawa on Oct. 2. The pilgrimage included Mass and a Holy Hour at Notre Dame Cathedral, as well as visits to Byward Market and Little Italy.

## Pope: Christian battle is against evil, not people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – When Catholics attack other members of the church, they are hurting Christ, Pope Francis said.

"Even those who are ideologists, because they want the 'purity' of the church, strike at Christ," he said during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Oct. 9.

Taking a break from the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon, the pope led the audience and continued

his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles.

He focused on the persecution of the church after St. Stephen's martyrdom, and on St. Paul's transformation from being known as Saul and a persecutor to being Paul, a disciple of Christ and courageous preacher of the Gospel.

Saul wanted to destroy the church and he would hunt down Christians to be imprisoned.

Pope Francis said those

people at the audience who have experienced or whose communities have experienced "persecution by dictators understand well what it means to 'hunt people down,' and that is what Saul did."

Saul thought he was serving God's law, the pope said, and he saw Christianity as a doctrinal divergence from Judaism.

But inside of Saul, with his "murderous threats," there "blew a breeze that

smelled of death, not life," the pope said.

Saul is depicted as someone who shows great intolerance toward those who think differently from him and who reduces them to potential enemies to crush, he said.

Saul, he said, turns religion into "a religious ideology, a social ideology and a political ideology."

It is only with his conversion on the road to Damascus, when Christ touches

his heart, that Saul, blinded and helpless, becomes Paul and is reborn through baptism.

"Only after he has been transformed by Christ will he teach that the true struggle 'is not with flesh and blood,' but against the powers of darkness, against the evil spirits," Pope Francis said.

Paul, he said, teaches "that you mustn't fight people, but fight the evil that inspires their actions."

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

## Happy hour is my mission territory

I do my best mission work during happy hours.

Three friends and I like gathering for a little wine and lots of food at our favorite bar/restaurant once every two to three months. The four of us sometimes engage in regular happy hour conversations – talking about our families, sports, the happenings at the workplace where we all became friends... Other times, we somehow end up talking about the tough topics – politics, morality and faith.

When we talk about the

tough topics, there is always disagreement. Despite our differences, no one gets angry or defensive during these discussions. As one participant of these exchanges explained, "I know all of us to be intelligent people, good people. If intelligent, upstanding people believe something completely different from me, I'm sure there must be good reasons, and I want to know what those reasons are."



Darcy L.  
Fargo

We all walk away from these discussions more informed and still friends – uncommon outcomes for

disagreements about politics, morality and faith these days.

At one of these discussions, one of the participants, a woman who struggles with the idea of faith in God and with organized religion, said, "I never even thought about this stuff until you guys came along," gesturing to me and the other friend who argue in favor of the existence of God and the role of organized religion.

The woman who made the statement is regularly kind and affirming, but that felt like the nicest thing she had ever said to me. It meant I was heeding the call to share my love of God.

As the theme of this Extraordinary Missionary Month suggests, we're all called to share the Gospels by default of our baptism. We are, in fact, "baptized and sent."

As you'll read in this edition, some people – generous, giving people – are sent to share their love of the Lord in remote and challenging places, embracing the universality of the church and serving God and his people in profound ways. We are called to support them and pray for them.

But we're also called to join in that mission spirit wherever we may be. Even sometimes at happy hour.

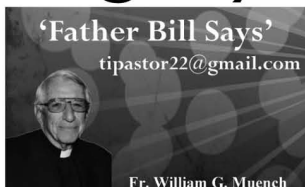
## Remembering my mission experiences

This year, the month of October has been declared Extraordinary Mission Month – Baptized and Sent. Today, I would like to join in this celebration by sharing with you some of my experiences in the missions.

I was always impressed with the various priests of our diocese who volunteered to serve at our diocesan mission parish – St. Martin de Porras in Mollendo, Peru. Each one made it clear to me that they received more from their time in the mission than they ever gave. I began to realize that this missionary business was a very special calling.

My deep respect for our own missionary priests encouraged me to spend some time in Peru. So, today, I want to share with you what I learned and stories of some of the missionaries I met.

My adventure began with time at the Maryknoll Language School in Bolivia. While there, I met many priests and religious sisters, as well as lay men and women, preparing to serve as a missionaries



in South America. They were from many different countries but were all committed to serving in South America.

I remember a young priest from England studying for a mission assignment in a parish in Bolivia. He tried hard to teach me cricket. I remember a Sister of St. Joseph from Australia who was old enough to retire but volunteered for the Peruvian Missions when she learned one of the younger Sisters of her congregation, a missionary in Peru, was killed by terrorists. I remember a family – a wife and husband and their three young children – who had decided to volunteer for some years – I think five – to be missionaries. They were going to live and work in a parish, becoming part of a community as they lived out their faith with the people of

Bolivia.

I must also mention four recent Notre Dame University graduates who volunteered two years to serve and teach in a Catholic High School in Bolivia with the Holy Cross Brothers. They were such a lively crew, often dragging us older folks out for a meal or dancing. They were becoming missionaries.

I then moved on for a couple of years to our parish in Mollendo. In the parish, I recognized all the great things our priests – my brother priests from the Diocese of Ogdensburg – had accomplished over the years we ministered in San Martin. During my time in Mollendo, I realized how our priests had touched the lives of the people of this parish in such a powerful way. The people remembered well each of priests that had served there. Those priests had brought so many in this parish closer to God and truly formed a close Christian community.

At various times while in Peru, I also met several of what I like to call profes-

sional missionaries. I am thinking about the American priests I met who had dedicated 30, 40, even 50 years to the missions, living and ministering in this foreign land, in this different culture.

One more to mention: a Maryknoll Sister, Madre Antonia from Brooklyn, although she had long ago lost her passport. When I met her, she had spent most of her religious life in the Altiplano of Peru. She was a very special person. Of all the missionaries I met, she taught me best the kind of dedication needed to be a missionary. She loved the people of her community – a village called Yankee (easy name for a New Yorker to remember). She had a close relationship with many of our priests beginning with Father Paul Hagan. Her faith was so powerful! She made it clear that she was there to live and die for her people. And she did die there recently. I will never forget her challenging voice, her loving eyes.

I continue to pray often for all my missionary friends.

## FOLLOW ME

# Baptized & Sent: Extraordinary Missionary month

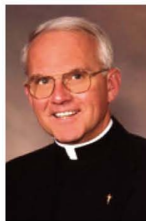
**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:**

One hundred years ago, Pope Benedict XV wrote the Apostolic Letter, *Maximum Illud*. This papal document focuses on the missionary call of all the baptized to proclaim the Gospel. In honor of the 100th anniversary of this important missionary message, Pope Francis has marked the month of October as *Extraordinary Missionary Month*.

During this month of October, Pope Francis invites all baptized Christians to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and pilgrimage. We move

beyond the typical "heroic vision" of missionaries and reinforce the transforming relationship between faith and the world to which we are all called. Pope Francis reminds us that we are each "Baptized and Sent;" we are all the "Church of Christ on Mission in the World."

I invite all in our diocese to take this opportunity to strengthen our ardor, passion, and zeal for the faith with loving missionary hearts. We can respond to our missionary call by giving generously to the collection for the So-



**Bishop  
Terry R.  
LaValley**

ciety for the Propagation of the Faith in celebration of World Mission Sunday at the Masses of October 19-20.

Your gifts support and sustain priests, consecrated religious and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Latin America and Europe where, as Disciples in Mission, they proclaim the Gospel, build the Church, and serve the poor.

As I thank you for your continuous commitment to mission, I

share my personal gratitude for your generous response on this World Mission Sunday appeal, and throughout the Extraordinary Missionary Month. We join our hearts in the prayer of our Holy Father for this special moment for the Missions: "May the love for the Church's Mission, which is a passion for Jesus and a passion for His people, grow ever stronger!"

Faithfully yours in Christ,

**Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley  
Bishop of Ogdensburg**

## EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

# School helping school: IHC aids Tanzanian girls

**Immaculate Heart Central**

**WATERTOWN**—It will be three years this fall since the students at Immaculate Heart Central Junior and Senior High School decided to "adopt" an all-girls residential school located in a remote corner of Tanzania and to designate it as the on-going recipient of its annual Respect Life Initiative (RLI).

This outreach, born at the height of the genocide in Darfur, sought at first to educate our students to a specific tragedy. Now in its 12th year, our school's annual initiative continues not only to inform but also to emphasize the continued concern of our student body toward those in need.

Fueled by funds raised through student-driven activities, it showcases both the goodwill and the energy of our young people (think Dance Marathons, five-mile walks or 10-hour fasts), as well as the overwhelming



**Form Three girls debate the abolition of early marriage. The girls are students of a residential school in Tanzania that is supported by Immaculate Heart Central Junior and Senior High.**

support we receive from our entire community. The IHC Class of '79, for example, just donated over \$1,700 to the girls' school, while four local Rotaries made a collective gift of \$3,950 in support of a much-needed water facility.

The lessons learned? Each one of us has the

power to effect real change in the lives of those who need help.

The Kitenga Girls' Secondary School is the result of a long collaboration between the Buffalo based not-for-profit, Girls Education Collaborative, and the Immaculate Heart Teaching Sisters of Africa. A well-known and highly re-

spected order of nuns, the IHTSA has cherished the dream of educating young Tanzanian women who lack either the opportunity or the means to continue their schooling past sixth grade.

Now these Sisters, together with the Girls Education Collaborative, oversee the use and accountability of donated funds with a regular "boots on the ground" presence and provide continuous feedback on the school's progress.

A member of IHC's faculty, Patricia Minter-Powell, who helps coordinate IHC's annual RLI, also makes regular trips to visit the girls and continues to witness first-hand the miracle of this hard-won and much appreciated education.

With such comprehensive support, we feel not only the promise of the initiative – the Form 3 girls recently placed first in their school district on their National Exams – but also its power to truly

change the trajectory of these young women's lives.

Since the fall of 2016, the IHC community has raised over \$30,000 to help support the hopes and aspirations of more than 100 young Tanzanian women presently enrolled at the school. In a country where many school age girls have already succumbed to the fate of "child brides," these young women now have a chance at a very real future.

These hard-working, ambitious young ladies are, in turn, inspiring the students at our Junior-Senior High School through the exchange of pictures, videos and postcards.

For more glimpses into life and learning at the Kitenga Girls' Secondary School or to learn how you can support these girls, visit our Facebook Group, IHC Faith Community Service Program, or contact us through [patricia.minterpowell@ihc.school.org](mailto:patricia.minterpowell@ihc.school.org).

## EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

# From golf courses to missionary work

By **Bob Beckstead**  
Contributing writer

**MASSENA** – When Sister Cindy Sullivan, BVM, left New York in 1973, she was following her dream to become a professional golfer.

Instead, she found herself in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, where she spent more than 40 years working with the Center for Working Families and The Working Boy's Center, which provides education, day care, vocational training and meals for thousands of Ecuadorian families.

"I'm originally from Massena. I wanted to be a professional golfer. I went out to California to become a professional golfer. They wanted me to work at playing golf, and I didn't want to work at playing golf. So I joined the Peace Corps," said Sister Cindy, who belongs to the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary community.

She requested an assignment in Africa, but instead the Peace Corps sent her to Quito, Ecuador.

Before her journey to California, and then on to



Sister Cindy Sullivan

Ecuador, she had graduated from Onondaga Community College after studying dental hygiene, and that was her role when she arrived in Ecuador. She worked as a dental hygienist for four-and-a-half years before switching over to teach special education.

While in Ecuador, she lived in an intentional community with a BVM sister, Jesuit priest, married people, and single men, young and old.

"After four-and-a-half years, I realized God had been nudging me, calling me, and I finally decided to bite the bullet and accept it," she said.

Sister Cindy returned to the U.S., to Dubuque, Iowa for her novitiate, as well as to finish her degree in biology. After first vows, she returned to Ecuador, which was her home for 40 years.

"It's beautiful. It's 9,300 feet above sea level and you're right in the Andes Mountains. It's a city that's like 35 miles long and only a mile wide. You never really feel like you're in a big city because it's only a mile wide. A mile in either direction and you could be back out in the country," she said.

"It's incredibly beautiful.

It's springtime year-round. Twelve hours of daylight, 12 hours of nighttime year-round. At 6 o'clock it's light. At 6 o'clock it's dark. It might vary by 10 minutes," Sister Cindy said. "There's no humidity. It's 60, 70 degrees year-round. You do have a couple months of rainy season, but that's not bad."

She served as a jack of all trades.

"Six of us ran the place. I taught all kinds of things. I taught baking. I taught English. I taught computers. I did all kinds of counseling and made house visits," she said. "Everybody does a lot of things."

They were joined by volunteers who came to live with them every year.

"We had year-long volunteers. Usually we had an average of 12 to 15 volunteers. We received high school groups and college groups and confirmation classes from all over the world, who came and spent two weeks with us throughout the year for a mission experience," Sister Cindy said.

"They would go with us to help build a house on the weekend or something. College kids, high school kids, they're easy to impress. You don't have to preach to them at all, just let them see the way the rest of the world lives. We take them off the beaten path and they're going to see what it's really like," she said.

After a total of 43 years in Ecuador, she returned to the United States two years ago and, after preaching in California, returned to Massena. She is currently the executive director of Massena Meals on Wheels.

But Ecuador is still on her mind.

"It's a whole different culture, a whole different world, a whole different pace. I loved the work; I loved the people. It's so fulfilling. I feel so blessed to be part of something like that when you're helping people like that," Sister Cindy said.

Several weeks ago, when Massena Meals on Wheels was closed for the week, she returned to Ecuador.

"It was my first time back after two years. It was really emotional to go back. They had a reception for me. We had a little party. It was just good to see the people. There were a lot of tears shed, but they were good tears. They understand that I can't be there this time. When I left, I couldn't really say goodbye to people," she said.

"I was just so blessed to be part of it, and I hope to be part of it again," she said. "Poverty is a whole different ball game. I think the most hope-filled thing is when young people come from this culture and they're happy. We're not happy and we have everything. They've got nothing, but they've got each other. They're got community."

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## EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

# Called to be a priest and missionary

By Father Andrew J. Amyot

I have been asked many times, "When did you start thinking of God's call to be a priest?" I believe it was after making my First Communion. I was prepared by Father Walter Charbonneau. I made my First Communion when I was 6 years old. Me and my brother, Edgar, who was 16 months older than me, were the only ones in the First Communion Class in the small parish of St. Francis Xavier in Redwood, New York. I remember telling Jesus in my prayers that He loved me so much that He was willing to die on the cross for me, how could I ever repay Him for such great love. I wanted to receive Holy Communion because this was the very Body and Blood of the Lord. By receiving Him, He could help me to stay close to him. By being a priest, I would be closely united to the very source of divine life, which we all desire in our lives.

When Father Charbonneau was transferred, Father Edmund Dumas came to our parish. It was during this time that Father gave us comic like booklets about the lives of the saints. One of these booklets was about the life of St. Francis Xavier. I reread this booklet many times and was in awe of the tireless efforts he made to share the faith with so many people across India, Asia and the Far East. Father Dumas was a good friend with Father Robert Farmer, who was the Director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith in our diocese. He would have Father Farmer to come to Redwood during

the summer to make appeals for missions. I remember saving my money each year to bring to give to this mission collection.

Years later, a Maryknoll priest came and spoke in our parish. I took one of the Maryknoll magazines and decided to write and inquire about joining their mission society after high school. My mother intercepted the packet from Maryknoll. That encounter was not a very pleasant one. She could not understand why I would want to leave the family and go away and perhaps never return.

I spoke with my pastor, then Father Emile Lalonde, who advised me to attend Wadhams Hall and major seminary, and if I still wanted to go to the missions, I could approach our bishop and request his permission to go work in the missions. As history played out, Pope John XXIII would ask the bishops of the United States to send priests to South America to help the church there.

Bishop James Navagh, who was in Rome for the Second Vatican Council, met Archbishop Rodriguez Ballon of Arequipa, Peru. Very soon, plans were completed for two priests to go to Peru. Father Roger Martin and Father Paul Hagan were the first priests to volunteer. Four priests would soon join them: Fathers J. Lee Snow, Bernard Kellogg, Edward Kehoe and John Kennehan.

Father Kennehan had just completed his studies in language school, and I decided to go and visit him and see our mission project for myself. Three



Father Andrew J. Amyot leads a procession on the Feast of St. Martin de Porras in Mollendo, Peru in 1972.

years after my ordination, Bishop Donnellan again asked for volunteers, and I offered to go. He accepted, and my prayers and dream of serving in the missions were coming to fruition.

Our parishes in Mollendo and Materani were very much like any parish in our diocese, except for the extreme poverty of most people we served. Many did not have running water or electricity.

Many were day laborers with no fixed income. To have decent housing was hard for them to achieve. So the men of the communities were organized, and with wood from shipping crates obtained from the port authorities, a one-room house was built for the families who could afford a cement floor or foundation. The men would gather and pour the cement floor one weekend and come together to build the simple house the next weekend. The roof boards were covered with tarps until the family could afford a tin roof.

help teach children, preparing them for First Communion and confirmation. They also helped prepare our catechists, so they could assume these responsibilities. Pre-baptism classes were held twice a month, and parents and Godparents attended. Everyone wanted their children to be baptized, and this gave us an opportunity to instruct them.

There were some 15,000 people in our Mollendo parishes. They lived in what were called pueblos juvenes (young towns) or slums. The idea was to have a main church with satellite chapels in the surrounding areas. Some of these areas had built or were hoping to build chapels where Mass could be celebrated and educational classes could be held closer to the peoples' residences. The main church was San Martin de Porras. When I arrived in Mollendo, the church complex consisted of a chapel, where daily Mass was celebrated and for Sunday Masses during the winter months, as well as one meeting room, two office spaces and a large area which had a gravel floor and walls standing some 20 feet high. This was the future church building. During the summer months, we would string up electric light bulbs for lighting. The benches from the chapel and meeting room were brought into this open space for mass. An altar and pulpit completed the simple arrangement for mass. After several

money-raising events, a cement floor was poured in the large area, and this

Our parish also organized mothers clubs, in which mothers were taught simple precautions to keep their children healthy, like boiling the water before it was consumed by infants.

The hospital was in our parish so a daily visit was important. One incident which I will never forget: a man came running to the parish office and wanted me to go to the hospital to baptize his baby, who was dying. We ran to the hospital, only to find that the baby had died and been placed in the morgue. We went to morgue, and the attendant opened a door and pulled out a tray on which the little bodies of babies were piled up one on top of one another like a cord of wood. Dozens of babies had died, and their bodies were never claimed by the parents, perhaps because they could not afford to bury them.

We would also visit elementary schools to help with religion classes. Two groups of sisters would

## Environmental Stewardship

## What do you care about?

*"There is no greater power than a community discovering what it cares about?"* — Margaret Wheatley, author, teacher and speaker

We know from the Creation Story in the Book of Genesis 2:15 that we, as human beings, have been given the incredible task and responsibility to "cultivate and guard" this magnificent earth we call home."

Pope Benedict XVI in his World Day of Prayer Address in 2010 told us, "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation."

We are reminded by Pope Francis that Christians are called to "an ecological conversion whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in their relationships with the world around them. . . . Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience." *Laudato Si* #217

So, there seems to be no question of what we, as Christian Catholics, need to care about. Caring for our earth is not separate from caring for our sisters and brothers, since all life comes from and depend upon the water, air and soil for its very substance. God has entrusted us with being responsible caretakers.

This can be a very daunting challenge as we look around at our world today.

Some advise that Margaret Wheatley give us after we have identified "what we care about" is: "Ask What is possible? Not What's wrong? Keep asking?"

One concrete action that we can do is to plant a tree. Trees are an essential part of our ability to live on this incredible planet. They help trap dust, pollen and smoke from the air. They create an ecosystem to provide habitat and food for birds and other animals.

No place to plant one?

Consider donating one to be planted in a public place or make a contribution to an organization that will plant trees in your name.

## Priest and missionary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

made a big difference. After a year-long effort by the building committee, enough money was raised to construct a roof over

## Rest in Peace

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

**Oct. 17** — Rev. Antoine Anselm Thomas, 1900; Rev. Athanase Marion, O.M.I., 1935

**Oct. 18** — Rev. Edwin A. Kennedy, 1990; Deacon Chester Lloyd Price, 1991

**Oct. 20** — Rev. Walter Plaisance, O.M.I., 1918; Msgr. Stephen J. Wojciechowski, 1978

**Oct. 21** — Rev. Peter LaFort, 1939; Msgr. Robert A. Farmer, 1979

**Oct. 22** — Rev. Thomas McNally, 1883; Rev. George J. Savage, 1918; Rev. Michael A. Jarecki, 2012

**Oct. 23** — Rev. Discorides Forget, O.M.I., 1916

**Oct. 24** — Rev. John P.O'Rourke, 1918

**Oct. 25** — Rev. J. Michael Duvic, O.M.I., 1917

**Oct. 26** — Rev. J. G. Lavoie, O.M.I., 1908

**Oct. 27** — Rev. John M. Fagan, O.S.A., 1966; Msgr. George Norton Whittaker, 1971; Msgr. Gerald H. Service, 2002

**Oct. 28** — Deacon Richard Gaebel, 2008; Msgr. George M. Phillips, 2011

**Oct. 29** — Rev. James R. Scanlon, 1880; Rev. Peter F. Cody, 1888; Rev. John Canning, 1998; Deacon Robert V. Ruddy, 2013

## 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:

**Oct. 21** — 3 p.m., Trinity Catholic School, Massena

**Nov. 7** — 5:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church, Lowville

the church. In the mind of the Peruvian, what was needed to make the space worthy of worship was a crucifix and many statues. A committee member knew an artist in Lima who fashioned statues of

exquisite quality. So he was contracted to produce a resurrected Christ to be placed on the wall behind the altar, which already had a cross design in the brick work. The artist was to also produce a statue of San Martin de Porras with a dog and mice at his feet. He also had a broom in one hand, symbolizing his work in the monastery. A statue of Mary was also obtained.

It took many years to build the parish buildings, but having the people actively involved meant that this church building was truly theirs because of their efforts, and they had in a sense of ownership.

To build up a faith community demands many diverse efforts like educating the people,

starting with understanding the meaning of baptism. Everyone wants their child to be baptized, so there was a need to help them understand the meaning of the sacrament. It is not just a religious ceremony that must be performed, but it is the means of entering into a relationship with God.

Classes about the other sacraments of First Communion and confirmation were other teachable moments to help evangelize the people.

Understanding the meaning of the Mass and confession, and courses on Scripture followed, because they were hungry to learn more.

Marriage Encounter and the Cursillo Movement were great helps to form a committed faith community.

The missionary priest's work is to prepare a people to assume their role in the universal church and to provide vocations to priesthood, religious life, committed family life, catechist and the many ministries that are necessary for the liturgy and home visits.

All these gifts of self are so necessary for personal growth and the growth of the Christian community.

Pray that the missionary priest's efforts will produce a vibrant faith among those they serve so that they may become self sustaining communities and eventually send out missionaries to bring the message of Jesus' love to others who have not heard or have not lived the message of salvation.

## Bishop's Public Schedule

**Oct. 17** — 9:30 a.m. — Mass at St. James Minor Church followed by a school visit at Augustinian Academy in Carthage

**Oct. 18-19** — Celebrate Christ at the Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid

**Oct. 20** — 11 a.m. — Confirmation Destination Mass at The Catholic Community of Moriah in Port Henry followed by refreshments

**Oct. 21** — 7:15 p.m. — Novena followed by Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 22** — 10:30 a.m. — School Visit at Trinity Catholic School in Massena followed by noon Mass

**Oct. 23** — 8:15 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary's Church followed by a school visit at St. Mary's School in Canton

**Oct. 24** — 8:50 a.m. — Prayer Service at Immaculate Heart Central Elementary School in Watertown followed by a school visit

**Oct. 25** — Noon — Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral

**Oct. 26** — 11 a.m. — Ordination to the Diaconate for Jude Nnadiuba and Severinus Torwe at St. Peter's Church in Lowville

**Oct. 27** — 9 a.m. — Confirmation Destination Mass at St. Peter's Church in Lowville followed by refreshments

**Oct. 28** — 9:15 a.m. — Mass at St. James Church followed by a school visit at St. James School in Gouverneur

**Oct. 29** — 10:30 a.m. — Diocesan Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Residence followed by lunch

**Oct. 30** — 8:15 a.m. — Prayer Service at St. Bernard's School in Saranac Lake followed by a school visit

10:30 a.m. — Prayer Service at St. Agnes School in Lake Placid followed by a school visit

## 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, 31 Sixth Street, Malone, NY 12953; [terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com](mailto:terrianneyanulavich@yahoo.com) Phone: Day: 518-651-2267, Night: 518-569-0612; or Father Christopher Carrara, the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy at 315-393-2920

## 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!



## EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH

# Mission of Hope aids Nicaragua, places in need

By Jonathan Monfiletto  
Contributing writer

What began as a project to raise money for hurricane victims in Nicaragua has become a mission that helps people in that country, as well as across the United States and around the world.

More than 20 years since two students planted the seed that became North Country Mission of Hope, the nonprofit organization now feeds more than 6,700 children a day in 24 economically disadvantaged schools in Nicaragua, amounting to 1 million meals served each year.

Also in Nicaragua, Mission of Hope educates 800 children every year, sponsors four orphanages, operates two clinics that focus on women's health and abuse victims as well as general health care, and operates a dental clinic. It currently works with other groups to provide eye care but will soon offer eye care on its own.

For Sister Debbie Blow, co-founder of Mission of Hope and its executive director from the start, the purpose of Mission of Hope is, in the words of a call from Pope Francis, "to be the spark of God's divine light in our world," she said.

"I believe that that's what the mission tries to do. We try to be the spark of divine light in our world," Sister Debbie, a Dominican Sister of Hope, said. "We are called to bring hope, to be that source, to be that hope bearer. I'm called to be a woman of hope in the midst of all of this awful stuff going on in our own country as well as other countries."

## Planting a seed

Mission of Hope started in 1998 after Hurricane Mitch, which struck Nicaragua and other Central American countries. It was the deadliest hurricane to hit that region.

When the hurricane hit, Sister Debbie worked at Seton Catholic Central High School as the campus minister and Scripture teacher. Two of the students there were from Nicaragua.

The children – a boy and a girl – had arrived in America and in Plattsburgh with their family as refugees of the Nicaraguan civil war in the mid-1980s. When Hurricane Mitch destroyed their native country, they were high schoolers in Sister Debbie's program. The students reached out to her to help the people of Nicaragua.

"They kept saying, 'Well, Sister, are we going to do something?'" Sister Debbie said. "And the answer was, 'Yes, let's figure out what we're going to do.'"

Together, they began soliciting donations from staff, students and parents of the school. Sister Debbie told the students they could put a plea out on the local public radio station to match whatever they collected.

"We collected \$3,000 in a week," Sister Debbie said, noting she then went to WIRY to make good on her promise. "A week after that, we had \$30,000."

With that money, Sister Debbie organized a trip with a group of youth and adults to Nicaragua shortly after the hurricane.

During that trip, on the way back from serving at an impoverished orphanage, Sister Debbie said she



A Nicaraguan woman prays with a medical mission team member during a North Country Mission of Hope mission trip.

was sitting next to a boy who people told her not to take on the journey because he could be trouble. But that's exactly why she chose to take him; she said she thought he needed a wakeup call.

The boy asked her, "Sister, do you know what the greatest sin would be?"

Sister Debbie said her thoughts turned to being in a foreign territory, her dislike of flying, her fear of spiders, snakes and insects, and being without electricity. As they traveled down a mountain from the orphanage, she really didn't want "a theological conversation about sin," she said. Still, she answered the boy, "No, what would the greatest sin be?"

"He turned to me with tears in his eyes, and he said, 'If we never came back,'" Sister Debbie said.

At that moment, she said, she knew the trip could not be a one-and-done situation, a group of Americans donating their

money to make themselves feel better but never doing anything else.

In February 1999, Sister Debbie organized a larger team of 60 people. Since then, there have been 71 trips to Nicaragua with 1,900 participants.

## Watching it grow

Shortly after that first trip, Mission of Hope became its own nonprofit corporation in the United States and a nongovernmental organization in Nicaragua. Since the beginning, it has had four main pillars – education, health care, community development and ecological sustainability – with all of its programs and projects falling under one of those pillars.

While Nicaragua has been the primary area of service for the last 20 years, Sister Debbie noted the focus has expanded. Mission of Hope responded to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and has also served in El Paso, Texas, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas,

the Philippines, Guatemala and Venezuela.

"If we can establish a vetted source and a trusted source on the ground of an emergency disaster, then we will do what we can," she said. "Our shipments have expanded as well as our financial support."

Mission of Hope is based in Plattsburgh with only Sister Debbie and a part-time office assistant as paid staff, but the organization has a strong and steady contingent of volunteers who work at the warehouse every Wednesday or whenever they are needed. They pack medical equipment, sort clothing, collect school supplies and distribute those items to wherever the need is greatest – including the local area.

"We've always assisted locals who needed something that we might've had in the warehouse," Sister Debbie said, noting that could be someone who needs a hospital bed or a wheelchair, or a domestic violence survivor who needs help.

Those items are also shipped to Nicaragua and all around the world, but one thing Mission of Hope doesn't ship is the food it serves to the children it feeds in Nicaragua. Instead, the organization sponsors 10 Nicaraguan farmers and supplies them with the seeds, resources, and equipment to produce the rice that goes into the 1 million yearly meals.

Partnering with another NGO, Mission of Hope also provides soy, vegetables, and other nutrients to go with the rice. The organization's Nicaraguan employees on the ground

# Mission of Hope

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

then distribute the meals to the 24 schools.

Mission of Hope also relies on its Nicaraguan workforce to plan and oversee the construction of homes in the country – 10 at a time, sponsored by people local to the North Country, including many from the Diocese of Ogdensburg. The employees screen and select those who will receive homes, and then the prospective homeowners build their own homes as well as one another's.

## Empowering people

The four pillars of Mission of Hope are education – accomplished through its nutrition and education programs; health care – medical, dental, and eye clinics; community development – renovating schools and hospitals and building homes; and ecological sustainability, sponsoring farmers and providing energy efficient stoves, water filters and tank systems, as well as moringa trees that offer a source of nutrition and water purification.

There may be a fifth pillar – empowerment. Sister Debbie said Mission of Hope purposely has no American employees permanently in Nicaragua. Other than mission trip participants, all of the service is done by Nicaraguans themselves.

"From the beginning, we



Nicaraguan employees of North Country Mission of Hope prepare meals to be delivered to 24 schools in the country to feed more than 6,700 children.

always emphasize that we wanted to empower, not control," Sister Debbie said. "We have our Nicaraguan employees continuing the dream of sharing hope and believing in its power and believing in the power of being in communion and using their gifts and talents."

And that is paying off, she said, at a time when Mission of Hope is unable to send mission teams to Nicaragua because of sociopolitical uprisings and issues with the government.

"While we can't travel there, none of our programs or projects have been interrupted," Sister Debbie said. "We're not able to send anyone on mission, but that doesn't mean our programs have stopped."

Though Mission of Hope works to meet the physical needs of the people in Nicaragua, it is often the Nicaraguan people who meet the spiritual needs of those who come to help them.

"For the majority of people in Nicaragua, they are the ones that help us to grow in our faith more deeply," Sister Debbie said, noting the country is about 93 percent Christian. "They are the ones that present the realities of what darkness in our world is today and how we can see light despite the darkness."

Recalling "one example of many stories," Sister Debbie said she went to Nicaragua one time in early December to help distribute several tractor-trailer loads of equipment that had been shipped from Plattsburgh. She joined a procession celebrating the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Celebrants go from home to home – with homes decorated with a statue of the Virgin Mary and a light – to sing for the homeowners, who in turn present gifts. That is generous and humbling in itself since the typical home is "a two-room tin shack," Sister Debbie said.

On this occasion, Sister

Debbie walked with a woman named Magaly during the procession. With no streetlights and most homes having no power, Sister Debbie wondered to Magaly how people see.

"Her response was, 'You must learn to see God in the darkness,'" Sister Debbie said. "That is one example of their depth of faith, and I could go on and on and on. Their faith is important because, honestly, they have their faith, they have their family, they have their communion, their fellowship with one another, their friends. That's really the heart of their lives. ... The Nicaraguan people restore hope and help healing in our own travelers, and I have seen that time and time and time again."

## Giving blessings

The mission of Mission of Hope, Sister Debbie said, involves not just showing care and concern for the poor and the marginalized but also providing the opportunity for people who have been blessed by a life in America to show their gratitude and help others by giving from their blessings.

"Service is something we all need to be about and to be aware of how blessed we are," she said. "It's always about helping us to be grateful. From our gratitude, we will share our blessings. It ultimately allows us to connect more deeply with the rest of the human community and to use our skills and blessings and gifts to foster empowerment."

For Sister Debbie, the mission also involves giving hope – not just to those in Nicaragua who are being helped but also to those from America who are helping them.

"There is a transforming

power to hope. When you are in connection and in communication and in relationship with your Creator, with your community, the world community, and with all of creation itself, then you can see the transforming power unfold," she said. "I really believe that that's how I'm called to preach the Gospel to our world. We hear, 'feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned,' and the list goes on and on. That's how I see in my own life being called to live as a Dominican Sister of Hope, but also to be in communion with all of the world community and with creation. Hope takes over. Hope transforms us."

Hope takes over and transforms, Sister Debbie said, when people consider how they can be the spark of God's divine light in the world and decide to answer His call to help the poor and marginalized.

"The challenge is, will we? Will we hear the call of the Gospel? Will we hear the cry of the poor? We know God hears the cry of the poor. The challenge is, will we?" she said. "We (Mission of Hope) are engaged where we can be, when we can be, how we can be. We hear the cry of the poor, and every person needs to hear that."

One doesn't need to travel to Nicaragua and anywhere else to answer God's call; the mission field begins in one's own community.

"Missionary service is something we all need to live," Sister Debbie said. "Mission service is a way of living. It's a heart movement, and every Catholic Christian is called to be a missionary in that reality. It's all about doing what we can, where we can, when we can."



*Support And Pray  
For Vocations*





**Diocese of Ogdensburg  
Mission Office 2018**



**Annual Report**



## 2018 Annual Report of Donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith



Parish	Mission Sunday	Missionary Cooperation Plan	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)	Number of Families
Adams	\$743.00		\$519.75	700
Henderson	\$486.00		\$713.00	79/winter 207/summer
Community of Alexandria	\$688.00		\$1,877.00	270
Altona				310
Sciota				152
AuSable Forks/Black Brook	\$1,356.16	\$940.21		350
Wilmington	\$222.00			65
Black River	\$412.00	\$161.70	\$256.00	132
Deferiet				54
Brasher Falls	\$1,029.00	\$345.00	\$757.00	511
North Lawrence	\$951.11			117
Brownville	\$751.00		\$328.00	532
Dexter			\$457.00	
Brushton	\$2,324.00	\$1,119.11		370
North Bangor	\$514.00	\$668.00		178
Cadyville	\$458.81			300
Canton	\$1,704.00		\$1,856.00	661
Cape Vincent /Chaumont/Rosiere	\$634.00		\$1,427.00	340
Carthage	\$1,595.52	\$92.00	\$1,507.46	945
Copenhagen	\$578.50		\$560.50	176
Champlain	\$367.00	\$743.00		700
Chateaugay	\$581.00	\$584.60		403
Burke				205
Chazy	\$389.00	\$1,732.00		420
Clayton	\$3,120.57		\$3,216.50	535
LaFargeville	\$455.00		\$165.00	113
Colton	\$745.00		\$1,165.00	182
Constable/Westville	\$493.25	\$385.00		400
Constableville	\$368.00			160
West Leyden	\$145.00			100
Croghan	\$1,425.00		\$1,463.00	552
Dannemora	\$919.00	\$1,161.00		538
Redford	\$519.00	\$703.00		413
Elizabethtown				150
Westport				90
Ellenburg	\$1,698.00	\$3,224.25		295
Evans Mills	\$355.00		\$537.00	103
Theresa	\$163.00			
Philadelphia				75
Fort Covington	\$326.50	\$225.34		246
Hogansburg - SP			\$1,000.00	174
Bombay	\$231.61	\$307.00		170
Gouverneur	\$385.00	\$58.00	\$60.00	585
Edwards			\$188.00	70
Heuvelton	\$298.00		\$387.00	240
Lisbon	\$155.00		\$197.00	190
Indian Lake	\$1,146.00	\$2,010.00		138
Blue Mountain Lake				12
Olmstedville	\$429.00			
Keeseville Community	\$815.00	\$1,375.55		719
Lake Placid	\$2,608.78	\$3,525.40		500
Keene	\$390.00	\$896.00		130
Lake Pleasant, Speculator	\$519.00	\$879.00		265
Wells	\$202.00	\$412.00		206
Lowville	\$1,302.96		\$1,988.00	777
Glenfield	\$164.00		\$311.00	216
Houseville	\$251.00			44
Lyon Mt				340

Parish	Mission Sunday	Missionary Cooperation Plan	Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)	Number of Families
Malone – St. Andre Bes.	\$2,451.00	\$3,807.95		1081
Massena - SH		\$10.00	\$2,256.85	1044
Louisville				265
Massena – SM & SJ	\$3,732.42	\$25.00	\$610.00	1251
Mooers Forks		\$974.00		383
Mooers - SJ				252
Morrisonville	\$2,243.15	\$1,632.00		1027
Treadwells Mill				224
Morristown	\$848.00		\$1,120.85	336
Hammond				50
Rossie				30
Newcomb		\$400.00		70
Long Lake		\$925.00		90
Norfolk	\$923.00		\$623.00	400
Raymondville				135
Norwood	\$855.40		\$586.00	450
Ogdensburg – SM/ND	\$5,491.50		\$2,926.00	1249
Ogdensburg - ND				1100
Old Forge	\$340.00	\$2,436.92		217
Inlet, Raquette Lake	\$175.00			134
Peru				769
Plattsburgh – St. John	\$5,666.00	\$3,667.00		700
Plattsburgh – OLV	\$557.00	\$908.00		800
Plattsburgh - SP	\$1,909.00	\$6,634.77		1844
Catholic Comm of Moriah	\$1,783.53	\$1,056.50		372
Port Henry - Mineville				
Port Leyden	\$349.00		\$401.00	150
Lyons Falls	\$265.00		\$271.00	110
Potsdam	\$1,334.00		\$1,063.00	1223
Rouses Point	\$949.00			595
Saranac Lake	\$1,770.00	\$2,700.95		1046
Bloomington				150
Gabriels				56
Lake Clear				101
Schroon Lake	\$620.25	\$949.50		243
Olmstedville				87
Star Lake	\$303.10		\$60.50	293
Harrisville	\$694.00		\$358.00	196
St. Regis Falls	\$477.00		\$406.00	165
Hopkinton	\$113.00		\$33.00	75
Ticonderoga	\$1,677.50	\$1,726.00		673
Crown Point	\$546.25	\$396.00		158
Tupper Lake – SA	\$1,322.38	\$2,201.17		964
Tupper Lake – HN				575
Waddington	\$1,209.00			220
Madrid	\$543.00	\$20.00		150
Watertown – SP	\$1,603.06		\$1,265.78	721
Watertown – SH	\$568.00		\$579.00	650
Watertown – SA	\$827.00	\$120.00	\$1,514.42	550
Watertown – HF	\$1,969.93	\$29.16	\$2,076.16	1246
West Chazy	\$314.55	\$2,221.00		719
Willsboro/Essex				326
Individual Donations	\$410.00		\$6,127.87	NA
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$80,253.79</b>	<b>\$54,388.08</b>	<b>\$43,214.64</b>	

Mission Sunday and Mission Coop Appeal 2018 collections are calculated using the dates of our Fiscal Year (Jan. – Dec. 2018)

Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeal 2018 is calculated using the dates of Jul. 2018-Dec. 2018. The Diocese is split in half between Mission Coop and Missionary Projects for the Diocese of Ogdensburg Appeals.

**These totals do not reflect any 2019 late payments that were received in the Mission Office after January 1, 2019 due to our annual financial review/audit. It is also possible that some amounts represent combined totals amongst parish groupings.**



# WORLD MISSION SUNDAY



The Pontifical Mission Societies in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, Inc., thanks our generous donors who participate in collections, appeals and bestow unsolicited gifts to the Missions. God bless you!

## Mission Support

Mission Sunday	\$ 80,253.79
Legacies	\$127,221.62
Memberships	\$ 1,050.00
Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 1,985.00
Lenten Appeal	\$ 6,662.00
Christmas Appeal	\$ 7,474.16

## The Special Funds

Missionary Project of the Diocese of Ogdensburg	\$43,214.64
Missionary Cooperation Plan	\$54,388.08
Announced Mass Offerings	\$22,158.00
Unannounced Mass Offerings	\$1,883.78

Each year, about one half of the parishes take up the **Missionary Projects of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (MPDO)** Collection, while the other half takes up the **Missionary Cooperation Appeal**, in the following year the collections are reversed.

## St. Peter Apostle Appeal

\$5,978 was given by our people to the *Society of St. Peter the Apostle* to educate native priests and novices for mission areas.



**Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for World Mission Sunday 2019**  
**Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World**

*Four Spiritual dimensions from the message of Pope Francis for the celebration of World Mission Sunday in Extraordinary Mission Month 2019.*

### Personal Encounter with Jesus Christ Alive in the Church:

"Celebrating Extraordinary Mission Month will help us first to rediscover the missionary dimension of our faith in Jesus Christ, a faith graciously bestowed on us in baptism... Through our communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we together with so many of our brothers and sisters, are born to new life... This missionary mandate touches up personally: I am a mission, always: you are a mission, always: every baptized man and woman is a mission..."

### Witness of Missionary Saints and Martyrs

"How many saints, how many men and women of faith, witness to the fact that this unlimited openness, this going forth in mercy, is indeed possibly and realistic, for it is driven by love and its deepest meaning as gift, sacrifice and gratuitousness.... The man who preaches God must be a man of God..."

### Catechesis in Missionary Discipleship

"The Church is on mission in the world....A Church that presses forward to the farthest frontiers requires a constant and ongoing missionary conversion ... Our mission, then, is rooted in the fatherhood of God and the motherhood of Church. The mandate given by the Risen Jesus at Easter in inherent in Baptism: as the Father has sent me, so I send you, filled with the Holy Spirit, for the reconciliation of the world..."

### Charity to Mission

"Charity, of which we have a foretaste in the sacraments and in fraternal love, impels us to go forth to the ends of the earth...The Pontifical Mission Societies serve the Church's universality as global network of support for the Pope in his missionary commitment by prayer, the soul of mission, and charitable offerings from Christians throughout the World. Their donations assist the Pope in the evangelization efforts of particular Churches...In renewing my support for these Societies, I trust the Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019 will contribute to the renewal of their missionary service to my ministry."



Students at Seton Academy showing off their World Mission Sunday rosaries.

## Missionary Childhood Association Funds for School Year 2018-2019

School Totals	\$ 5,020.84
Religious Education Totals	\$ 1,810.25
<b>MCA TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 6,831.09</b>

## 2018 Financial Statement

Total Revenue:	\$359,100.16
Total Operating Expenses:	\$64,079.00

## Notice

This report covers the fiscal year of Jan. 1, 2018 to Dec. 31, 2018; with the exception of the Missionary Childhood, which covers September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2019.

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

**Sr. Mary Ellen Brett, SSJ,**  
 Diocesan Director  
**Molly M. Ryan,**  
 Secretary/Bookkeeper  
 PO Box 369

Ogdensburg, New York 13669



A group of students from the St. Francis Faith Formation Center in Croghan, NY where there are excellent fundraisers.

## Visit Our Updated Mission Office Website:

[www.rcdony.org/mission-office](http://www.rcdony.org/mission-office)



## “Children Helping Children”

All funds raised through schools are directed towards self-help programs involving the building of schools, the provision of health and nutrition programs and medications, school fees, and teaching and learning resources.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIFTS TO THE MISSIONARY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION September 1, 2018- August 31, 2019 (School Year)



Afterschool program at St. Agnes in Lake Placid students shown playing in the school gym. These students raised \$660 during the school year.

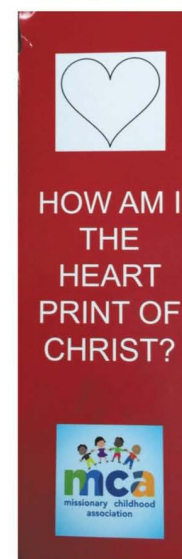
CANTON - St. Mary's School	\$262.75
CARTHAGE - Augustinian Academy	741.16
GOUVERNEUR - St. James School	\$284.70
MASSENA - Trinity Catholic School	\$1014.07
PLATTSBURGH - Seton Academy Elem School	\$621.50
LAKE PLACID - St. Agnes School	\$660.36
MALONE - Holy Family School	\$76.70
SARANAC LAKE - St. Bernard's School	\$176.00
TICONDEROGA - St. Mary's School	\$700.00
WATERTOWN - IHC Elem School	\$483.60
<b>* TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,020.84</b>

*\* Totals do not reflect donations received after August 2019 or donations forwarded directly to the National Office.*

### Religious Education Program Gifts to the Missionary Childhood Association September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019 (School Year)

Parish	Totals
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart - Watertown	\$48.50
St. Anthony's Church - Watertown	\$859.79
Church of the Assumption - Redford	\$294.00
St. Francis Faith Formation - Croghan	\$324.46
St. Mary's Church - Copenhagen	\$120.00
St. Andrew's Church - Brownville	\$45.50
Church of the Holy Family - Watertown	\$11.00
Sisters of St. Joseph - Motherhouse	\$107.00
<b>* TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,810.25</b>

*\* These totals do not reflect those donations that were mailed directly to National Office in NYC by individual Parish Religious Education Programs.*





DEACON KEVIN MASTELLON/NORTH COUNTRY CATHOLIC

Deacon aspirants were accepted for candidacy by Bishop Terry R. LaValley on Oct. 4. Candidates include, from left, James Carlin, Mark Webster, Robert Uttendorfsky, Randy Besio, Roderic Roca, Bishop LaValley, Daniel LeRoy, Kenneth Lushia, Brent Davison, Kenneth Racette, Gerald Bouchard, Lee Trudeau, Michael Lieber, Jr., Noel Voos and Peter Wooschlager

## Deacon aspirants accepted by bishop as candidates

By Deacon Kevin Mastellon  
Contributing writer

OGDENSBURG – Bishop Terry R. LaValley asked the 14 men standing before him if each was willing to complete the formation program of the Diocese in order to be ordained to ministry in the Church. They answered “I am.”

Then he asked them if they were “resolved to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit to give faithful service to Christ the Lord and his body, the Church?”

Again, a chorus of, “I am.”

With those promises made, Bishop then accepted the men as candidates for ordination as permanent deacons. The ceremony was held at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg on Oct. 4, the feast day of deacon St. Francis of Assisi.

The candidates have

spent two years in preparation for candidacy. Each has been discerning the desire to serve in ministry; in Church parlance the “call to vocation.” During the year prior to Oct. 4, they have been considered “aspirants.” During aspirancy, prospective candidates submitted required documentation and participated in psychological evaluations. They have completed one year of study on-line through Notre Dame University and on-campus at Wadhams Hall one weekend a month (except July and August). They will continue with two more years of academic and pastoral formation before ordination as deacons.

The men accepted to candidacy are: Randy Besio, Massena; Gerald Bouchard, Cape Vincent; James Carlin, Plattsburgh; Brent Davison, Plattsburgh; Daniel LeRoy,

Theresa; Michael Lieber Jr., Constableville; Kenneth Lushia, West Chazy; Kenneth Racette, Plattsburgh; Roderic Roca, Ogdensburg; Lee Trudeau, North Bangor; Robert Uttendorfsky, Lowville; Noel Voos, Evans Mills; Mark Webster, West Chazy; and Peter Wooschlager, Croghan.

Bishop LaValley then led this prayer for the new candidates:

*Bless them in your fatherly love, that they may persevere in their vocation, and through their loving fidelity to Christ be worthy to carry out the Church's apostolic mission.*

There was little time for the candidates, wives, family and friends who participated in the ceremony. The new candidates prepared for their first class of the weekend, Canon Law, taught by Bishop LaValley.

## October is Respect Life Month

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In Every Season Of Life



to appear in our October 30th issue of the

The Diocese of Ogdensburg

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# NFP Office helps strengthen marriages

**Angelo & Suzanne Pietropaoli**  
NFP Directors

“God has entrusted spouses with the extremely important mission of transmitting human life. In fulfilling this mission spouses freely and deliberately render a service to God, the Creator...For by the sacrament of marriage spouses are strengthened and, as it were, consecrated so that they might faithfully fulfill their duties, so that they might bring their vocation to its perfect end and so that, as befits them, they might openly offer the world a Christian witness. To them the Lord entrusts the mission of making manifest to men and women the holiness and indeed sweetness of the law that unites their mutual love and generous service closely to the love of God, the author of human life.” (Humanae Vitae, 1, 25). Written by St. Pope Paul VI in 1968, these words clearly proclaim the unchanging truth of God’s plan for marriage. It is our great privilege to share this

good news, and to accompany couples as they strive to understand and live these truths. Thanks to the generosity of the Bishop’s Fund, the Natural Family Planning (NFP) Office continues this essential work of promotion and education.

In a recent pastoral letter Bishop LaValley wrote, “NFP is about giving oneself freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully to another person in marriage. To make oneself totally vulnerable, to sacrifice for the love of another is the heroism of the marital vocation. We need the witness of such unselfish love.”

The human family does not exist apart from the divine family, nor apart from its presence in the Church. Natural Family Planning helps couples to shape their families in a way which accepts the plan of God and honors His presence in their marriage. Drawing on the richness of St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, NFP is rooted in the truth of the human person, and of the demands and joys of becoming one in Christ.

Honoring God as the Author of life, NFP educates couples to live in harmony with their fertility rather than suppressing it with drugs or destroying it with surgery. Such couples choose to be obedient to God’s design, a choice which tends to deepen their faith and enrich their relationship.

This really is good news – which our office shares in a variety of ways. Whether in the pages of this newspaper or in private conversation, whether presenting at Pre-Canas or other venues, whether teaching classes or providing follow-up consultation to clients, every effort is made to explain the constant teaching of the Church – and to equip couples to live it out. A particular highlight of the past year was the July 27 conference, “LOVING AUTHENTICALLY,” which the NFP Office co-sponsored with the Family Life Department. Keynoter Dr. Maura Hearden Fehlner addressed natural law and the relation of self-gift to love and happiness—and how this understanding undergirds

Church teaching. The wisdom of that teaching was further illustrated by the film, *Unprotected: The Pope, the Pill, and Sexual Chaos*. The DVD of this film was also distributed to all deacons of the diocese at their annual convocation in May.

Once again, we participated in the USCCB campaign, National NFP Awareness Week, and provided posters, as well as print and audio materials, to par

ishes across the diocese. Periodic bulletin announcements help to increase awareness of this healthy, holistic, and highly effective method of family planning. We are always available to discuss NFP with individuals or groups, and likewise, to provide NFP informational materials upon request: [apietropaoli@rcdony.org](mailto:apietropaoli@rcdony.org) or at 518-483-0459.

Offering instruction in Natural Family Planning continues to be an important part of what we do. Some couples – especially those in remote areas – are choosing online options, and we are happy to connect them with reputable

national NFP provider organizations that offer on-line instruction.

The NFP directors continue to teach when and where there is interest; we completed our most recent class series in Lake Placid.

One of the great blessings of NFP ministry is the opportunity to meet and to teach couples and individuals of great faith and great love – and, as the years go by, to meet their children! Quietly and joyfully, such couples are building faith-filled families – a Church of living stones that is very much “Alive in Christ!” “Children,” Scripture, reminds us, “are a gift from the Lord” (Psalm 127,3). They are also the future of our Church.

Couples who are generous in welcoming children and raising them in the faith are a sign of hope for our diocese. On their behalf, and our own, we thank the many faithful members of our diocesan family whose generosity to the Bishop’s Fund makes possible this essential ministry. God bless you all!

## Seven to be honored at annual Caritas Dinner

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg will hold its Annual Caritas Dinner on Nov. 6 at the Gran View Restaurant in Ogdensburg.

Each year, Bishop Terry R. LaValley and the Board of Trustees present awards to individuals, groups, and families who have made a significant contribution to the agency’s mission of serving the poor and underprivileged in the diocese.

This year, seven individ-

uals have been selected:

The Caritas Award will be presented to Rev. Arthur J. LaBaff

The Legacy Award, a special distinction reserved for youth and young adults, will be presented to Alexandra Pinkerton of Ogdensburg, Ciara Leroy of Malone, Konrad Wojcikowski of Carthage, Therese Buskey of Natural Bridge, Maureen Pierce and Meaghan Pierce of Heuvelton.

According to Deacon

Patrick J. Donahue, the current Executive Director of Catholic Charities: “These are seven, very deserving recipients and their tireless and devoted work in their communities have inspired so many others to join in and do the same.”

The awards are given to those who demonstrate a clear understanding of charity and social justice issues as well as a passion for reaching a resolution.

The Caritas Award was

established by the Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg in 1979. The award acknowledges individuals and organizations in the North Country who promote the mission of Catholic Charities and social justice ministry of the Catholic Church. The individual or group should exemplify the gospel mandates of charity and justice.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with cocktail hour

(with a cash bar). Dinner is at 6 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person.

Reservations, which are required, should be made with Johanna H. at Catholic Charities (315) 393-2255 by Oct. 16.

All funds raised through the Caritas Dinner will be used to provide counseling and financial assistance to individuals and families in critical need. No administrative funds are paid for with funds raised through this dinner.

## ADIRONDACK

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Saranac Lake – A Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat will be offered.

**Date:** Oct. 18 – Oct. 20

**Place:** Guggenheim Lodge

**Features:** Chaplain for the weekend is Father Mark Reilly. If you are suffering after abortion, you're not alone. Help and healing is available.

**Contact:** Confidential online registration form available at [www.rcdony.org/prolife](http://www.rcdony.org/prolife). Please contact The Respect Life Office with questions 518-524-0774. Other retreat dates and locations available at [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)

## CLINTON

## HARVEST DINNER

Dannemora – St. Joseph's Church will have their annual Roast Turkey Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 20

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children, \$7; under 5, Free

**Features:** Come and enjoy live music and try your luck with a 50/50 raffle and Chinese Auction.

## HARVEST DINNER

Chazy – Sacred Heart Parish to have their Roast Turkey Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 20

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Place:** Parish Center

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children under 12, \$5; Under 5, Free; All Take-outs, \$10

**Features:** Visit our Sinners' Den Pantry for "sinfully" delicious goodies. Raffle with dozens of prizes. Please join us!! We are handicapped accessible. Contact: For more information, 518-846-7650 or [sacredheart@westelcom.com](mailto:sacredheart@westelcom.com)

## HARVEST DINNER

Altona – Holy Angels to have their Turkey Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 27

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 6-12, \$5; under 5, Free; Take-outs available.

## FRANKLIN

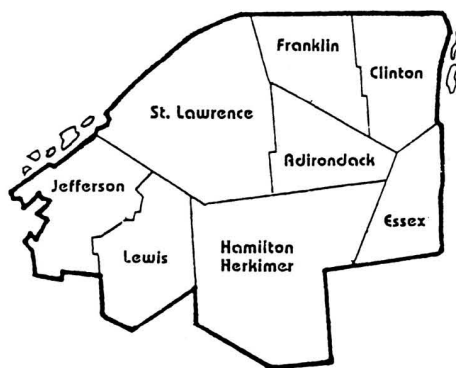
## HARVEST DINNER

North Bangor – The CC of St. Augustine will be hosting a turkey harvest dinner. **Date:** Oct. 27

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Place:** John C. Dwyer Parish Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Senior Citizens, \$9;



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

Parishioners are invited to send information about activities to:

North Country Catholic, PO Box 326,  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669; fax, 315-394-0670;  
e-mail [news@northcountycatholic.org](mailto:news@northcountycatholic.org).

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

Children under 12, \$6; under 5, Free; Take-outs available.

**Contact:** For more information contact 518-483-6674

## HEALING MINISTRY

Chateaugay – Living Waters Healing Ministry to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 28

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

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

**Features:** Music by MaryAnne Bukolt-Ryder. Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and an opportunity for individual Prayer. All are welcome.

## JEFFERSON

## RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

Adams – Ladies of St. Cecilia and Queen of Heaven Churches to have a rummage and bake sale.

**Schedule:** Oct. 17, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Oct. 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Oct. 19, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (\$2 Bag sale, bring your own bag).

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

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

Watertown – St. Anthony's church to have a Spaghetti Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 24

**Time:** Take-outs begin at 4 p.m., dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Adults, \$8; Half portions for children or adults, \$4.50; children 3 and under, Free; Sauce, \$5 quart (bring a pot); extra meatballs are .75 cents each.

## HARVEST HAM DINNER

Black River – Harvest Ham dinner to be held to benefit St. Paul's Church.

**Date:** Oct. 24

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

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

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Seniors, \$8; Children 5-12, \$4; Children under 5, Free; Family, \$25

**Contact:** For more information call 315-773-5672

## CLM FALL DINNER MEETING

Clayton – All Commissioned Lay Ministers and their spouses are invited to attend the CLM Assoc. of Jefferson & Lewis Deaneries Fall Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 24

**Schedule:** 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's Church; 6:15 p.m. Dinner and program at St. Mary's parish center

**Cost:** \$12 per person

**Features:** Speaker will be Father Art LaBaff.

**Contact:** Reservations needed by Oct. 18. go to [www.rcdony.org/formation-for-ministry/event-registration/regional-events.html](http://www.rcdony.org/formation-for-ministry/event-registration/regional-events.html) or contact Jeannie Grizzuto at 315-393-2920 ext. 1413

## ST. LAWRENCE

## HARVEST DINNER

Brasher Falls – Turkey Harvest Dinner to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 20

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

**Place:** Shamrock Club Hall (Formerly Knights of Columbus Hall)

**Cost:** Adults, \$10; Children 12 and under, \$6; 5 and under, Free

**Contact:** Take-outs available by calling 315-389-5492

## FALL BAZAAR

Norfolk – Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond to have a Fall Bazaar to benefit Altar and Rosary Society.

**Date:** Oct. 26

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

**Place:** Fr. Amyot Parish Center

**Features:** Food sale with Cabbage rolls (\$3.75 each or 3 for \$10). There will be a Country store, Candy Sale, Coffee and Donuts, Hand made Crafts, Christmas Table, and Religious Articles. Raffle tickets for \$1. Luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## HARVEST DINNER

Ogdensburg – St. Mary's Cathedral and Notre Dame Church to have Turkey Harvest Dinner.

**Date:** Oct. 27

**Time:** Noon to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Knights of Columbus Hall

**Cost:** Adults, \$9; Children 5-12, \$5; under 5, Free

## WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING

Norwood – Women's Group Meeting (previously called Blessed is She) to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 27

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

**Place:** St. Andrew's Church Hall

**Features:** The Little Way of Life: Walking With Saint Therese Through Every Age and Stage

**Contact:** For more information call/text/email Sara 315-212-7565 or [narrow56@gmail.com](mailto:narrow56@gmail.com)

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

## CELEBRATE CHRIST

Lake Placid – Celebrate Christ event to be held.

**Date:** Oct. 19

**Place:** Crowne Plaza

**Features:** This event is for those involved in parish ministry. We are excited about the presenter, Mr. Kevin Dowd will be speaking about A Spirituality of Imperfection and the Eucharist, Source and Center of our Lives.

**Contact:** Register at [www.rcdony.org/celebrate](http://www.rcdony.org/celebrate)

## MISSION DISCUSSION

MASSENA – As part of Extraordinary Missionary Month, a panel discussion, "Called to Mission: Two Sisters Share Their Stories" will be held.

**Date:** Oct. 24

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

**Place:** Trinity Catholic School, Massena

**Features:** As part of Extraordinary Missionary Month, Sister Debbie Blow and Sister Cindy Sullivan will discuss their mission work in Nicaragua and Ecuador.

**Contact:** For more information or to RSVP, contact Molly Ryan at [mryan@rcdony.org](mailto:mryan@rcdony.org) or 315-393-2920, ext. 1361

## 2019 CARITAS DINNER

Ogdensburg – 2019 Caritas dinner to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 6

**Time:** 5 p.m. cocktail hour with cash bar, dinner at 6 p.m.

**Place:** Gran-View Restaurant

**Cost:** \$50

**Features:** Caritas award to be given to Rev. Arthur Labaff, VF. Legacy awards to be given are Alexandria Pinkerton, Ciara Leroy, Konrad Wojckowski, Therese Buskey, Maureen Pierce, Meaghan Pierce.

**Contact:** RSVP by Oct. 16 to Catholic Charities at 315-393-2255.

## YOUTH MINISTER GATHERING

Tupper Lake – Youth Minister Annual Gathering to be held.

**Date:** Nov. 9

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Place:** Holy Ghost Parish Center

**Features:** Youth Ministers are the hands and feet that lead the young to Jesus so that they may lead a Blessed life. The day is centered around an open discussion on the current state and future of Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Lunch will be included for free.

**Contact:** Please RSVP to: Tom Semeraro, Email: [tsemeraro@rcdony.org](mailto:tsemeraro@rcdony.org), Phone: 315-393-2920 ext. 1415

## CURSILLO

Ogdensburg – North Country Cursillo weekends to be held.

**Schedule:** For Men, Nov. 21-24; For Women Dec. 12-15

**Place:** Wadhams Hall

**Features:** A Cursillo Weekend is an encounter with Christ, others and self. Cursillo means "short course" and consists of talks given by priests and lay persons with participation in small group discussions. Participants also share the Eucharist, song, prayer and fellowship.

**Contact:** For more information please contact the person Ken Racette Email: [kracette1a@gmail.com](mailto:kracette1a@gmail.com) Phone: 518-314-1505 or 518-578-3056

## Bishops emphasize human dignity in death penalty panel

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church's opposition to the death penalty stems from its view on the sacredness of human life and the value of mercy, said U.S. bishops in a roundtable discussion about capital punishment Oct. 10.

The discussion, which was livestreamed by Catholic News Service, took place on the World Day Against the Death Penalty and highlighted not only the consistency of church teaching against capital punishment but also what Catholics could do to learn more about what the Catholic Church has to say on this issue.

The panelists were Archbishops Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City and Wilton D. Gregory of Washington and Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida. Bishop Dewane is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and Archbishop Coakley is its chairman-elect.

"The death penalty is wrong, I believe, in many different ways," but particularly because it is "coarsening society," said Archbishop Coakley, who stressed that capital punishment is "not a way forward" and instead is compounding the violence already present in this country.

When the bishops were asked how opposition to the death penalty can be seen as a pro-life issue, Archbishop Gregory said: "It makes us violent to do violence against another human being" whether that person is waiting to be born, has reached the end of life or has committed a serious crime. They all "belong to God's creation," he

said.

"Our positions are very consistent in affirming human life and human dignity at every stage of life," added Archbishop Coakley.

Bishop Dewane similarly echoed the point about the sacredness of human life and said that "when it is violated, when it is attacked," we are called to step in and "become the voice for those who can't speak" for their own lives.

The bishops also spoke about problems with the death penalty. Archbishop Gregory mentioned cases where plaintiffs of color were not given a jury of their peers and also when DNA results have exonerated death-row prisoners. Bishop Dewane mentioned that many on death row include people of color or those in poverty or suffering from mental illness and said society needs to look at these factors and consider not just punitive but redemptive measures.

Archbishop Coakley said his state of Oklahoma still has the death penalty and he thinks this is in part because of the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995 when one bomb in just seconds killed 168 people.

He also stressed that when Catholic leaders talk about abolishing the death penalty, they must acknowledge the very real suffering endured by victims and their families. He has spoken with the father of a young girl who died in the Oklahoma City bombing and who is now an advocate against the death penalty. He said this father only came to this point after wrestling with the idea and coming to finally recognize that the death penalty could not bring healing and comfort. Tim-

othy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, was executed in 2001.

Ultimately, the archbishop said, the only thing to bring these victims' families healing or comfort is "mercy: being willing to forgive."

Archbishop Gregory echoed this thought, saying that compassion often follows a tragedy, such as the Oklahoma City bombing or the shooting at Mother Emanuel, the church in Charleston, South Carolina, where nine people were killed by Dylann Roof in 2015.

Roof is currently one of 62 inmates on federal death row. This summer the federal government rescinded its 16-year moratorium on executing federal inmates.

Archbishop Gregory said the victims' families often "offer a wonderful witness of mercy when from the depths of their hurt, the depths of their sorrow they find it in their heart to forgive." That act of forgiveness, he said, is the "antidote to the violence that seems to surround us."

When the bishops were asked about Catholic opinion of the death penalty — 53% are in favor of it, according to a 2018 Pew Research Center poll — Archbishop Coakley said: "It's really important for our Catholic people to really dig into and learn, study, read the teachings of the magisterium of the church" on this issue.

He said with the popes — St. John Paul II and Popes Benedict and Francis — there has been "a steady movement toward a greater clarity in terms of the morality and the inadmissibility of the death penalty."

## CATHOLIC WORLD AT A GLANCE

### Bishop highlights need for lay ministries in Amazon

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lay men and women involved in ministry have been fundamental in spreading the Gospel and furthering the Catholic Church's mission in the Amazon, a Brazilian bishop said. Bishop Wilmar Santin of Itaituba, told journalists at a Vatican press briefing that the formation of "ministers of the word" among the Mundurucu indigenous community in his prelature helped advance the church's mission and presence. The bishop said he was inspired to begin a permanent diaconate formation program for the indigenous community after attending a meeting with Cardinal Claudio Hummes, relator general of the synod, in Manaus, Brazil. The cardinal had said that "Pope Francis told him he has a dream of seeing that every village has its own indigenous priest. They spoke about the difficulties and the pope said, 'Begin with what the church already allows: the permanent diaconate,'" the bishop recalled. "When I heard this," he said, "I thought about it and said, 'I'm going to start.'"

### Little Sisters of the Poor again seek Supreme Court's help

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Little Sisters of the Poor filed a petition with the Supreme Court Oct. 1 asking the court to once again protect them from the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act. This has a familiar ring because in 2016 the Supreme Court granted the sisters a religious exemption from the government's mandate requiring them to include coverage of contraceptives in their employee health plans or pay hefty fines. Then, one year later, they were given further protection by an executive order issued by President Donald Trump requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to write a comprehensive exemption to benefit the Little Sisters and other religious ministries from the contraceptive mandate. HHS provided this exemption in 2018 but several states challenged it, including California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, saying HHS didn't have the power to give this exemption. The states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey were able to obtain a nationwide injunction against the rules protecting religious objectors from the contraceptive mandate and that injunction was then upheld by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Philadelphia. The Little Sisters are appealing the 3rd Circuit's ruling to the Supreme Court.

### Remains of aborted babies found in cars abortion doctor owned

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill released new details Oct. 9 about the discovery of additional fetal remains in Illinois that are believed to be linked with abortions performed in Indiana. According to a news release from Hill's office, the latest remains were found in several vehicles within the confines of additional properties associated with the late Dr. Ulrich "George" Klopfert, who performed abortions at three Indiana clinics. The latest news about remains comes about a month after civil authorities found the preserved remains of 2,246 aborted babies in Klopfert's home in Will County in rural Illinois. An investigation into thousands of medical records found in close proximity to these remains confirmed they all were aborted by Klopfert during a period from 2000 to 2002 at three clinics he once ran in Fort Wayne, Gary and South Bend. Klopfert was 75 when he died Sept. 3. He had performed abortions in Indiana since the 1970s but had his medical license revoked in 2016 after innumerable infractions over the years. Klopfert's South Bend clinic closed in 2016; it was the last of the three to close.





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Thursday, November 14, 2019 10 am

#### **Ogdensburg Public Library**

312 Washington Street, Ogdensburg

Thursday, October 24, 2019 10 am

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## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

# Faith and endurance are necessary in prayer

Have you ever wondered why the priest holds his hands up in the air as he prays at Mass? Our first reading tells us why.

In this Old Testament passage from Exodus, the Amelikites are trying to stop the Israelites on their journey through the desert. At God's command, Moses goes up a mountain and prays with hands raised high. The Israelites prevail over their enemies for a time. After a while, Moses gets tired



Monsignor  
Paul E.  
Whitmore

and lowers his hands. Immediately Amelik and his army seem to prevail. Aaron and Hur get a stone for Moses to sit on and stand on either side, helping keep his hands aloft. Because of their perseverance, the battle is won.

The message for us today is clear: Faith and endurance are necessary for success in prayer. We should never stop praying, even if we have to enlist our friends and community to help us persevere!

October 20

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

READINGS

Exodus 17:8-13

Timothy 3:14 thru 4-2

Luke 18:1-8

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples never to lose heart, even if we have to get a bit "pushy" with God. Put yourself in that judge's place. Wouldn't you get annoyed and maybe a little frightened at this obnoxious widow who keeps pestering for a favor? Of course, there's no question that she's in the right and he's in the wrong.

When she finally wears him out, he gives in and grants her request.

Again, the message for us is very clear. God is urging us to persist in our request until He gives in!

There's only one catch! We have to have a strong faith that He will answer us and go beyond our timidity. We must go beyond God in persistence, something like the tug-o-war game we played as children. In this gospel, God suggests that He'll be the first one to give in. Now there's an offer we can't refuse!

Today's second reading contains the classic pas-

sage that guarantees the divine inspiration of both Old and New Testaments – "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work."

While God allows the sacred writer to use his own style and vocabulary, the Holy Spirit is the one who inspires the ideas presented by the writer.

No wonder that we treat the Bible with the greatest of respect and read it daily for our nourishment.

## AT THE MOVIES

## GEMINI MAN

NEW YORK (CNS) – Though it may be named after a heavenly constellation, the sci-fi action-thriller "Gemini Man" (Paramount) turns out to be less than stellar.

Tedious in its storytelling, as penned by David Benioff, Billy Ray and Darren Lemke, the film also suffers from a dodgy ethical outlook that calls for careful assessment on the part of grown moviegoers.

On the surface, all is agreeable enough as director Ang Lee marshals

cutting-edge special effects and pleasant visuals, especially as his globetrotting characters' itinerary takes in scenic views of Budapest amounting to a free ad for Hungarian tourism. But the depths of this tale about highly gifted secret-ops sharpshooter Henry Brogan (Will Smith) are murky.

This becomes apparent in the opening sequence during which Henry, aiming from a considerable distance, manages to take out a target who's traveling on a speedy European train. Henry almost doesn't take the shot for fear of injuring a nearby little

girl. But the whole idea of a sympathetic assassin who only kills bad guys is obviously questionable.

Henry's work has exacted its toll, however, and he's decided to retire.

Before he can take to his rocking chair, though, Henry discovers that his last mark wasn't a villain at all but an American ally whose work on the Gemini Project Henry's superiors – principally ruthless bureaucrat Clay Verris (Clive Owen) – want to keep secret at any cost. That includes treating Henry himself, once the higher-ups have figured out what he knows, with extreme prejudice.

So Henry goes on the lam, accompanied by Danny Zakarewski (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), a fellow agent who was originally dispatched to surveil him but has instead become his ally. The fugitives are aided by Baron

(Benedict Wong), a buddy of Henry's from their days in the Marines when their commander was – you guessed it – Clay.

After defeating a number of outclassed pursuers, Henry winds up being chased by a younger, equally talented clone of himself called Junior (also Smith, digitally regressed to his "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" days). Concocted by Clay, who has since served as his adoptive father, Junior has been raised to believe he was abandoned, as an infant, by his parent. Henry's fate depends on convincing Junior of the truth about his origins and flipping his loyalty.

Seen-it-all-before motifs and clichés in the dialogue make Henry's adventure seem thoroughly familiar. While the mayhem in which he engages is kept almost bloodless, moreover, the screenplay's con-

sistent message about the need to resist negative impulses is completely undermined in the climax. Accordingly, this is not a movie for the easily misguided.

The film contains confused values requiring mature discernment, an incidental but benignly viewed adulterous situation, much stylized but sometimes harsh violence with little gore, about a half-dozen uses of profanity and at least one rough and numerous crude and crass terms.

The Catholic News Service classification is L – limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

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

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# Baptism: Dying & Rising

By Missionary Father Daniel L. Chapin

*"Each Christian, because of Baptism into Christ, must proclaim the glorious works of God" (1 Peter 2, 9).*

I have always appreciated my own baptism, celebrated in my home parish of St. Augustine's in North Bangor on December 8, 1946, less than a month after my birth; my godparents were my aunt, Margaret McCarthy and my uncle, Patrick Henry McCarthy, who were my mother's sister and brother. My mother, Ruth, and the McCarthy clan as a whole were great role models, and I was, by virtue of my baptism, introduced into a very supportive faith community at St. Augustine's. My years at St. Joseph's Ursuline Academy in Malone were formative as well; it was there that I first thought of priesthood. It was Father. John Weir, pastor at St. Augustine's during the 1960s, who continued to nurture me (and many



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others) in my desire to be a priest; I will always remember Father Weir's great (and often difficult) work in bringing the parish through the changes of Vatican II.

This appreciation for my own baptism has been manifested over these 47 years of priesthood in countless celebrations of baptism, here in various parishes of the Diocese of Ogdensburg; in our diocese's mission of San Martin de Porres in Mollendo Peru, where I served for 10 years; and now in the Archdiocese of Cochabamba, Bolivia, where I serve as a Priest Associate of Maryknoll.

I love celebrating baptism, this great sacrament of initiation into the life of Christ and the worldwide Christian community. I es-

pecially enjoy baptism at the Easter Vigil – powerful, profound. I have presided at many baptisms in many places and under many circumstances; however, I have never carried out baptism in a cemetery! I share this experience.

It was 2017 and I was administering St. Pius X Parish in Cochabamba at the request of the bishop; the pastor was forced to retire due to illness, and the bishop had no one to take his place, since it was the middle of the pastoral year; Maryknoll was called upon to help, and I volunteered.

One of the parishioners worked in the city's general cemetery – Bolivia's oldest and largest – which is located within the parish boundaries. Sandra's job was to supervise



Father Daniel L. Chapin

a small group of workers who were tasked with keeping the cemetery clean. At the same time, since Sandra was a parish catechist, she took opportunities to share the faith informally with this group, whose members had never been baptized; this led to the group requesting baptism, and so Sandra set up a formal time to teach the truths of the faith, again right in the cemetery – Catechumens surrounded by thousands of graves, niches and mausoleums! I thought of the early Christians who gathered in

Rome's cemetery, in the catacombs.

Following the period of the Catechumenate, it was time for the celebration of baptism. It took place in the cemetery's chapel. Family members and godparents gathered; Sandra was lector and the music ministry consisted of a man and his guitar. Those baptized were a young, single mother and her two-year-old son; and three teenage boys, ages 14, 15 and 16, two of whom were brothers. Those present were actively engaged, and there was an attitude of reverence and devotion. The photos taken really tell the story more than these words, but be assured that this was for me and all present a profoundly spiritual moment.

Confirmation and Eucharist were to follow in the lives of this small Christian community, one brought – in a place of death – to new life; for baptism is about dying, being immersed in the waters of death; but being washed, cleansed and rising to a new life in Christ.

## OBITUARIES

**Altona** – Leonard G. Lashway, 94; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 9, 2019 at Holy Angels Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Brasher Falls** – Connie E. (Leary) McLaughlin, 86; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Cadyville** – David M. Learned, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2019 at St. James Church; burial in Independence Cemetery, Saranac.

**Carthage** – Jeffrey S. Johnson, 57; Funeral Services Oct. 10, 2019 at Bezanilla-McGraw Funeral Home.

**Chateaugay** – Frederick H. Golden, 75; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14,

2019 at St. Patrick's Church; burial in St. Augustine's Cemetery, North Bangor.

**Dannemora** – Walton H. Bull, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2019 at St. Joseph's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Massena** – Barbara E. (Martin) Deon, 86; Funeral Services Oct. 7, 2019 at Donaldson Funeral Home; burial in St. Lawrence Cemetery, North Lawrence.

**Massena** – Beverly A. (Durant) Michaud, 87; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2019 at Church of the Sacred Heart; burial in Foxwood Memorial Park, Ogdensburg.

**Massena** – Lois R. White, 90; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2019 at St. Mary's Church; burial in Calvary Cemetery.

**Mineville** – Joan K. (Slattery) Rotella, 88; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 8, 2019 at Church of All Saints; burial in St. Peter & Paul Cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Nancy J. (Place) Joly, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2019 at St. Mary's Cathedral; burial in St. Mary's Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Elaine (Dougan) Deon, 59; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 11, 2019 at St. John's Church.

**Plattsburgh** – Wayne R. Girard, 69;

Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial in parish cemetery.

**Ogdensburg** – Judith A. (Denny) Shoen, 76; Funeral Services Oct. 7, 2019 at Frary Funeral Home; burial in Notre Dame Cemetery.

**Plattsburgh** – Harold J. Girard, 85; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2019 at St. Peter's Church; burial Whispering Maples Mausoleum.

**Port Henry** – John S. Harvish, 98; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 7, 2019 at St. Patrick's Church.

**Star Lake** – Corina "Corkey" L. (Moote) Kelley, 71; Mass of Christian

Burial Oct. 11, 2019 at St. Hubert's Church; burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, Fine.

**Tupper Lake** – Emmett J. Ernenwein, 42; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 14, 2019 at St. Alphonsus Church; burial in St. Alphonsus Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Marianne C. (Babick) Ward, 72; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 10, 2019 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.

**Watertown** – Mary Elizabeth (Jackson) Wilcox, 77; Mass of Christian Burial Oct. 12, 2019 at Holy Family Church; burial in Glenwood Cemetery.



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